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THE BATTLE CRY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
JOEL 2:1

Dr. D. K. Olukoya

Prayer
Compass

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PRAYER COMPASS

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SECTION 1

UNDERSTANDING THE BASIC PRAYER PATTERN

Introduction

What exactly is prayer? How should we pray? How often should we pray? What kind of Prayer receives Heavens attention? What level of power is available in Prayer?

What is a prayer altar? These are some of the questions that Christians often ask. Many can define prayer but only a few pray and get answers.
This first section of the book deals with these issues and shows us how we can turn negative situations around through prayers.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Let us open to the book of Genesis and see when man first began to cry unto God.

> *Genesis 4:25-26: And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son and called his name Seth; God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of Lord.*

Here, three names are represented; the three children of Adam; Seth, Abel and Cain. Abel was killed by household wickedness, thus, he disappeared from the scene. Cain who slew him got into trouble with the Almighty, even though he had his own generation. Thus, Seth became the appointed generation.

This was the time that prayer as we know it now, began. It started from the family of Seth, the chosen generation.

> *Psalm 65:2 says, O thou that heareth prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.*

This means the person that hearest prayer is God Almighty. The book of Isaiah Chapter 56:7 says,

> *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be*

accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Therefore, the house of God is meant to be a house of prayer.

THE THREE CHRISTIAN PILLARS

The subject of prayer is very wide and deep. It has been said that prayer is one of the three pillars that uphold the Christian. The other two are holiness and the word of God. These are the three pillars that uphold the Christian.

You cannot be a heaven-bound Christian if you fail in any of these three: if you refuse to read and study your Bible and to meditate upon the word of God, then there will be a big problem. The same thing will occur if you do not live a holy life and if you are prayerless.

Many things have been said about prayer. We have been told that prayer is the key in the hands of faith that opens the doors of blessings. Our old Pentecostal fathers used to tell us that prayer is the staff with which we can walk with God and to also confront the enemy. Prayer is the only thing that the devil cannot offer, while a Christian is greatest on his knees.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

1. Prayer is conversation with God. That is, conversing with the Almighty; talking with the Creator.
2. Prayer is when you offer up your heart's desire unto God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible states that we know not how or what we should pray or the way we ought to, but that the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us, in groaning that cannot be uttered. That is why it has to be done with the help of the Holy Spirit.

1. Prayer is the greatest privilege of a redeemed soul.
2. Prayer is a weapon in the hour of conflict.

3. Prayer is a defence in the moment of peril.
4. Prayer is a retreat in the season of exhaustion.
5. Prayer is the mightiest force in the universe.
6. Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the night.
7. Prayer takes the very highest energy of which the human being is capable.
8. Prayer is the most important work on earth.
9. Prayer is the greatest outlet of power.
10. Prayer is the rail on which the locomotive of God's power moves.

A man is only as spiritual as his prayer life is. Men and women who know God give him no rest night and day by their prayer requests and God enjoys their disturbances and gives them the best. Therefore, the most important pre-occupation of the devil is to keep men from praying.

11. Prayer is the wealth of poverty.
12. Prayer is the strength of weakness.
13. Prayer is the light of darkness.
14. Prayer arrests the wing of time.
15. Prayer is the gateway to God's presence.
16. Prayer is the Channel of God's grace.
17. Prayer is fellowshipping with God.
18. Prayer is a love affair with God.
19. Prayer is a trade to be learned.
20. It is prayer that makes a history of wonders.
21. Prayer is the tongue of fire.
22. Prayer is a perpetual force against all powers of darkness in all their ramifications.
23. Prayer is acting with God in His battle against evil.
24. Prayer is spiritual atomic bomb.
25. Prayer unites the soul of men to God.
26. Prayer breaks down every opposing wall.

27. Prayer demolishes every fortress of hell.
28. Prayer is the deepest expression of the soul.
29. Prayer is talking and listening to God as He speaks with you.

He is indeed a blessed man who will be silent enough to allow God speak after he has spoken to Him. Blessed is that woman also that would be silent enough to listen to God speak to her after she has spoken.

- **Prayer is a two-way communication - speak to God and allow Him to speak to you too.**

So, prayer is not only talking to God, but listening to what He is saying; it is a two-way kind of communication.

A telephone conversation is a very useful illustration for prayer; you are speaking from one end while someone else is listening on the other end: both of you are speaking and listening to each other. You are talking with the Almighty, and He Himself is coming through to you. That is what prayer is.

- **Prayer is to allow God work in your life.**

The fact that you are praying shows that you want to allow God to work in your life. Those who are not interested in the touch of God for their lives do not bother about praying.

- **Prayer is telling God. 'Amen'. That is, 'so let it be'. This is what prayer is.**
- **Prayer is an act of love.**

Because for you to want to talk to the Almighty, you must love Him and know that He loves you enough to grant your prayer request. A man of God called John Wesley once said God does nothing without prayer but does everything because of it. This man knew what he was saying. He was speaking a deep truth because God never does anything without prayer, but can do everything because

of it.

Daniel preferred to be thrown into the lion's den than to miss a day of prayer to the Almighty. Therefore, God is looking for men and women who are prepared to take praying as a very serious business.

Whenever there is a prayer meeting, God is looking for those who will get there on time to start the prayer. Of course praying is hard work, and a lot of people tend to runaway from it. The devil trembles when he sees us on our knees. And the man who can *really* pray has nothing to fear. But if you cannot pray, it means you have a lot of things to fear.

There was a fellowship where a great revival broke out. Many wonderful things began to happen which attracted the attention of the press. They came and said. 'What is happening here? What is the secret behind what is happening in this place?' The minister of God, who, incidentally, is a lady, told them that, "The answer is under the basement on which I stand".

On hearing this, they became more curious. They believed that when they got to that basement, they would find men and women conjuring and performing magic. When they got to the basement, they only found elders of the church sweating it out, prostrated, crying unto God Almighty in prayers. These reporters were shocked and surprised, which power are they talking about? It is the power of prayer. The reason most people do not like praying is because a prayer warrior is not a public personality; they operate mostly underground; out of public view.

When God says this is the way and finds someone who can do the praying, then the problem is over. God is daily searching for prayer warriors. The Bible says that God wondered because He could not find intercessors. And because He could not find intercessors, He brought problems upon certain groups of people. But if there was a man who stood in the gap, he would have held back the hands of God.

- **Prayer will succeed when all other things fail.**

It is not a joke that the largest church in the world was built on the foundation of

prayer. In that church, whenever they are given a prayer point to pray and the leader does not jingle the bell for them to stop, they could continue till the next day: prayer is already mixed with their blood.

- **Prayer is a spiritual sanitation**

Any environment where prayer warriors carry out a lot of praying is sanitised. If your house becomes a house of prayer, woe betide the witch or wizard that would come near it; woe betides all the evil spirits inhabiting that area because prayer is a disinfectant that sanitises an environment spiritually.

If you have ever been sent out to minister in some areas, you would have noticed there are some places you reach, and it will seem as if the entire environment is bound, as if it is under a siege, and as if the entire heaven there is brass. Generally, that happens in fellowships where they do not pray. If the environment is where the people pray, then it becomes easier to penetrate spiritually.

- **Prayer is God's method of achieving results.**
- **God does nothing without prayer.**

If you read through church history and you see the beginning of Christianity up to the present time, you will discover one important truth: that every great movement of God can be traced to a man or woman that is fervent in prayer; men and women of God on their knees praying. And for this, things began to happen.

- **Prayer is omnipotent.**

It is prayer that moves the Hand that moves the world. Prayer is omnipotent.

- **Prayer does not die.**

A person may have prayed three hundred years ago and the resultant effect of that prayer is becoming manifest today.

- **Prayer is the hand that strikes Satan, the enemy, down.**

You and I know that we have an adversary warring against us. To defeat this enemy, we need to become prayer addicts.

- **Prayer is the highest energy which a human being can emit.**

That is why it is said that, 'where there is no prayer, there is no power'.

THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

- **The spirit of prayer is the spirit of revival.**

If the spirit of prayer falls upon you, then the spirit of revival will come upon your life. So, one way by which you may know that your life is revived is if the spirit of prayer is upon you. That is, you are always praying, whether you feel like it or not.

Some people cannot pray in their homes for thirty minutes nonstop except in the church. Such people need to ask for the spirit of prayer. When the spirit of prayer comes in, the spirit of revival automatically follows.

- **Prayer is the only thing that releases God's energy.**

Whenever prayers are going on, the energy of the Almighty God is released. There may be just one particular prayer point that you would need to pray for about half-an-hour or more before anything can happen. Take for example you want to pull down the strongman controlling Africa; that strongman that would always make the black man to play the second-fiddle, that makes nothing good to last long in the hands of the black man; the strongman that would always terminate the lives of the progressive ones and leave the nonentities alive. To pull down this kind of strongman can not be achieved in a five-minute prayer session, or an hour, and may not even be one month.

It may take up to three months of constant bombardment with prayers until

something happens. We need to understand that this type of prayer needs determination and commitment.

- **Prayer releases divine energy.**

Whenever people are gathered together to call upon the name of the Lord in truth and holiness, miracles become a common affair.

A white man once went to a prayer mountain. On this prayer mountain, thousands of people were praying continually. Out of curiosity, this white man asked if they do keep record of the miracles that happen on the mountain. They answered in the affirmative. He then asked them to fetch it for him to see. They came with two large books the sizes of two giant Bibles. And the white-man asked if that was all they had recorded of the miracles that have taken place on that mount for that particular year. They answered in the negative. 'This one is just for last week', they answered the white-man. That is what happens when there are people who wholeheartedly call upon the name of the Lord: it releases His energy.

No wonder the devil does not want to see anyone pray. He can do anything to prevent a person from praying, ranging from boils to mosquitoes; anything to disturb and prevent a person from praying so that the mind would not think straight. Anyone that cannot concentrate while praying is already finished, except such a person seeks for deliverance ministration.

PRAYER IS A BATTLE

- **Prayer is a battle.**

Prayer is not a preparation for battle, but the battle itself. Once a prayer battle is going on, anything can happen in the heavenlies. Remember the story of Daniel. God answered his prayers right from the first day he started praying but in the heavenlies, a battle was raging. Why? Because one man prayed. Just a single, simple prayer point. But Daniel kept on praying for twenty one days non-stop. He did not give up because he understood the principles of prayer. He was involved in the battle with his body, soul and spirit. And what a tragedy if he had

given up, because the angel bringing his blessings would have turned back.

I knew a sister many years ago, about twenty years to be precise. She had ten children who died, each at the age of two. She even had twins, and as soon as they clocked two years, they gave up the ghost. So, this sister was asked to go and pray. She prayed very fervently and it paid off.

One day, she had a dream where an angel of the Lord brought her a bucket of water. She was instructed to carry the bucket of water from one end to the other and that her children would die no more.' 'But make sure you do not drop the bucket', the angel concluded. She took this bucket in her hand, and at a stage felt that the bucket was becoming heavier, then poured out a little bit of the water in the bucket.

As she went on, she felt another heaviness in the bucket and poured out some of the content. The sister continued with the journey, and as she was about reaching her destination, she felt more heaviness with the bucket of water. Again, she tried to pour out some water from the bucket but everything poured out. And immediately she began to hear the screaming of infant babes. And the angels said, "See, you have killed the rest now, you have killed the rest, it is finished". 'Now, what is my offence?' asked the sister. 'Ah, it is because you never prayed any prayer to a particular point before you give up', answered the angel.

At this point, the sister became more agitated and went on to ask the angel what she should do. "You should learn to persevere in prayer and pray to a particular point before giving up", replied the angel. Then the vision cleared off.

- **Prayer is a battle. It is not a battle you suddenly give up mid-way**.

When you see people who come to prayer-meetings and do not like to pray, it means there is an anti-prayer demon inside them; something has already been planted in their lives. Such people need to fight a serious battle to set themselves free.

However, this cannot be achieved in one day, you get there by some hard work. Many of us who have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost only exercise the gifts of prophecy. Why do we exercise only the gift of prophecy while the other

gifts are so rare?. It is not because the other gifts are so rare. It is because these other gifts need concentration, discipline and determination before you can start exercising them.

