The Undeniable Weapon of Prayer While Doing Missions

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Introduction

- Prayer is a tool, very indispensable in the business of Missions.
- Our Lord Himself admonished the disciples to whom He initially committed the job to add PRAYING to their job description.
- He rose one morning to tell them “Men ought to PRAY and not to faint”. – Luke 18.1
- This makes the theme of PRAYER much indispensable if you are going to be called a missionary, or a missional person.
- Like every other profession, an understanding of your job specification is the success of your raising in that

- It is easier to talk about prayer than to pray.
- Several people can tell the number of prayers prayed in the Bible.
- Many great theologians can tell us the number of people who prayed and how they prayed in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- They can teach us how to pray, and do demonstrations; but what is the content of their prayer lives themselves.
- When we talk of prayers, we are not talking about people who can talk the theories, but people who can tell us what has happened when they themselves prayed.

Introduction

- Today, it is easy to find people who do not need to pray before their needs are met.
- But we know Missions has got it’s own challenges and if you can PRAY, we can confront anything and conquer everything.
- Let us see specific prayer points to note when DOING MISSIONS.

Utterance

- Prayer for UTTERANCE is a secret weapon in the missionary enterprise.
- Paul declares in Ephesians 6.19 (Bearean Study Bible):

“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, divine utterance may be given me, so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the gospel.

- It is not enough to have Public Speaking skills, or the gift of Oration.
- Every person involved with Missions must request specially for that gift of DIVINE UTTERANCE.

Open Doors

- Without Open Doors, one would only struggle in Missions.
- Every successful missionary journey had been with the opportunity of Open Doors.
- In Colossians 4.3, Paul, one of the greatest missionary raised by God asked the Church to pray for Open Doors. He said:

“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.”

- There is a great difference between a place you were invited and a location you are restricted or warned not

- The challenges of regions of the world where the preaching of the gospel is experiencing harsh weather conditions are more and threatening than places where there is a free course to operate.
- May the testimony of the disciples in Acts 14.27 be ours as we receive Open Doors in Jesus' name. See their narrative below:

"When they arrived, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles".

Pray Against Adversaries

- Experience on the Mission field has shown that there are spiritual oppositions in the real sense.
- “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).
- This proves the point of Paul when he said “*For a great and effectual door is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.*” — 1 Corinthians 16:9

- When your doors are beginning to open, prepare for the invasion of adversaries.
- This is because the amount of energy required to vacate a 6-month tenant may not be same needed to send a tenant 25 years packing.
- Sometimes, these spiritual forces may inflict pain, poor health conditions, may even enchant the missionary to commit a sin he was never used to.
- Pray! Pray hard against adversaries of your soul and the work of the ministry.

Prayer Against Human Limitations

- We can reframe this prayer point as: PRAYER AGAINST HUMAN LIMITATIONS AND MISCONCEPTION.
- Human limitation can include your educational background – educational certificates can limit the scope of your Mission work – Pray against it.
- Language barrier can limit you – pray for the flair for languages, especially on your Mission field.
- The Holy Spirit is still helping people to break the barrier of language limitation for missionary endeavours.

- Pray against human misconceptions.
- Sometimes, your have a friendly personality and some people may say you are seducing brothers.
- Sometimes you give some gifts and the recipients may become suspicious of your sincere sacrifice.
- Sometimes, we can give a borehole to a community and someone comes along to poison their hearts against the good gesture.
- Pray! Pray against misconception.

Pray for the Easy Passage of the Gospel

- Missionary work in a harsh land is hard work + Hard work.
- Prayer for ease at work is wisdom for victory without a fight.
- The work life of David was hard, even though he enjoyed God’s blessings.
- The work life of Solomon was easy, while he also enjoyed the blessings of God.
- Pray that in that location you are working, you will begin to experience easy environment, good assistants, obedient members – just as obedient as you are.

Converts

- Souls are the main purpose of the missionary business.
- But the in-coming of these souls are the incursion of problems.
- Naturally, the convert is a part of the Church and his or her problem is the problem of the Church. Isaiah 66.8
- Many of them have ancestral problems which they cannot handle by themselves – Isaiah 49.26
- In some places where converts face aching persecution; their feeding, education, welfare, health, etc. becomes the burden of the missionary.

Projects

- Missions is more about Social Action than the preaching of the Bible.
- Social Action is about what Jesus did in
- It is about providing social amenities to the communities where we work – potable water, schools, health care centres, etc.
- The missionary occupation is filled with the kick-starting of several projects, even the buying of local musical instruments.
- Prayer can make all these infrastructures come alive.
- This is visible in many mission fields where this secret is

Health & Safety

- Those who design the HSE programme know that is important in order to safe guard the life of the worker and the good name of the organisation.
- This is because Health, Safety & Environment management is responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and optimising operational processes in the areas of environmental management, health protection and occupational safety - Matthew 25.31 - 40
- The length of days a missionary would be useful and relevant to this mission is a function of his health and safety.

- While nobody is praying for any calamity; calamities, ill-health, environmental disasters, flooding, volcanic eruption, earthquake, kidnapping, or even death may not be preventable by physical means alone.
- It is wisdom not to wait till there is a disaster.
- Pray for yourself. Psalm 17.8 – keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings (NIV).
- Pray for your wife. Pray for your children. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." - Psalm 46:1
- Pray for your Mission field especially in this COVID-19 period.

Welfare

- Welfare is about the physical and mental health and happiness of a person, or a family -
- Certainly, the welfare of a missionary cannot be overemphasized because a sad man cannot give God his best no matter how zealous.
- It is true a missionary should not be praying for what the Church can supply. Psalm 23.1
- But why should we be praying for the substance God has provided?
- Brother, this situation needs prayer - Psalm 37.25
- Pray Until Something Happens.

See Bible passages that supports your course:

- Philippians 4.19 – my God shall supply all your needs according His riches in riches
- Philippians 4.6 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
- Psalm 34.10 – The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.
- Psalm 132.15 - I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Financial Provision

- Money is an answer to several requests within and outside the Church and Missions.
- Money is a great tool for Missions.
- Ecclesiastes 10.19 tells us: “A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but **money answereth all things”** (Christian Standard Bible).
- Without money the missionary is limited.

- How do you fund several opportunities to witness on the Mission field? Acts 22:14–15
- You need money for that mechanized farming in the community.
- You need money for that Cottage industry, where you meet your converts to discuss and to get them productive.
- You need money to get the thuggery youth in your community understand the dignity in labour.
- Pray to God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

Favourable Government Policies

- Prayer for leaders and those in authority includes prayer for government policies that would be favourable to your work wherever you are working – I Timothy 2.2
- Jeremiah the weeping prophet enjoins us to Pray. Jeremiah 29.7
- Our prayers of course can be both defensive and offensive.
- Offensive prayers are prayers against evil powers working against your work through the instrumentation of government.
- Defensive prayers are those prayers for the workers of good works in governance

- The missionary enterprise and good governance are two inseparable inventiveness.
- Your prayer can direct anything in your favour.
- The heart of the king is in the hands of your Father and like rivers of waters He directs its course. Proverbs 21.1
- Ask and you shall be given – Matthew 7.7
- Seek and you shall find.
- Knock and the doors shall be open unto you.

Conclusion

- Prayer is not what you just read.
- Prayer is not what you hear.
- Prayer is not what you see.
- Prayer is your soul’s sincere desire.
- Prayer is fuel that moves the engine of your service.
- Prayer is the fire that powers the wheel of your work.
- Prayer is the investment you owe heaven for a productive lifestyle.
- Prayer is the answer of the request of your longing here and eternity.


Thank
you!