There are sisters who keep saying they want to hear from God. But how can they hear from God when their ear-rings are bigger than their ears? The truth is that you would not hear anything as long as you are living a deceitful life: If you throw away the big ear-rings and put on a smaller one, it is still the same deceitful life. If you want God to use you and you want to be His friend, some level of discipline is required. There are certain things people can do which you must not do. Imagine somebody who comes for prayers, painted all over, and dressed like Jezebel. And when she is corrected: 'Adjust yourself', she says the Bible did not say so.

- **Prayer is a battle for us to discipline ourselves.**

The truth is that our body does not want to pray; it hates prayer. So we have to force it. When it says, "I want to sleep", you have to Say, "No, I am in charge here, I want to pray". And then you go ahead to carry it out. You immediately get up and begin to pray.

The problem with most of us sometimes is that we bite much more than we can chew: somebody who has never prayed for one hour non-stop, suddenly decides to hold a personal night vigil. And before that person prays for half an hour, he is already tired and worn-out. Then he begins to yawn and eventually sleeps off. He tries all kinds of praying methods like walking about, not leaning on the cushion, and kneeling on hard ground etc, but within minutes, he has dozed off. The next thing is to hear the cock crow, which signifies a new day - morning already!

Some are in the habit of opening the pages of their Bibles when they are supposed to be praying. At the end, they bury their heads within the pages of the Bible, pour saliva on it and fall into a deep sleep. Why deceive yourself? If you know you can do thirty minutes of good and rigorous praying, then rise up, do it, and go back to sleep.

- **Prayer is a battle. You do not go to the war-front to lay-about.**

At the war front, you obey all instructions to the letter. Once you are called to attention, it must be so. You do not begin to question your superior's motive(s) for calling you to attention. You cannot postpone your most serious business when you are at the war front.

Some people leave home by 5 a.m. in the morning. They run here and there because they want to eat, drink and live comfortably. This, they do until 12:00 midnight when they finally return home. And while the madam is busy preparing dinner, they have already dozed off on the sofa; they have become too tired even to eat. This becomes their regular pattern every day of the week. I beg you in the name of the Lord Jesus to leave that kind of job. A job that does not give someone time to commune with his creator would sooner or later become the bastion to the person's destruction.

There are other people who get one or two days off their duties to rest, but they convert it to overtime because they want money. At the end, you will discover that it is only the anointing of God and His blessing that can bless you without sweat. God can make you very rich without a drop of sweat; He can bless you without you raising a finger. That is what prayer can do. Of course you will work, but not the kind that brings sweat, sorrow and renders you prayerless.

We as black people need to pray more dangerous prayers than the whites. Some of us who have travelled abroad can see the set-up and the near-perfect organisation they have overseas; they have no problem with electricity and water, and everything is in place.

THE TONGUE OF FIRE

A lot of us want to obtain the tongue of fire. This can only be obtained in the prayer room. The kind of tongue that will empower you to Say, 'loose your hold', and it happens exactly like that; the kind of tongue that will empower you to Say, 'You witchcraft bird, I command you to collide with the Rock of Ages and somersault seven times', and it happens exactly like that.

These kinds of tongues can only be obtained in the prayer room, not in dance churches, not in areas where people are not serious, and not in fellowships where people chew gum while the sermon is on. You can only obtain it in the prayer room where the only odour around comes from people's sweat.

There is a little classic book called 'Praying Hyde'. It was written by Brother John Hyde. In the life of this brother, prayer had become food and the air he breathes in. One day, some people wanted to get this man into trouble, so they sent a spy to go and live with him. The spy pretended to be poor and hungry in order to attract Brother Hyde's sympathy.

But by the time he stayed with Hyde for one week, he ran back to those who sent him and said. 'O, that man is not a human being but a spirit. He does not sleep but is always praying. Sorry, I do not want to ruin my life by putting this kind of man in trouble.'

- **The tongue of fire can only be obtained in the prayer room.**

Once people can pray, then they will live a good life. But if they are lazy and lukewarm in prayer, then all kinds of bad things will happen to them.

Therefore, if you read your Bible properly, you will understand that it was prayer that wrought the miracles of the Red Sea. When the sun stood still for Joshua and when Elijah called down fire from heaven, it was through prayer.

- **Prayer has done, is still doing, and will continue to do wonders.**

Any church where praying is taken seriously will definitely grow. But if handled with levity, and they pray lukewarm prayers, the growth will dwindle. As the saying goes, a short, purposeful prayer will reach the throne of God, provided you are not living too far away from that throne.

- **Prayer must be constantly embarked upon. It is practice, not tales.**

No wonder the Bible did not instruct us to preach all the time, but it says, 'Pray

without ceasing' (1 Thess. 5:17).

THE TRUE PRAYER

- True prayer must take hold of God's strength and witness His power in action.
- True prayer must have fire and power; it must bring down the supernatural power of God into action in overcoming unprofitable situations in life.
- True prayer must take hold of God's power and strength and witness the same in action.
- True prayer rises from the knees refreshed, instead of being weary.
- True prayer is a weapon; in fact the most potent weapon at the disposal of the Christian in a world full of evil.
- True prayers can turn embarrassing situations into pleasant surprises.
- True prayer can turn the table in favour of the weak and the minority.

PRAYER:- THE DOOR THAT CANNOT BE CLOSED

Perhaps now, you are inside a prison or a dungeon spiritually, and you are completely baffled. Peter was in that kind of situation. The jailer has barricaded all available doors. But there was one door he could not close. This is the door of heaven. And once your enemies cannot close the door of heaven, then there is a way out, whatever your situation might be.

The door to Peter's prison was tightly closed; the Bible says there were sixteen soldiers and two large chains tied to the hands of Peter with two other soldiers. So there was no way Peter could escape without rattling the two soldiers who had tied themselves to him.

Then something happened. Peter was a prayer warrior. He had prayed, and became more confident and comfortable. Perhaps of all the Christians in Jerusalem that night, Peter was about the only one that slept, the rest were praying. This was man that was going to be beheaded in few hours, and was still able to sleep. When the angel came, he said, 'Gird up your loins and follow me.'

The two soldiers and the guards were there, but it appeared as if the entire guards disappeared and they had gone to sleep. Peter just walked away from them as the doors flung open by themselves. This is the power of prayer.

MEN OF THE SCRIPTURES

When we examine our Bible thoroughly and see the way the men of old prayed, then we will begin to ask ourselves whether we have really started; we will begin to wonder whether we can meet up.

Jacob prayed from about 10 p.m. in the night till about 5 a.m. the following morning saying, 'Except you bless me, I will not let you go.' Just one prayer point, and he held unto the legs of an angel. He did not rest until he was blessed.

Elijah put his head between his knees (you may try it if you can) and prayed until he got results.

These are men of the Scriptures and the way they prayed. I pray that God will help us and that the spirit of supplication will fall upon us.

PRAYER POINTS

1. O Lord, empower my prayer altar by fire, in Jesus' name.
2. O Lord, soak me in the spirit of prayer, in Jesus' name.

Take the next prayer points with aggression in your spirit. It is titled 'Power against Stubborn Situations' (culled from the book 'Violent Prayers to disgrace Stubborn Problems).

1. Let God arise in his anger and fight for me, in Jesus' name.
2. I refuse to allow my angels of blessings to depart, in Jesus' name.
3. I cancel every evil effect of names from evil origins in my life, in Jesus' name.
4. I paralyse all aggression addressed at my star, in Jesus' name.
5. I neutralise all problems originating from the mistakes of my parents, in Jesus' name.

6. Lord, open up all the good doors of my life that household wickedness has shut, in Jesus' name.
7. Lord, bring honey out of the rock for me, in Jesus' name.
8. Let all anti-breakthrough designs against my life be shattered to irreparable pieces, in Jesus' name.
9. I paralyse all satanic antagonism from the womb, in Jesus' name.
10. I command open disgrace on the mask of the enemy, in Jesus' name.
11. I paralyse all evil legs roaming about for my sake, in Jesus' name.
12. Let all evil blood that has mingled with my blood be drained out, in Jesus' name.
13. I trample upon every enemy of my advancement and promotion, in Jesus' name.
14. I break every evil collective unity organised against me, in Jesus' name.
15. Let all evil counsellors against me follow the wrong programme, in Jesus' name.
16. Let the backbone of the stubborn pursuer and strongman break, in Jesus' name.
17. I destabilize the controller of any land of bondage in my life, in Jesus' name.
18. O Lord, enlarge my coasts beyond my wildest dream, in Jesus' name.
19. Holy Ghost, seal all pockets that have demonic holes, in Jesus' name.
20. Let the fire of disgrace fall upon demonic prophets assigned against my life, in Jesus' name.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

In the book of James, we read about a wonderful qualification for effective prayer:

> ***James 5:16: Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.***

The above passage says, "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." This single sentence contains the three words effectual, fervent, and righteous. By simple word re- arrangement, if we remove the word 'effectual', it becomes, "the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." That means the righteous man could pray fervent prayers that are not effectual.

Secondly, we can Say, "the effectual prayers of a fervent man availeth much". This also means that a man could pray effectual prayers that are not fervent. There are problems there again.

Thirdly, we can leave the two examples above and say: "The effectual fervent prayer of a man availeth much." Here, we have removed the word 'righteous'. And if we do that, nothing happens still. This mean all three must work together: a prayer has to be effective, fervent and must be offered by a righteous man or woman. When I was a young Christian, this verse used to baffle me a lot.

> ***James 5:17: Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.***

So, there was an in-fighting within me. I used to quarrel with myself, saying, 'You see yourself, Elijah was a man like yourself; he prayed that there should be no rain in the land and it came to pass. He was not a super-man, but a human being like you. It is therefore a shame that you cannot do likewise.' This single feat of Elijah bothered me a lot in those days.

From the passages we have read, we can see that prayer has principles, 'the

effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.' By fervent prayer, we mean concentrated prayer; focused prayer where the mind does not wander about. So, if you refuse to learn to pray fervently, you will allow your enemy to have a free run over your life and destiny.

It is very easy for a man of God to stand on the pulpit, stretch forth his hands and pray for the entire congregation for thirty minutes or more. Yes, God will honour it and things will begin to happen. But he is not helping you; he is not training you. Give a man a piece of fish, you give him a meal, but teach him how to fish and you have fed him for life', so goes the old adage.

You may go elsewhere and find nobody to pray for you, and if you do not know what to do, then you will remain in your trouble. That is why You must be able to pray for yourself, anytime, and anywhere. When you pray to the level you are supposed to, you will need no prophet or pastor to see visions for you because you are already a prophet yourself.

However, if by personal decision you allow hair attachment, painting of lips, fornication, adultery and bleaching of skin to block your vision, then, that's your problem: it is a personal decision.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much means your prayer must be focused and fervent in order to move the hands of God. There is another problem. This is the word "righteous". If you are a righteous Christian, answers to your prayer and protection from God is guaranteed.

Isaiah 54:17: *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the* LORD, *and their righteousness is of me, saith the* LORD.

God is saying here that righteousness is of him and all you need to do is to come forward with boldness to the throne of grace. Perhaps you are righteous in Christ; you do pray fervently, yet, you cannot say that your prayer availeth much. You are puzzled; you keep asking yourself why you always obtain very little results from your prayers. You are puzzled that God does not speak to you;

He does not instruct you on which step or way to go. Yes, the answer is simply lack of understanding of the principles of prayer. For prayer to be effective, it has to be fervent and said by a righteous man. But when you want to go into the principles of prayer; you will find the answer to that in a simple, single word in the Bible called 'incense'.

BIBLICAL SYMBOLS

There are so many things in the Scriptures that are meant to be pictures for us, but many people are not alert enough to grasp spiritual truths; God always speaks to us by examples and images because if he decides to talk to us in the language of heaven, a lot of people will end up in confusion. If God decides to give you a picture of heaven, and you interpret it your own way, you will discover that both interpretation (i.e. yours and God's), are miles apart, and you would have scored zero if marks are being awarded.

This is why God does not speak to us in the language of heaven, except the language which we understand.

> ***1 Col: 2:13: Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***

God always gives examples to make us understand. For example, in the book of Genesis, God used skin to cloth Adam and Eve: you could look at this on the surface and dismiss it with a wave of the hand. But first it was leaves, and later skin of animals. That is how a physical eye will see it, but the spiritual eye will see it differently.

A spiritual eye will see it like this: that an animal was slaughtered before the skin-cloth was obtained, that blood was shed when the animal was slaughtered. Thus, there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood.

Noah's ark is another example. You might have read the story and dismissed it as not being a big deal. 'It was simply that Noah preached to the people but they have not paid any heed to him, then the flood came and they all perished, except

seven people, simple'.

No, it is much more than that, it is because you do not know the spiritual interpretation of the ark. Right in that ark of Noah, we can see a picture of the rapture; God will take His own people away to heaven, and after a while, they will come down again.

This is a spiritual depiction of the ark of Noah. And just as the percentage of those that entered the ark was so insignificant, compared to the entire population at the time, so is the number of people that will be raptured with Christ, compared to the entire population of the world.

Some people will also read the story of Abraham, Isaac and the ram and conclude that it was no big deal: 'The funny man just wanted to kill his son, and a ram was provided to replace him, that is it.' But they do not know the spiritual implications of that incident: We see in that ram 'Jesus crucified', as a replacement for us.

The Bible gives us these examples so that we can understand some deep spiritual truths. We must have read about tabernacles in the wilderness. A deeper understanding of the tabernacle is this; The Bible is simply saying that a time will come when God will call up His people by Himself, and will call the body 'church of the living God'. They will be the only ones to enter the Holy of holies.

God took the Israelites through the Red Sea. This is the water baptism that we now practice. Sometimes, we read the story of Jesus talking about bread. 'Eat my flesh, it is bread', This simply means salvation.

INCENSE

Exo 30:6 - 7: And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, whew I will meet with thee. And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

If you look here carefully at the word 'incense', you will find that it has a lot to do with what we have been discussing. Even though many people have turned the use upside down, it can teach us the principles of prayer.

Let us take note of this statement in the above passage: '*Sweet incense every morning where I will meet with thee*' Yes, this is in the Old Testament, but every word has a spiritual meaning and significance that shows us how to live a New Testament life. It shows that God meets with man at the burning of incense.

> ***Act 13:2: As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the word whereunto I have called them.***

Please take note of this, 'as they ministered to the Lord'. Yes, they ministered to the Lord and things began to happen; they heard from heaven. This means that whatever they did in that place brought results. And what did they do? 'They ministered to the Lord.'

FIRST PRINCIPLE

Praise and thanksgiving is the New Testament incense. Now, what does it mean to minister to the Lord? The answer could be found in what we have been talking about incense. These men burnt New Testament incense, which by now we know has to do with prayer and worship.

> ***Psalm 141:2: Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.***

It is evident from the above passage that incense is referring to prayer. It comes from the Hebrew word called 'Quota'. 'Quota' means fumigation, that is, evacuating or driving out unwanted occupants. No wonder the Bible said, 'the most high God dwelleth not in temples built by hands.' And that the temple of God is our body, soul and spirit.

Therefore, in order for you to pray effectively and worship God in the spirit, you must offer the New Testament incense, which will in turn chase out evil

occupants. When these other occupants are chased out, then you can walk up to God and flow with Him. Man is filled with his own devices, imaginations, doctrines and fears. Many times, we take these problems into our prayers. When we do this, it will seem as if heaven has become brass.

Someone who wants to pray and think and worry about academics, husband, wife, armed robbers, visa to travel abroad, or is worried about the kitchen and business. All these things are inside the heart. It will amount to self-deception if such a person sits and says he wants to pray.

You must first of all carry out a fumigation exercise. Just like our local people chase out rats from their holes by lighting up the mouth of the hole and pumping in plenty of smoke. Immediately, the rats will jump out. This is the work of the New Testament incense. It chases out all evil occupants, and then you can flow to God without hindrance.

The reason many people cannot pray alone at home is because of their burdens, worries, fears, insecurity and uncertainties, and with these, they still want to pray.

Sometimes they try so hard but would not pick-up until about thirty minutes of rigorous prayers. Why does it take that long? It is because the "fumigation" has not been done at all or not properly done.

Some people sometimes pray and tell God how terrible things have been for them; they say 'Ah-ah, and You are the Almighty. You call yourself the Almighty and things are going on like this in my life. Look at my colleagues in the University, they have all become General Managers; just look at the people that I weaned, they are married now. Look at everything, O God, why?

If you start your prayer like this, then it is a pity. You have not fumigated anything, you have only succeeded in breeding more insects and worms. Instead of the glory of God to fill the house, doubt will take over, and the person will not be able to pray effectively in this state.

Do not tell God how great your problems are, but tell your problems how great

your God is.

Do not look at the Goliath and scream, rather, you should say and believe that you will not miss your target once you throw your stone at the Goliath. God said David was a man after His own heart, and David himself said these:

> ***Psalm 100: 4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.***

David was a giant killer; he was a winner, why? Because his prayers were scented with incense.

What was that incense? Praises. Therefore, as a prayer principle, you must enter into the presence of the Lord with thanks and praises. Leave your troubles behind, open your heart unto the Lord, and enter into His gates with thanksgiving.

However, this is not because you think that all that you request of the Lord are already yours, but because your name is written in the book of life, which cannot be exchanged for anything. Any other request you are making is secondary to thanksgiving and praises. If it is employment you are asking God to give you, others have gotten it and have been killed by it; if you are asking God for a child, others have had it and were killed by the same child; if you are praying for a husband, others had it and were used by the same husband for money-making rituals.

But thanksgiving becomes a must because with it, your name is written in the book of life. Thus, it appeared as if David knew how to 'bribe' God with his praises which is an incense unto God.

When you want to pray at home, you should not begin your thanksgiving to God with warfare songs. You do not begin your supplications to the Lord this way. You should start first with the incense: God has been good to you, and you need to tell Him so.

Paul the Apostle was a winner, a champion and conqueror. If you ask Paul what

one can do to be able to light the spiritual incense, do you know what he would say? Give thanks! Paul gave thanks inside the prison even after he had been terribly battered, dragged on the ground from the market place to prison, and with all his body full of bruises.

Paul the Apostle had a very good reason to abuse God if he had wanted to do so; after all, he was on his own when God called and asked him to go to Macedonia. He did not just go on his own, it was God that asked him to go. Yet, look at what happened to him. He should have sat down and said to God, 'See what is happening to me, after all, I did not call myself, but You called me. Did you call me to come and be battered like this? Is this fair enough?' In it all, Apostle Paul had a right to be saying all this, but he did not. Rather, he gave thanks to the Almighty.

Africa's black men do not usually cry over problems. But when you see one crying and rolling on the floor, then know that 'there is fire on the mountain'. I know a man of God in this country that was thrown into a prison. The first thing he did was to break down and cry. But Apostle Paul was in a worse situation, still, he offered thanks and praises to God, because he knew that was the sweet incense God requires. The same Apostle Paul was ship-wrecked and for three weeks never saw day light; the whole place was in disarray, and the same man started thanking God.

So, when you give thanks, your circumstances will change for the best. Praises drive out doubts, grumbling, murmurings and complaints. Then, you will begin to hear from Him, at the altar of incense.

This is the New Testament incense and the first principle of prayer. You may be approached by some white-garment churches that you need to buy the physical incense before you can offer thanks and praises to God. In this context we need to understand and interpret the meaning of the incense by the New Testament stand.

> ***Rev.* 8:3-4: *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which***

came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

You can now see that the incense is something that accompanies prayers, which is praises and worship unto the Lord.

There was once a terrible situation. A man was sick and some ministers went to his house to offer prayers. One of the ministers committed a blunder by asking his friend to pray. And this friend prayed like this:

'O God, thank You for the grace You have granted to this woman to remain a widow.'

Therefore, the first prayer principle is praise and worship. The Bible says, "be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and thanksgiving, let your request be known unto God". (Philippians 4:6).

SECOND PRINCIPLE

Confirming God's will

The Number two principle of prayer which cannot be waved aside is: always confirm God's will before you start praying.

Eph. 5;17: Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Do not ask God for too much. However, find out whether what you are asking for is God's will for your life. You can not go to God asking that you want to marry a fifth wife. Of course that is not God's will for your life and He is not going to answer such request.

THIRD PRINCIPLE

Identify Your Specific Needs

The third principle is this: You must identify your needs and be specific. What

many people want is not what they need. Somebody who is asking God to make him very rich, promising to sponsor the work of the Gospel to any level may not need to be rich after all. May be all God wants to do is to turn his life upside down, drain all impurities in his life to make him more useful. But look at what he wants, he wants to be rich. Another person might Say, "O God, I want to be prophesying; I want to be seeing visions so that people can be praising God for my life." That is what he wants, but his need may be that the spirit of anger in his life should die.

There may be someone else whose need is marriage. But that may not be God's will for that person. It may be that God wants the person to go and complete the deliverance already embarked upon in order to drain out all evil deposits in his life.

So, you must identify your needs and be specific about them. Being specific means when you are asking God for a husband, you should specify what kind of husband you are asking for. You want a wife? What kind of wife?

You must be specific because there are so many men but very few husbands, and likewise, so many women but very few wives. It is a fruitless prayer exercise when you pray and Say, "O God, give me the bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." The reason is that if the person who is asking God for the bone of his bones and the flesh of his flesh is still enmeshed in the sin of telling lies, and occasional anger he is likely going to attract to himself the bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh which will be another liar and angry man or woman.

Blind Bartimeaus prayed a general prayer, 'Jesus the son of David, have mercy on me'. He cried loud unto Jesus. But there are so many mercies in the Bible, and Jesus had to ask him specifically what he really wanted. And he answered and said, 'that I may receive my sight'. He then spoke specifically.

FOURTH PRINCIPLE

Meditate on Scriptures

Principle number four is this: gather scriptures promising what you need and meditate upon them. These scriptures are the springboard you require to stand on

in order to claim what you need. There are about 7,487 (Seven thousand, four hundred and eighty seven) promises in the Bible, and you must be able to identify the exact ones you want.

Gather them together, meditate upon them, and make sure they become part and parcel of your life. With these, positive things will begin to happen. If you open to Psalm 37 for instance, there are 40 promises in this single Psalm alone.

Our old Pentecostal fathers were fond of reciting psalms.

Why did they do that? Because in reciting the psalms, they were cleverly memorising the word of God and at the end, can apply any portion of it to their specific situation.

It is very sad now that the number of people interested in memorizing scriptures is dwindling by the day. They believe it is for Sunday school children. Some old men and women (so-called) believe they are too old and too big to start memorizing the scriptures. But I put it to you that you are not too old, even at 80 years of age. If you cannot read it, let someone else read it to your hearing.

FIFTH PRINCIPLE

Pray with An Expectant Heart and Faith

1 Col: 15.58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Let us examine again the first sentence in the above passage: therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

So, always pray to God with an expectant heart and faith.

SIXTH PRINCIPLE

Present Your Case Systematically before God

Do not pray vagabond prayer points. Ask for one thing at a time. Do not pray like this: 'O Lord, I thank you for keeping and saving me from flesh eaters. I ask that you lay your hands upon me, and that my work should prosper. I pray for our Church. I pray that my pastor would live long and grow old. I also pray for my town and village, in Jesus' name'. This is nothing but vagabond and rudderless prayer. It has no focus.

A good prayer warrior, when he or she takes up a prayer point, would pray it to a level of assurance before he or she moves on to the next one. In fact, as that person prays, he or she feels the assurance of answered prayer.

> ***Isaiah 41 :21: Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.***

This means you should tell the Lord your reasons systematically, and without wavering.

Isaiah 43:26: Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

There was a man in the Bible who did this very well. Three men visited Abraham, and were well entertained. (No wonder the Bible says that some people will entertain angels without knowing about it).

After these men had had their fill, they told Abraham about their mission: 'Well, we have come to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, for it will be unfair if we do this without informing you.' And Abraham quickly did a little of mathematics: Lot was there, his wife, daughters and sons-in-law. He now said, 'Far be it from you. O Lord, that you would destroy the righteous.' And God answered and said, 'Alright, if I find just fifty righteous men in a city, I will not destroy the place.'

Abraham now said, 'Lord, supposing you find forty righteous people, will you

still destroy the city?'

God replied in the negative. And Abraham said, 'O God, do not be angry, what about thirty people? And God said He will not destroy the city. And Abraham said, 'Please, Lord, just this once, what if you find twenty people?' God still said He would not destroy the city for twenty righteous men and women.

However, Abraham was targeting ten people; he was working to reduce the number to ten. Why? There was Lot, his wife and two unmarried daughters there. It is believed that there were also three married daughters and their husbands, bringing the total number of people to ten. But at the end, Abraham's ten people became four, because Lot's sons-in-law would not believe that God was going to destroy the city. And in fact, it became three and half because the wife got half way and became a pillar of salt.

SEVENTH PRINCIPLE

Do Not Be Selfish in Your Prayers

> ***Job 42:10: And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.***
>
> ***James 4:3: Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.***

There was a man that came to us for prayers. He was doing very well, until the powers of the emptiers entered into his life. It was then he ran to Jesus, and if you had seen the way this man used to pray then, it was as if his shirt was going to be torn off his body.

But suddenly we did not see him again. By the time we saw him, he was seated in a beautifully furnished restaurant, dining. He even bought food for others in that restaurant.

He no longer attends prayer meetings again. And if the devil gets hold of these

kinds of people the second time, they rarely survive.

EIGHTH PRINCIPLE

Be Serious with Prayer

Prayer is a warfare, and not a joking matter; you want to talk with the creator of heaven and earth, it is warfare, a bend or break, make or mar affair-not a joking matter at all. And the Bible says we should come boldly to the throne of grace.

NINETH PRINCIPLE

Fast Along with Your Prayer

I would not talk much on this as it will be discussed extensively in our next issue.

TENTH PRINCIPLE

Do Not Dictate To God

Do not dictate to God how He should answer your prayers. Just let Him do it His own way -after all, He is God. Do not try to help Him answer your prayers. If you go through your Bible very well, you will see the various kinds of ways that God used in answering prayers; amazing kinds of way.

Moses stood at the edge of the Red Sea as though that was the end of the road for him, there was nothing he could do. However, he called unto God and God answered saying, 'What is that in your hand?' God asked him, 'Was it not with this same rod that you battered all the gods of Egypt to submission? Was it not with this rod that you disgraced all the kings and princes of Egypt? Now, use it".

And Moses used it and miraculous things began to happen. God disgraced the enemies. He parted the Red Sea and made a way where there was no way. This they did and the sea parted. But if they had tried to help God, it would not have

happened the way it did. Do not try to help God because you will get into more trouble if you do so.

> ***John 4:46-53: So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.***
>
> ***John 4:47-53: When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaeu into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heul his son: for he was at the point of death. Then said Jesus unto him, except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down here my child die. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.***

So, once the word of God comes forth, you just receive it wholly without question. Sometimes, a word of knowledge might come for a particular person and the very clever ones tap from the overflow. They even claim it faster than the person it was meant for.

ELEVENTH PRINCIPLE

Your prayer must be persistent

God's delay is not denial; each day brings you closer to the realisation of your dreams.

> ***Deu. 3:25-26: Pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon. But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto***

me of this matter.

What is this passage saying? It says, 'shut up! Do not pray that prayer again.' Prayer must be persistent like that man who refused to give up, while knocking persistently on his friend's door. "We want food, we want food!" 'We are dying in my household, we are starving to death'. And despite the cold shoulders he got from his friend, he persisted with the knock and eventually, it paid-off. He got what he wanted, but he got it because he persisted. This is how prayers should be said.

It is not as if God is difficult to approach, or hard to convince, but because of the powers of hindrances in the second heaven, that is, the satanic angels that are fighting Christians day and night. This is why we say prayer is a battle. Look at blind Bartimaeus, he refused to stop crying; same with the widow, she kept harassing and pestering the judge until the man gave in (Luke 18:l-8). What about the woman who wanted Jesus to heal her sick daughter? She harassed Jesus to the extent that she got what she wanted.

Most of the prayers in both the Old and New Testaments could be seen as holy cries: 'O God, You must do what You have said.' This is the prayer of those who must get away with an answer. And one beautiful thing about God is this: He never discourages anybody. All He wants is for you to ask because His word is 'Yea and amen'.

You can always be sure as well that every discouragement and distraction in prayer is from the devil: he pinches the baby and makes the child to cry so that you cannot pray, he does the same to the dog and makes it bark all night in order to disrupt your prayers, he makes both husband and wife angry at each other.

TWELFTH PRINCIPLE

Pray to a Level of Assurance

Finally, you must pray to a level of assurance and then begin to praise God for the answer. But if you pray and doubt is still in your heart, then don't continue. Sometime ago, I was listening to a white man preacher on the television. He was

talking about faith in prayer. He said once you ask God for something, He has already given it to you. Therefore, you need not ask Him again. No, it is because the white-man does not understand our terrain. How I wish he was brought to Nigeria so that he can learn one or two other lessons that God can pour out His blessings and house- Hold wickedness will say no, and a person would not get it. But as long as God was concerned, He had poured out His blessings, and from here, the battle begins.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every evil bird stealing my blessings, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Let my breakthrough appear and let my failures disappear, in the name of Jesus.
3. Let the head of every marine power fashioned against me be broken, in the name of Jesus.
4. Let every evil trend directing my affairs be reversed, in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, uproot evil things from my life, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, plant good things in my life, in the name of Jesus.
7. I cancel every unconscious negative agreement, in the name of Jesus.
8. Lord, make me Your sharp battle axe, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let every spiritual weakness in my life receive termination, in the name of Jesus.
10. Let every financial failure in my life receive termination, in the name of Jesus.
11. Let every sickness in my life receive termination, in the name of Jesus.
12. Let every architect of problems in my life, receive termination, in the name of Jesus.
13. I refuse to reap any satanic harvest in any area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
14. I paralyse all spiritual wolves working against my life, in the name of Jesus.
15. That which hinders me from greatness, begin to give way now, in the name of Jesus.
16. Every imprisoned and buried potential, come forth now, in the name of

Jesus.

17. I command all unfriendly helpers in every area of my life to depart, in the name of Jesus.
18. I render null and void the effect of any interaction with satanic agents moving around as men and women, in the name of Jesus.
19. I pull down the stronghold of evil strangers in every area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
20. Any negative transaction currently affecting my life negatively, be cancelled, in the name of Jesus.
21. I command all the dark works done against me in secret to be exposed and nullified, in the name of Jesus.
22. I loose myself from any dark spirit, in the name of Jesus.

KINDS OF PRAYER

We have said a lot about prayers. A person may be a Christian without much learning and without much knowledge. But no man can ever become a successful Christian without prayer.

PRAYER IS A MUST

Without prayer, a believer is practically dead before God. And if you Say, "What must I do?" Or you are confused about what to do, or you are saying you do not know when to pray and when not to pray, or you may also be saying you are in the Company of those who do not pray or do not love to pray, in spite of all these, you must pray. Even if you are sleeping in a house where nobody offers any prayer, you must pray.

The Bible told us that Jesus prayed on the mountain; Isaac prayed in the open field; prophet Hezekiah prayed on his bed; Daniel prayed by the riverside and Peter prayed on the housetop. Therefore you should be able to pray wherever you are.

If you study the book of Ephesians 6, the Bible talks about spiritual amour. To be able to defeat all the attacks of the enemy, prayer was the last piece of armour that was mentioned in that chapter (Ephesians 6:13-18).

Today God is looking for fervent prayer warriors. And not only fervent, but people who are persistent in their prayer lives.

Sometimes God tarries in answering some prayers. This, beloved, is the reason for persistence because that particular moment may not be His time, or He (God) may have to alter some circumstances before He answers. He may even have things to work out in our lives before we get the answer. So there must be persistence.

BINDING AND LOOSENING

There is prayer of binding and loosening. Some cases do not need any other thing than to bind and loose. For example, if someone is under the attack of the spirit of death, prayer of praise and worship is not the type of prayer to be said.

Let me share this with you.

A pastor went to pray for a woman who was under the attack of the spirit of death. But at first, the pastor was praying the wrong prayer. He said, 'We thank You, Lord, for giving Your children the kind of lecturers too high for the level. We also thank you for the grace You have given to her husband to be running around for two weeks, glory be to Your name. As this woman is about to depart now...'

The woman could not take it any longer, she shouted, 'Lord, shut him up.' If the man had finished that prayer, the woman would have landed in the mortuary.

This man of God now stopped and started to bind the spirit of death. And as he continued, the woman who had closed her eyes for two weeks opened her eyes for the first time.

A lot of people go about with the spirit of death which the enemy has planted in them. The spirit could just be hiding until a sickness would come or until the person commits one sin that God says he should not. Then the spirit of death would strike, and the person dies. Most cases of death are like this. The solution is to bind. There is no other type of prayer. You don't beg them. You don't mix them up. That is one kind of prayer – the prayer of binding and loosening.

You bind the strongman and his captives. But if you refuse to bind what you are supposed to bind, God will be looking at you. If you are smiling at the thing or crying or begging. God will be looking. And if you specialize in crying, I have a suggestion. Take a big towel and a big bucket. When you have finished filling the bucket with the tears, and soaked the towel, then start binding. If you bind them crying, they won't listen to you. So finish your crying before you start binding because the two do not go together.

For those who are modern-day Jeremiah, you had better repent. You are limiting God. Pray the proper prayers and the proper things will happen.

One of the great men of God that God used in this country for establishing Pentecostalism in Nigeria did wonders for God. Normally we don't hear much now about these things.

In those days whenever Christians gathered to build a church in town, they were always given the most terrible places in the jungle that nobody can enter. The best example is the evil forest. They were given this type of place for the establishment of churches. So the people of God were happy because they do not need to pay money to acquire it.

This great man of God would go into the evil forest, bind every evil spirit, immediately he did that, we were told that they sometimes heard the sound of the feet of people rushing out. Right there in the evil forest, the believers would take their cutlasses and begin to cut down the trees. Those who gave them the land would wake up and take a stroll to the place to see whether they have all died. But they would find them clapping and singing. Then they would conclude that the believers have strange powers.

I know many sisters who come to our church and are alleged to be consulting a powerful, old herbalist. That is not true. We don't have any powerful herbalist. All that we have is the Lord of the heavens and earth.

THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

The book of Mathew 18:19 says;

> ***Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.***

Two are required to bind anything on earth. Once their spirits agree, the distance notwithstanding, they could agree on the telephone or by letter or they could just talk about a prayer point and they pray and agree. The Bible says it shall be so.

The Bible also says; 'Two are better than one.' It says "One shall chase 1,000, two shall chase 10,000". So two are better than one because, it is better to chase 10,000 than to chase 1,000. This is why the devil wages war against the home. There is nothing as powerful as family prayers. When they are all in agreement, nothing can withstand them.

But when one member of the family is drinking stout', the other one is caressing a 'rosary' and they say one of them is born again, they start a prayer of agreement, it will not work because their spirits are not in the same realm. It takes two born again Christians who are spiritually comparable to agree together touching anything. And It shall be done.

The Bible says, 'on anything'. It does not matter whether there are 14,000 application letters for the same job, two children of God can come together and agree. They will certainly be answered. It is that powerful. Maybe your children are not doing too well. Why not seek for a prayer partner and agree with that person. A woman was going to a Pentecostal church. The husband told her that she should go to her church on Wednesday and come to his own church on Sunday. This was because he was an elder in the church so he felt his wife should be there. The woman agreed, as long as she could be attending her own also. The husband said when she gets to his own church, she must always sit in the section of the elders' wives.

But this woman had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, so being in her husband's church was not a pleasant experience for her. In order to maintain peace in her home, she complied. The trouble is that when giving any opportunity to pray in her husband's church, the sister would start blasting in tongues. Everybody seeing this began to warn the husband to caution the woman because she was disorganising their service.

So one day when the woman got home, the husband refused to talk to her. Then in the middle of the night, the man woke her up and told her to chose between the Holy Ghost, Jesus and himself. The woman did not know what to say but begged to be given time to decide. So in the morning the woman went to her pastor and told him.

The pastor told her after listening to her story that she should tell her husband

that it is a blasphemy to ask a person to choose between another and God, and that the man could not be equated with the Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ. But if he has to pick one, he will pick the Lord Jesus Christ. The woman at first objected, but she went and told her husband. He then told her to pack out.

That night, the woman went for a vigil. She did not pack her things. She was just praying and she prayed half way through the night. Suddenly, she heard somebody crying. She stopped her prayers and by the time she would look back, she found her husband on his knees asking the Lord Jesus Christ to Save his soul. But before the woman left the pastor, they had prayed a prayer of agreement; they had agreed in prayer.

Having this in mind, the woman decided to observe the vigil in which she was just praising God that the man is saved.

The rule about the prayer of agreement is that, it must never be repeated. So after agreeing with somebody on something, then you write a long list of prayer requests, you have cancelled the agreement, it will not work. After agreeing with somebody that you must pass your exams and you later go to a revival and begin to pray about what you have agreed with the person in prayer, you have cancelled the prayer of agreement and the present one would not work because you have done it in unbelief.

The prayer of agreement is so powerful that repeating it is a big exercise of unbelief and cancels the previous exercise completely.

When two shall agree on anything, it shall be done. This is the prayer of agreement and it is important that you understand it very well.

I remember a brother with high blood pressure who heard this kind of message. He stayed behind after service to see the preacher. He asked the preacher if he could agree with him in prayer, the preacher consented and they agreed that, that day would be the last day he would experience high blood pressure in his life. The man of God said, "Don't repeat the prayer, just be praising God". He did exactly that.

The night of that day was the most terrible night in his life. It was as if the high blood pressure was going to kill him, but he remembered the instruction of the man of God. So he kept praising God. The devil only tormented him for twenty-four hours. After this, he was perfectly healed.

The mistake of many people is this: they want to pray but do not expect their prayers to be challenged. When it is challenged, they Say, it is a lie. I have defeated you, get out and go. Then the thing goes. But if they allow it, the miracle the person has received goes away.

UNITY PRAYER

Acts 4:23-31: And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Something happened in Jerusalem, a man had been healed. Then he became an

advertisement for the apostles. The heads of the land could not suppress the miracle. The man that was healed too could not suppress it. He had been sitting at the door of the temple even when Jesus was still around, but was not healed. He was there for 40 years and the apostles just came and said; 'Arise and walk in Jesus' name.'

Thereafter, trouble started in Jerusalem. They took the apostles and beat them up. They were released in verse 23 of our bible passage. And when they were let go, the Bible says, 'They went to their own company.'

It is good for you to have good company when there is trouble. It is good for you to have a company than to go to where the devil is causing satanic revival; it is a pity to have bad friends who will take you to bad places.

They went to their own company and reported all that the chief priest has done to them.

The Bible says that after their report to the people, they lifted up their voice in one accord and said, 'Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them. Thou by the mouth of thy servant David has said, why did the heathen rage and the people imagined vain thins, the kings of the earth stood up and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed both Herod and Pontius Pilate, and Gentiles and the people; of Israel were gathered together. To fulfil whatsoever thy hands and counsel determined before to be done.'

Now after exalting and worshipping Gad, they reported their enemies, *'And now Lord, behold their threatening and grant unto Thy servants that with all boldness they may speak Thy word by the stretching forth of thine hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done by the same of Thy holy Child, Jesus.*

Verse 31 says, 'and when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Peter and john had healed the lame man. This caused an uproar. Then they went to their Company. They did not go to those who would discourage them. They went to a place of prayer. They did not work out any agreement with the enemy that, "this beating is becoming too much, let us work out an agreement. You stay in one part of the place and we, another so that there will be peace. You said we should stop saying they killed Jesus, maybe we should even stop." They did not say that. They said, "O Lord God, behold their threatening. Do they have the right to threaten us when Your word says, why do the heathen rage and the rulers take counsel together. Why do they imagine vain things?" This is because they know that fighting against God is a vain thing. It is vain imagination and we must recognize it as such.

If you have peace and someone is trying to disturb it, just know that, it is a vain imagination and you must stand against it. Then they prayed in unity. The Bible says that the place was shaken. There is power in that type of prayer. They did not keep quiet and the power of God came upon them.

At a square sometime ago, during a revival, suddenly thunder struck. There was no rain, thunder just struck and came right to the place where the man of God was sitting. But because God says, 'Touch not My anointed and do My prophets no harm', the only thing the thunder destroyed was the microphone. The microphone got burnt to ashes.

Then immediately, it was announced that, 'everybody should rise up and pray a prayer point to direct the thunder back to the sender.' Then everyone rose up. And you know, when believers get angry and start to pray, anything can happen. Even if you are an elephant in the demonic world, your power cannot counter the prayers believers say together in faith and holy anger.

And they started praying. Before the prayer came to an end, a man who sent the thunder against the man of God was brought forward. The state in which the evil agent was brought to the revival ground was as horrible as that of a person thrown into hot oil. The body had peeled, and there was no hair on his head. He sent the thunder, but did not have anything to protect himself if the thunder was sent back to him. The thunder was sent back to the man. But he was clever. He told them not to take him to the hospital but the square where there was a revival programme. He knew what he had done. They prayed for him. Today, I am

happy to tell you that the man is now preaching the gospel of Christ.

There is power in united prayer. If you are in the gathering of the kind of people who raise up their voices to pray, an anointing which cannot be measured will be released to you. Your presence in the prayer session does something positive to your spirit.

There are many things that get attached to us day by day as we move around. God does not allow us to see a lot of them. So when you are invited to a corporate prayer meeting, all those things just leave you.

There was a time we were praying in the church and in the middle of the prayer, a tortoise dropped from someone's body and it fell and could not move. We left it there and continued praying. After sometime, the tortoise disappeared. The person that planted it took it. That means the progress of that particular person was tied down with the spirit of tortoise. But in the middle of a united prayer session, it could not stay.

Maybe the person has been praying but his prayer does not have sufficient fire. Most people do not pray at home as hard as they pray in the Church.

In a united prayer session, evil powers are exposed because God's arrows are shot at them. That is the power of united prayers. Let me give you an illustration. If we have a single bird on a tree. If one person takes a stone and throws it at the bird, if he is very good at throwing stones, with one shot, he could kill the bird. But when 2,000 people attack the bird and throw stones at it at the same time, that bird would be extremely lucky to escape from all the stones. That is the power of united prayers.

United prayers can destabilise what the enemies think it cannot. It can do all kinds of things in various places.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

1 Cor. 14:2,4, 14-15: For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth

him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

According to the above passages, we can see prayer divided into two kinds. You can pray with your understanding and you can also pray in the spirit.

Praying with your understanding means praying in your local dialect – Yoruba, Efik, Igbo, Hausa or English.

That means your mind is getting involved in everything that you are doing. But when you want to pray in the spirit, the Bible tells us that it is praying in tongues. And there is a popular verse in the book of John 4:24, that says God Himself is a Spirit. It means therefore that somebody praying in the spirit will be faster in linking up with another spirit being.

In the book of Romans chapter 8:26-27, we read that the spirit maketh intercession for us, and since God is a Spirit, and with our carnal knowledge we do not know what to pray about, the spirit helps our infirmities in that area.

It is therefore very important for believers to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that they can pray in the Holy Spirit which is a daily source of power.

If a believer can take up the challenge to pray in tongues for seven days for at least two hours daily, then his life will never be the same again. But unfortunately, this is what many find difficult to do.

What you pray in the spirit is not through your understanding or your brain, but it is your spirit that is praying to God.

Occasionally God will show you a thing, or you may have a dream about something, and you do not know how or where to start praying. At that level

when you begin to pray in the spirit, the spirit of God will make clear to you what is happening.

Again, if you are interceding for a situation or a person, it is good for you to pray in tongues as the Bible encourages us to pray in tongues.

In the book of Ephesians Chapter 6:18, praying in the spirit is advocated.

In the book of Jude 20, it says that all believers should be able to pray in the spirit.

Apostle Paul did not stop at that. He said, 'I will pray in the spirit, and I will pray in my understanding also.' That means there must be a balance. You pray in your understanding and you also pray in the spirit.

You do not get to your office in the morning and say, 'Let somebody give us the opening prayer,' and then you begin to speak in tongues – that would be foolishness because they do not understand what you are saying. You pray in your understanding.

In fact, praying in the spirit is much more effective in your personal prayer life at home. That is why we encourage people at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries that when you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and you begin to speak in tongues, that is just opening the gate to a new world. There are still lots of things awaiting you.

For example, if you have started to pray in the spirit, then, you must also be able to sing in the spirit. That is possible. Then later you would now begin to ask God for the gift of interpretation – the enablement to interpret what you are praying or saying in the spirit.

However, it is not possible for you to pray in the Spirit when you have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, whatsoever is hindering a person from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the person's greatest enemy on earth.

JUDGMENTAL PRAYER

The second one is what we call judgmental prayer.

> ***Psalm 149:5-9: Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.***

The above scriptures tell us that a believer could pray a judgemental prayer. If you know that certain things have been done that are working against the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and working against the peace of your soul, God has given the believer the authority to pray a judgmental prayer, to decide what happens. That is why the bible says, 'whatsoever we bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whosoever sin you forgive is forgiven in heaven, and whosoever sin ye retain is retained also.'

God has given these rights to the believer and that explains the kinds of prayers we sometimes pray.

When the powers of darkness think they can put a child of God on the run, doing all kinds of strange things, then you could pray a judgemental prayer against them.

A long time ago there used to be a church whose only offence was that they used to hold vigil every night. A lot of demonic people around were not happy about these vigils that were causing much confusion for them. Therefore they held a meeting and decided that they were going to put the entire congregation in trouble.

So the demonic people made elaborate plans to actualize their decision. But unfortunately for them, while they were making these plans, God was revealing everything to his own people – that some people were coming to cause trouble in their midst. 'But I will show them who the real boss is. You need not fret because I will fight the battle for you and none of you shall lift a finger. However, you

should pray that whatever plan they have for you should return to their own heads.'

So they prayed and everybody went home. By the next morning, the plan of these demonic people was to dump a corpse inside the church and then go to invite the police.

Therefore they woke up between 4a.m. and 5a.m. to actualise this evil plan. But while three of these demonic people were bringing the corpse to the church, they got to the church gate and met an angel smiling at them. They were warmly received by the angel who even directed them to where they should go. They were even admonished not to allow the corpse drop to the ground.

An hour later. They were still standing with the corpse in their hands. It was as if it had been glued to their hands. They could neither drop the corpse nor run away. They tried to, but their legs were as heavy as iron, with the angel standing by them, supervising their affliction.

Soon it was dawn and members began to arrive for morning service. Immediately the angel saw this, he just waved at them and disappeared.

Eventually, they were all arrested by the same police they were going to invite to effect the arrest of members of the church. They were told to explain how they came about the corpse in their hands. This is what judgmental prayers do.

In the book of Psalm 110:1-2, 6, we read the Scripture backing judgemental prayers. Again, in the book of Psalm 18:12-14, 37-41, we see a similar thing.

In the Acts of the Apostles, when the apostles were beaten and tortured because they preached Christ,' Do not preach about this man again' they told them. But the bible says they (Apostles) went back to their own Company and began to pray. They prayed from the second book of Psalms, which says, 'Why do nations so furiously rage ? Why do they imagine vain things? Why are the kings of the earth rising up against the Lord and His anointed?

It further went on to say, 'Now Lord, behold their threats' – the Apostles reported them to the Lord and prayed. And as a result, the Lord performed greater signs, wonders and miracles.

There was a man who used to be in the occult. As a result of this man's membership, God tracked him down, and he is now born-again. This man once told a story of how one night they tried to attack a woman whose only offence was that she prayed too much at night. The members of the occult were therefore sent to go and pour some substances on this woman in order to put some diseases (small pox, chicken pox, etc) on her.

Their calculation was that by the time these diseases come, she will be busy taking care of them and thereby forget to pray at night and even stop holding her regular vigils.

However that night, this prayer-warrior was at it again. She began to pray by calling the name and the blood of Jesus. As she continued in prayers, those men who were supposed to pour substances on her found out that they could not move – the three of them.

In the demonic world, they do not enjoy the kind of freedom that children of God have. They are so strict that if they call a meeting for six p.m., no one must come late, and failure to adhere to the stipulated time might result in that member losing his first son or daughter.

Now these three demonic messengers were told to perform their operation before 1:00 a.m. failing which the substance they were carrying would return to them.

These men did not fret, they were so confident because they had done it with so many other Christians, succeeded and nothing happened.

Therefore they tried this prayer-warrior. By the time they arrived at her residence, this woman screamed the name and blood of Jesus, and immediately sensed that there were some evil agents around. She started to rebuke them, pronouncing the curse of God upon them.

Soon, there was trouble in the camp of these three demonic messengers, they could not move, with the substance in their hands while the clock was fast tickling away to 1:00 a.m. They struggled to leave but could not, except one of them who escaped, became born-again and was now giving this testimony. Maybe God allowed him to escape in order to be able to tell others the story, while the other two died in that operation.

This is how people kill themselves day and night when they attempt to attack serious Christians. The word 'serious' should be underlined. When I say serious Christians, I mean those who know their God and who know what they believe. I am not talking abut Christians who fall and rise everyday, living in the same sin. Not Christians who will give all reasons in this world why they should be angry. Not Christians who and pamper their anger instead of fighting it – not those kinds of Christians.

I am yet to see a very serious female prayer warrior whose husband was snatched away by evil powers – I have not found one.

We daily see a lot of people who cry, but not so many who can pray.

When somebody starts playing with fire, it will burn. Judgmental prayers – that is what it does to the powers of the enemy.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

The third one is what I call, 'The prayer of commitment.'

> ***Psalm 37:5: Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.***

The Bible also tells us: 'I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep anything you have placed in His hands unto the end.

Once an offering has reached the altar, then it should no longer be removed. This is what some people do when they say they pray: they drop their children on the altar of God and pick them up again – 'O God, I want to check-up the leg

whether it is sitting there properly,' they will say. Therefore the offering did not even have the time to perform what it was supposed to perform. They don't leave their burden there just like that songwriter said.

Some people come to fellowship, pray and are happy. But immediately they get to the bus stop on their way home or where they want to enter their cars, they pick up the burdens again and take them back home. But the Bible says, 'No, take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there.' It is the devil that keeps pushing people to carry the load they are supposed to put on the Lord. When people do that, it means they are not ready to put things in the hand of the Lord; what will happen is this: the Lord will say, well since you do not want Me to do the thing, then take your thing to yourself.

When you are before God and have committed something into His hands, then leave Him with it for He will sort it out. 'Take your burdens to Him and leave them there.'

l Peter 5:7 tells us, Casting all your cares upon Him for He careth for you.' It means you must commit things to the care of God – that is what we call the prayer of commitment.

If I want to travel now, I will commit the journey into the hands of the Lord. The journey has therefore been committed into His hands. But when you commit a journey into the hands of the Lord, get inside the vehicle and you begin to shake, saying, 'Excuse me, excuse me, driver, please take it easy, drive slowly, I have a family at home, please drive slowly,' Then, it is unlikely that you actually committed that journey into God's hands. Maybe you released one leg to God while you retained the other.

Just like many believers do, they say, 'I want to die for the Lord, I want to die for the Lord.' And the Lord will say, 'Okay, you want to die for me? No problem.' In fact, God is looking for dead people, people who are dead to the flesh.

Therefore God will say; I want to kill you now.' And He goes ahead to do it, and puts the person in a coffin. But while God was putting the person inside the coffin, the person had already hidden a hammer in his pocket. No sooner had the

person been put into the coffin than he began to knock his way out again with the smuggled hammer – this is what some people do. Their dying to the flesh has a provision that nobody provokes them, a provision that nobody says this or that to them again.

What I am saying is that you commit your ways, things and programmes into the hands of God. Your home and business should be totally committed into the hands of God.

However, Christians least understand this kind of prayer. And when they do understand it, the case of the person would be like that little boy who wanted to plant maize: he wanted to know from his father how he could plant maize. And the father said, 'Ah, very simple, just take three pieces of corn, dig a hole in the ground and put them in there.' And the boy said, 'Fine', and did exactly as his father had advised.

But after about two hours, the boy went back to the place where he planted the corn to see if it was germinating, and then covered it back with the earth.

Again, as he was about to go to bed at night, he went back to the spot where he planted the corn to see if it had germinated. He got there, brought it out from the ground, looked at it and put it back there and covered it with the earth.

This he did for three days and eventually nothing happened to the corn. Why? Because the little boy never gave the corn any opportunity to grow.

Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there. Once you fully commit something into the hands of God, you have lifted the burdens off your head, but if you are going to worry about it, do not bother to give it to the Lord.

When you approach God to commit something to him, you must be very definite about what you are committing into His hand. Many people just keep praying, even after they have committed a particular situation into the hands of God, and sometimes pray themselves out of faith.

Sometimes when God says, 'It is okay, I've answered your prayers, all you need to do is to be praising Me,' some people after praising for a certain period, go back again into doubt, saying, 'O God, you know that this thing is not so, and I do not understand what is going on. I've praised, praised, and praised and nothing is happening now.' All these are senseless behaviours of believers.

It is like taking your car to the mechanic for repairs pointing out to him the areas that need repairs and immediately you say, 'O, thank you very much,' and you drove away and did not drop the car with the mechanic. Of course he would not be able to effect any repairs on your vehicle.

When you've prayed and heard from the Lord, then be patient with what He is going to do for you.

However, the greatest enemy of the prayer of commitment is a demon called worry. Worrying is a sinful thing which produces fear; it is a disease that can attract other diseases, creating trouble where there is actually none.

It is a burden somebody has borrowed from tomorrow, it is a heavy weight that can kill prematurely and rob people of faith. No believer should ever engage in it because it is a disgrace to God.

Worry is tormenting yourself over what may likely be a blessing when it comes.

Worry is extremely foolish because it can solve no problem. But when you commit your way into God's hands and trust in Him, He shall bring it to pass.

The Bible says, 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build, except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.'

In the book of Mathew chapter 6:24-30, Jesus was telling us that it is useless to worry.

There were three things that He (Jesus) never did. He never worried, He never hurried, and He never doubted the outcome of His prayers.

Jesus Himself told us that worry and anxiety are needless and hopeless. He made it clear that worrying is faithlessness and useless. Therefore, a believer engaging in these things is simply fighting against himself, and does not understand the prayer of commitment.

Once you have committed things into God's hands and you start worrying about them, it is like you went back to the altar and took back your offering. And anybody who wants to keep his or her demons or sickness can do so. God is not worried about that. When you are ready to present it to the Lord, He will take it off you.

Do not be like the old woman whose tale we used to tell long ago: she was given a free ride with the very heavy load she had on her head. As soon as she entered the vehicle, the driver drove off without really looking at the old woman's face. But after several miles the driver looked back and found that this woman was still carrying her luggage on her head right inside the vehicle. So the driver said, 'Ah, mama, please, drop your luggage in the vehicle, you don't need to carry it on your head while you are seated in the vehicle.' And the old woman said, 'Thank you very much my son I thought the ride you gave me was meant for me alone and my luggage was not included.

The old woman still had her luggage on her head despite the fact that she was comfortably seated inside the vehicle. So it is with many of us, in spite of the fact that God is ready to relieve us of our heaven burden, we still, ignorantly have it on our heads. Beloved, this is prayer of commitment. Therefore, we are going to pray on all we have read so far.

PRAYER POINTS

1. O Lord, remove my hands form the affairs of my life and put Your own hands there, in the name of Jesus.
2. All evil heavy burdens, I refuse to carry you; I take upon me, the burden of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the name of Jesus.
3. Call the name of Jesus three times and begin to pray in the spirit.
4. All pronouncements of destruction against my life, be nullified, in the name of Jesus.

5. Every weapon of destruction in my life, receive the judgement of God, in the name of Jesus.
6. Any destruction that has been done to my blood, receive repairs, in the name of Jesus.
7. All marks of destruction in my body, be removed, in the name of Jesus.
8. I will not allow myself to be destroyed nor allow household enemy to destroy me, in the name of Jesus.
9. I claim God's solution to all my problems, in the name of Jesus.
10. I will not allow my tongue to destroy me, in the name of Jesus.
11. You arrow of destruction, you will not locate me, in the name of Jesus.
12. Lord lead me to the mountain that is higher than me, in the name of Jesus.
13. Lord, convert all evil powers against my life to shaft and blow them with Your own tempest, in the name of Jesus.
14. Any evil throne in any area of my life, I dethrone you, in the name of Jesus.

THE PRAYER ALTAR

We will pray like this as we go into this teaching:

1. O Lord, ignite my prayer life by fire, in the name of Jesus.
2. I refuse to be a candidate of satanic weapon, in the name of Jesus.
3. Blood of Jesus, wash me and make me whole, in the name of Jesus.

The book of Isaiah 65:24 contains a wonderful promise that we should all claim and declare to be our daily experience. For as many as want this promise should profess it.

> ***Isaiah 65:24 -25: And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.***

What God is talking about in this passage is the power of the prayer altar.

WHAT ARE ALTARS?

It is a pity that a lot of city people do not know what an altar is. This is because they have never been to villages where you find "illiterate" demons. There you see what they call shrines and occasionally you find rocks that are being worshipped.

You see sacrifices placed in almost every corner. When you see a thing like that, you have come across an altar, but in the negative sense.

An altar is a place of slaughter to something that is worshipped. A place that you slaughter something to an agent that is being worshipped.

An altar is also a place of sacrifice where things are killed to appease a particular idol or to gain its favour.

An altar is a spiritual dining table where spirits are offered food.

An altar is a place of spiritual exchange where something is given in exchange for another as in barter system of trading.

It is also a place where contact is made with the spirit world, where the spiritual realm is being contacted.

It is a place of spiritual traffic whether good or bad. Remember the story of Jacob who built an altar in Bethel. Immediately he built it, he covenanted the land on which the altar was built to God and as a result, God manifested and a spiritual traffic started.

What started the traffic was the altar Jacob built. Angels began to go up and down on the altar.

That is why an altar is a place of spiritual traffic for good or for bad.

What we are saying is that an altar is a place of covenant. Whoever erects an altar should expect spiritual fellowship because there will definitely be a spiritual fellowship. The person is communing with "something" higher, that is either positive or negative.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

There are positive altars as well as negative ones.

Negative altars are those raised by the enemy to kill, steal and destroy. This is the one that most of us understand. When you see a sacrifice at the crossroad, it is a negative altar.

When someone wants to build a house and buries charms on the land before the foundation is laid, such a one is raising an altar. He has turned the house to an altar. So there will be spiritual traffic.

Some people even go to the extreme. When they want to build a house, they bury a Bible in the ground. This is an altar, but not unto God. God does not say we should bury our Bible but to read it, study and digest it, so that at the end, we will get to heaven. He did not Say, 'When thou buildeth thy house, bury a Bible.'

Positive altars are altars raised unto the living God.

Altars raised for a good purpose are positive altars.

In the Old Testament, when you see an altar being built, generally they are built with stones and they make its surface flat. But in the New Testament, it is not so. We cannot be building altars like in the Old Testament. Our altars are basically spiritual.

Let us look at what happened in I Samuel chapter 7. Here lies the power of the altar. Verses 5-13 has these to Say:

> ***And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water; and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh. And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will Save us out of the hand of the Philistines. And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offing wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great***

thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us. So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

There was a problem and the Man of God raised an altar and cried to the living God. What he did at the altar was very effective because God answered by thunder.

Sometimes we say "the God that answers by fire". God can also answer by thunder. Say this prayer point: Every host gathered against me, experience the thunder power of God, in the name of Jesus.'

From the above passage, we can see that an altar can be raised to bless or to destroy.

It is the devil that uses altars to destroy.

We can use an altar to bless. When you use an altar to bless and the blessing of God abounds in your life, whosoever wants to touch those blessings, the angels of God will destroy such a person.

An altar can be used to improve or spoil.

It can be used to promote or put down.

It can be raised for a particular place or person.

An altar could be raised for those we like and those we do not like.

Some years ago, there was a tribal war somewhere in this country. They kept fighting each other, killing and maiming themselves and vandalizing their mutual properties. How many of us know that the war was demonic? Because for you to light up the fire and set ablaze the house of someone you have lived with for ten years is really terrible. This is an area which we should be interceding every day.

THE EXPLOITS OF PRAYER ALTARS

There is a notable tribal war that occurred sometime ago. The strange thing about this war was that the people at the war-front were women. The men were at the back. When they fired at the women, they waived them off. The other party were using their charms to fight too. It was terrible.

Some Christians gathered and decided to find out the way by which this war could be halted. This was because the war was affecting the progress of the churches.

The people fighting themselves were also burning churches. The children of God then determined to raise an altar on the battle field. How was this possible? They gathered themselves, fasted and prayed and finally went to the war-field, anointed the place and prophesied to the wind to blow contrary to any warring spirit. They prophesied on every leaf and tree around not to cooperate with the enemies. After some aggressive session of prayers, they praised the Lord and went home.

The next morning the warring women arrived and so did the other party and the war began. They started shooting but when they shot the first two bullets, some women fell. So for the first time, the bullets penetrated into these people's bodies despite the charms they had on. When this happened, there was more pandemonium. The two parties retreated. That was how the altar raised in that place was weakened and the war came to an end.

There is a lot that God will blame us for as Christians which we can stop but have neglected. Sometimes, it is due to ignorance and laziness and the fact that we are busy contending against one another when we should be fighting the enemy.

There are pastors who make serious mistakes. They preach against the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. But unknown to them, the truth is that the more they talk against MFM, the more people troop in to find out and confirm what they have heard. When they come, they know the truth and stay put.

Some people would not have known that MFM exists if not for their pastors who take delight in preaching against the ministry. Some people would also not have discovered MFM if not for the funny things some pastors are saying about the church. We thank all of them and say more grease to their palrns.

In the Old Testament, altars were raised to destroy and frustrate.

Samuel raised an altar against the Philistines. God became angry with the Philistines and thundered against them from heaven. A great problem was solved for Israel on the altar. The battle now became a walkover and easy to win.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLACK RACE – NEGATIVE ALTARS

Many of the problems of the black people can be linked directly to the ministration on negative altars.

The enemy has erected negative altars of affliction against many people and those altars have ruined so many lives. Imagine somebody who takes a live animal, holds it by the neck and speaks to it thus, 'You animal, you are going to die now and as you are dying physically and spiritually, when I bury you, so-and-so person should stay buried forever.' He issues more curses and buries the slain animal. As he does this, the victim begins to feel the impact wherever he or she is. This is a dark ministration. But we thank God that we have a more powerful altar which is the altar of prayer.

The altar is a structure on which sacrifices are offered. For your sacrifice to be effective, it has to be on an altar.

CHRISTIANS – PRIESTS

The word of God refers to Christians as priest. In the book of l Peter 2:9:

> ***1 Peter 2:9: Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:***

This is why there is no priest in the house of God again. Everybody is a priest. If you have been confessing your sins to a priest, you are wasting your time.

In the book of Revelation chapter one, we see the same idea emphasized.

> ***Rev. 1:5-6: And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.***

The word of God calls believers priests. And as priests, we must have something to offer. One of the things we offer is our prayers. Although what God wants us to offer first is ourselves. You must become a living sacrifice. Every other thing is the outflow of this.

If God does not control your life, your prayer altar will be dead. But when He has you, every other thing will work.

So we offer ourselves first, then we offer the sacrifice of our lips, which is the sacrifice of praise. But here, we are talking about the prayer altar.

In the same Revelation 8:3-4:

> ***And another angel came and stood at the altar having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.***

Our prayers too are sacrifices we offer.

The trouble now is this, the prayer altar of many Christians is weak. Some of the prayer altars are so weak that they cannot sustain long prayer battles and most of us need the long prayer battle to overcome.

So the greatest spiritual injury that can be done to anyone is to paralyse the prayer life of such person. When the prayer life of someone is paralyzed, the person is completely finished.

With a weak prayer life and prayer altar, it is impossible to obtain the kind of breakthroughs we desire most. That is why we keep saying at MFM that it is not a sin to over-pray but a great sin to under-pray. If you pray too much, there is no problem, but to under pray is a problem.

Something serious has to be done about the prayer altars of many before the showers of blessing can begin to fall.

What many of us are making noise about now, the bible says are just crumbs. But when our prayer altar goes on fire, it is then you will know what they call breakthroughs. All the testimonies you are hearing here which are really about five percent of what God does is nothing until the prayer altar gets on fire. Then things will begin to happen.

We need to pray that the Lord should inject spiritual vitamins into our altars and that all the prayer altars broken down should be repaired and those that are weak should be strengthened with spiritual pillars. Only a strong prayer altar can move the mighty hands of God.

If you as a Christian are tired of peanuts and playing marbles, and you want things to happen in a big way, you must repair the altars of prayer that have broken down. And then strengthen the ones that are weak.

Only a strong altar can bring down the power of God the way it should be brought down.

The songwriter says, *'There shall be showers of blessing, this is the promise of God.'* But what we are experiencing now are just dews. When you wake up in the morning and you find wet grasses, it is the dew that has fallen on them. But if we want the showers of blessing, we need to do better than we are doing now.

Individually and corporately, something serious has to be done about our prayer altars before the showers of blessing can begin to fall in a way that will shock our enemies and surprise our friends.

Some people talk about MFM and say, 'Mountain of Fire is a prayer ministry.' I say glory be to the name of the Lord. It is a wonderful way to describe any ministry or church, because it portrays one of the most important sayings in the Bible which is, "pray without ceasing" (II Thess. 517).

WEAK PRAYER ALTARS

Moab in the Bible had a very weak prayer altar. In Isaiah 16:12,

> ***Isaiah 16:12,: And it shall come to pass, when it is seen that Moab is weary on the high place, that he shall come to his sanctuary to pray; but he shall not prevail.***

When he is weary on the high place, then he goes to the sanctuary to pray, but he shall not prevail. There are many Christians now, who, whenever there is a serious problem and they pray for one week without a change in their situation, they remember a herbalist close to their father's house in the village and say they will visit him. This is an evidence of a weak prayer altar.

The olden day's Pentecostal fathers turned this country upside-down for Jesus. But there is a realm in which they operated which we are yet to discover.

In the church in those days; I am talking about the 1930s and 1940's, our Pentecostal fathers who went to church could hear God. They were all on fire, when they get to their service in the morning there is no closing time. They come, sing the opening hymns and hand over everything to the Holy Spirit. Those who wanted to prophesy would prophesy, those who wanted to share their

revelation would share it and sometimes by the time they opened their eyes after prayers, it is already 11.30 a.m. This is just the opening prayers that started 9.00 a.m. Not prayer after the sermon. The sermon only came after the hours of prayer had ended. Where are we headed today?

When some people ought to be strengthening their prayer altar, they are still struggling with fornication, painting the lips and fingers, struggling with fake businesses, struggling with man-friend and woman-friend. There are so many people with fake husbands and fake wives. That is, a man and a lady, with no wedding, no dowry, no engagement, but who live together as a couple. Some gather in their houses to have family altars with their fake wives or wife number six or seven. This set of people don't have a family altar. What they have is a family coffin until they repent.

Some of us are still struggling with small things that should be gotten rid of in order to move ahead. God is not happy at all. You can see Moab in the above scripture with a weak prayer altar. He ran back to the Almighty and God said he was not serious.

Why was Moab's prayer altar weak?

> ***Jeremiah 48:11: Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.***

The problem of Moab is that he loved ease and comfort. He is the typical 'armchair Christian', "television addict Christians". 'psychedelic believer' and 'funky Christians'.

He loves ease and comfort. He makes no attempt to be aggressive. So he remains where he is. He rushes back to God only after his little idols have failed him.

Saul the King of Israel had an altar that is broken down because of the sins of disobedience and by the time he started crying to the Lord there, he used all available methods to contact the Almighty but God did not answer.

Where do we go from here?

There are many of us that need to surrender our bodies to the mechanical workshop of God so that He can polish and renew us.

Some of us need to cry to the Lord so that our altars can be strengthened.

If we open to Jeremiah 10:25, we will discover what God has written concerning all families that do not have an altar. I am not talking about families where the husband is not born again with the wife or where the husband is born again and the wife is not. In these cases, only one party can have an altar. But in a situation where the husband and wife are children of God, and they do not have a family altar, we would see the stand of scripture about their punishment by God.

What would God do to such a family?

> ***Jeremiah 10:25: Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.***

If you are a husband and a wife and you don't pray together, you don't have a family altar, the Bible says that God will pour His fury upon such families.

But no matter what kind of life you are living, you would not have done as much evil as one man called Manasseh in the Bible. There are only few men in the Bible who did as terribly as Manasseh. The Bible says Manasseh was a wizard but the Lord worked for Manasseh when he repented. He decided to call upon God.

When you place a heavy load on top of a weak support, the support collapses because the altar is not strong. They say they want power but it is not that God does not want to give, but your altar He knows, cannot sustain what you are asking for. You may even end up destroying what you placed on it.

If the prayer altar in your life is strong, you will be happy to go to prayer meetings. You are always happy when you are invited for prayers. You won't be reluctant or even hesitate. If your prayer altar is strong, you will enjoy praying either with people or alone.

A person whose prayer altar is strong has supernatural knowledge of things. God shows him secrets. There are many secrets in their bosoms that they cannot share with people because their prayer altar is strong.

A PERSON WITH A STRONG PRAYER ALTAR

A person with a strong prayer altar never worries about anything. Nothing bothers him. When some people are shouting that they cannot sleep, he eats and sleeps well.

A person with a strong prayer altar has his environment encompassed with fire. He is never afraid. That is why the Bible calls the altar a place of transaction.

THINGS THAT WEAKEN PRAYER ALTARS

As you are reading, perhaps you are regarding iniquity in your heart, it would paralyse the altar. We have seen some funny Christians who pray against fellow Christians. This is what we call Pentecostal witchcraft. If you are a believer praying against another believer, you are a witch. Sometimes it is borne out of the spirit of competition. Some complain that the other people are better than they are and so do not want them to shine. This is witchcraft of the highest order.

There are also lower witches among Christians. It is a sin if you are involved in that kind of thing. It will paralyse your prayer altar. This is because you have converted your altar to a fetish one.

Ignorance will also paralyse your prayer altar. When you don't know the how, where, why or when of prayer.

Not receiving the genuine baptism in the Holy Spirit will paralyse your prayer altar.

Laziness will paralyse one's prayer altar. When God wakes you up at night and He says, 'Pray.' You go to the toilet and urinate, only to come back and go to bed. Your prayer altar is weak.

The fear of being alone paralyses prayer altars.

I can never understand how a man with ten wives can be a prayer warrior. When he is busy changing his bed every night.

The truth is this, when a Christian has a weak prayer altar, he can be tortured at will by the devil.

Every activity we carry out in the house of God, the devil is able to do the same. If it is singing, the devil can sing or praise and worship. He can preach and quote the Bible, he can prophesy like the possessed girl in the Acts of the Apostles who said, 'These are the servants of the most high God who have come to show us the way of salvation.'

She was saying the right thing. If you hear what the girl says, would you believe that it was the devil speaking? The devil can do other things, but not prayer. That is the only thing the devil cannot do. The devil struggles therefore to keep believers away from a prayer altar, by going all out to keep them away from it.

When you see us facing so many problems, it is because of the prayers and nothing else.

The devil knows that the more we pray, the more shall his captives be set free. You may not know this, but he knows, if you get to know the kind of work that God does here, some of us will be so shocked that we will not believe it. He knows that through prayers, we do more harm to his kingdom. He knows that the more the miracles will increase and his demons rendered homeless. He knows that the more will be the strongholds that shall be pulled down. He knows that the more we pray, the holier and humbler we become. He knows that the more we pray, the more the sinners will be converted and the more the glory of God shall cover lives.

He struggles to keep each person away from the prayer altar and causes all kinds of troubles that will prevent people from praying.

No matter your level of prayer life, it is nothing yet. Even at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles here, we have not started praying. When we start, people of the world will know. That is why the devil is fighting against the completion of our Prayer City. This is because there, we could call one prayer point for one hour: In our Prayer City, the 30 minutes prayer we pray there, is causing a lot of demons to complain. But when we pray for an hour non-stop, the demons would know that there is problem for them to contend with.

> ***Matthew 26:36-40: Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter; What, could ye not watch with me one hour?***

Like the disciples of Jesus as we read above, most of us sleep when we are supposed to be praying. When you sleep instead to pray, the devil will stand before you and start to mock you.

When Jesus got to them and met them sleeping. He faced Peter who was supposed to be the leader. And said, 'why could you not wait with me for one hour?' They could not pray one hour non-stop. 'Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak', he concluded.

The bottomline is that there was no prayer going on. He went back the second time to pray and said 'O My Father, if this cup will not pass from Me, except I drink it. Thy will be done.' He saw His disciples and met them asleep again for their eyes were heavy.

In verse 44. He left them the third time to pray, saying the same word. So our fake preacher friend who says he does not believe in repeating prayer points, could see even the Master and the God of our salvation repeating the exact things. He repeated the same prayer three times. Why did Jesus come to check them the second the? It was because He could not feel the effect of their prayers.

I used to be amazed when some people come to see me. They would say, 'Dr., ride on, we are praying for you.' The same people after finishing their own prayers at bedtime will not remember the G. O. They would just say, 'O Lord, remember G. O. Amen.'

Jesus went to His disciples the third time and met them again in the act of sleeping. Then He told them to continue sleeping, that the hour is at hand when the Son of man will be betrayed into the hands of sinners. What He said was that, 'You should continue sleeping. What will wake you up will soon come.' And very soon, they came with sticks and they were going to arrest Jesus. Peter that could not pray brought out his sword and cut somebody's ear off. When He was told to pray, he chose to sleep. And when trouble came, he resorted to fighting.

Some of us who are talkative should convert that anointing to prayer and you will see the blessings that will bombard your life. You just reduce your words and convert them to prayer, and you will be surprised the result it will bring.

Jesus told them to continue to sleep. So the strongest action you can undertake in any situation is to go on your knees and raise an altar to the Living God. They say, 'What is worth worrying about, is worth praying about.' It is prayers that can unlock God's bank of ideas.

Everyone ought to have a prayer altar.

If you study Church history, all the successful Christians had consistent lives of prayer. Once your prayer altar declines, you decline too.

Nowadays, it is becoming very difficult for believers to set aside 30 minutes of prayer. There is something seriously wrong with a Christian who does not enjoy

prayers. Something is wrong somewhere. It is like giving food to a baby and the baby rejecting the food. It means something is wrong.

THE PRICE

Prayer is the only way to get the power of heaven into our lives. There is a price to pay for getting God's power into our lives. It is spending time with God in prayer. An unserious Christian is the one who prays for only 15 minutes a day. A moderately serious one prays for 30 minutes a day. A serious one prays for 1 hour a day. A very serious one will tithe the 24 hours and pray for 2 and half hours a day.

Those who really mean business with God are known by this. You may say, 'I am too busy.' If you are too busy to pray, it means you are too busy to talk to your father and something is wrong with you. The job that is keeping you too busy to pray, God forbid, if the Lord calls you home, will continue. Somebody else will do it.

You are only cheating yourself if you don't set up your prayer altar. You have to get up early. Some say they need to sleep. But the truth is that you need God more than sleep. You need to pray. Prayer is the key to make God's power to be effective in our lives. Prayer is the only thing that can set the forces of heaven and hell against each other. We have to strengthen our prayer altar.

There was a crusade in a particular place, and the Lord was moving in a mighty way. The report of what the Lord was doing in this crusade was in the newspapers, so one reporter came to church to find out. The preacher was a woman. And she asked the woman, 'What kind of power are you using here? The woman preacher said, 'There is a generator under the basement' and that is where the power is.'

The reporter who was interested then said, 'So you are hiding something under, can I have a look?' When the reporter got there with her camera, she found all the elders of the church face down before the Lord, praying. They wee not inside the meetings; they were in the basement praying. And the woman preacher told the reporter. 'That is the power generator.'

The people I feel for the most when it comes to prayer are some people to whom God has given gifts. They always see things in their dreams or vision. God tells them secret things about other people's lives; or even about other nations of the world or what is About to happen. But then, they have not realised that kind of thing that God is showing them and not showing them and to somebody else, God is telling them that they are to raise prayer altars for those things. Whether it concerns them or not. If such people refuse to raise the prayer altars and something goes wrong, the Lord shall hold them responsible. God would say, "I showed it to you, why did you not call upon me. Why did you not stand in the gap?"

PRAYER POINTS

Let's begin to confess all our sins. All the sin of not praying enough, praying lower temperature prayers, praying prayers that make the enemies to rejoice. Call upon Him now, He is with you.

1. Every attack against my prayer altar, backfire, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every spirit of weariness, come out of me, in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord, strengthen my prayer altar with Your fire, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every evil arrow fired against my prayer life, go back to your sender, in the name of Jesus.
5. I bind and cast out every spirit of compromise from my life, in the name of Jesus.
6. Father Lord, forgive me for all the things I have done to allow the enemy to ensnare me, in the name of Jesus.
7. O Lord, possess me completely, in the name of Jesus.
8. I command everything in my life inviting snares to be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
9. I bind and cast out every spirit of prayerlessness occupying any area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
10. I command every strongman causing weak prayer altar in my life to be paralysed, in the name of Jesus.
11. I release myself from the bondage of prayerlessness, in the name of Jesus.
12. I cover my heart, spirit and soul with the blood of Jesus and the fire of the

Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus.

DANGER SIGNALS AT THE ALTAR OF PRAYER

Brethren, before we continue, I would want you to pray the following prayer points.

1. Every altar of destruction, I destroy you now, in the name of Jesus.
2. By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every curse working against my life break, in the name of Jesus.
3. Let every contrary wind become favourable wind, in the name of Jesus.
4. You covenant day of the bondwoman, loose your hold over my destiny, in the name of Jesus.

LEST SATAN GAIN ADVANTAGE

May I quickly warn you that we have some warfare to do. I go very quickly to 2 Cor. 2:11,

Lest satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Let us carefully look at that verse. It is telling us many things.

One, it is telling us that satan can gain advantage over us.

Two, it is telling us that satan has already gained advantage over some.

Three, it is telling us that ignorance can make satan to gain advantage over us.

Four, it is telling us that satan has the devices that he can use to gain advantage over us.

And lastly, if you do not give him that advantage, he cannot gain advantage.

That is all we can pick out of that just one verse we have read.

KINDS OF PRAYERS

There are many kinds of prayers in the bible. The Bible talks in the book of Ephesians about praying all kinds of prayers.

In Ephesians chapter 6, you will see all kinds of prayers. In the chapter you will see prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of adoration, prayer of faith, prayer of commitment, prayer of dedication and consecration and there is prayer of agreement. But there is something called warfare prayers.

WARFARE PRAYERS

Warfare prayer is serious business, because of this, there are diverse kinds of spirits who do not want believers to pray any warfare prayer.

There are many prayers in the Bible that annoy the enemy, but the one that annoys them the most is warfare prayers. When the boy in the Bible was brought to Jesus. Jesus said, 'Come out and enter into him no more'. The spirit was so annoyed that He raised the little boy up and slammed him down. It was as if the boy was dead. But Jesus came and held the boy and said, 'Come up' and he did.

There are prayers that some spirits do not like to hear.

If your destiny needs some prayers to move ahead, until you pray them, you will remain where you are.

If all you want to do is to be praying psychedelic prayers and you are an African, you will not be helping yourself.

The trouble with warfare prayer is that it has the ability to go up, it has the ability to go side ways, it has the ability to go down. It is not all prayers that have these abilities.

The Bible says, 'He has given him a name which is above all names, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow' (Phil. 2:9).

The enemy does not like red hot prayers. But when you want to pray the kind of prayer that will move your destiny forward, know that the enemy will not sit down and allow you to fire live bullets while he is firing plastic bullets.

THE BATTLES

There are danger signals when you are getting involved in praying for your breakthroughs. The danger signals that will show will indicate the presence of five things in your life:

It will show you the presence of internal warfare.

If already any demon has gained entry into your body and is already resident there but is keeping quiet or trying to hide, it is a danger signal that shows you have internal warfare.

Ancestral strongman

There are danger signals to show you the presence of ancestral strongman. That is, spirits that have been assigned to the family or to a particular department of your life.

The presence of local prayer inhibitors.

Whether there is the presence of environmental enemies or the presence of close satanic monitoring. There are danger signals to show all these.

When all you want to pray is professional prayers, the enemy will not bother you too much. He knows that those things you are saying will not affect him. If all you want to be praying is that God should mercifully grant you to be where you are.

Whether you have ancestral strongman or local prayer inhibitors. Whether there are environmental enemies or you are being closely monitored.

If you notice this during prayers, then you should go into serious warfare prayer that will dislodge these powers.

When you are praying and your spirit, soul and body are united, and you pray seriously, then you are praying warfare prayers. Sometimes, a person could pray for one hour but the one that he prayed with a united house is for only ten minutes.

THE DANGER SIGNALS SHOWING YOU HAVE BATTLES TO FIGHT

During warfare prayers, when the following begin to show, it is a danger signal showing you that there are battles to fight.

That was the kind of feeling a brother had sometime ago. He was praying and all of a sudden he felt an evil presence. He opened his eyes to find somebody before him wearing white garment. Then he said, 'Behold, I am an angel of the Lord, stop this prayer for I will uphold you with my right hand of righteousness.'

But when the brother raised up his head and carefully looked at the personality, he found out that when he said, 'I will uphold you with my right hand of righteousness,' he was actually raising the left hand.

When the brother looked more carefully, he found out that his garment had spots of oil on it. Then the brother said, 'Fire of God!' and the being disappeared. It was an angel of darkness, trying to distract him.

These are serious matters. So when you are praying and an evil presence comes to your arena, it is a danger signal that you have one of those fire battles to fight.

Whether there is an internal strongman, local prayer inhibitors, environmental enemies or you are being closely monitored, you need warfare prayers to destroy them all.

Marine powers

During prayers, if a person experiences a cold fearful chill through his body, it means that he has some deposit of marine power in his body.

Immediately you start your prayers, they run quickly to get reinforcement from the waters to distract the person to stop the prayers. This is a danger signal. It is telling you something you should not just ignore.

Blankness/brain failure

During prayers, if you experience blankness or brain failure and you can't remember the prayer points you are praying again; you forget everything and it is as if the brain is blank. This is evident that one of those five battles or all are in the person's life.

It was like during the yoke-breakers meeting. One sister was looking at me on the pulpit. She said, 'G. O., I don't know which group to go.'

I said, 'Did you hear the names of the groups?'

She said yes, but that she has all the problems. She wanted to know where she could go or whether to spend 5 minutes in each group.

When people like that sister are praying and her sword wants to touch the blood, they could give her brain failure.

Vagabond concentration

During prayers, if you notice you use to have what is called vagabond concentration, you just cannot focus on anything and your mind is wandering, you have a great battle to fight.

When they say somebody is a prayer warrior, the greatest asset of a prayer warrior, is that he should be able to focus on a particular thing and keep bombarding it. If you cannot focus, this is an evidence that you have one of those five battles to fight.

Manifestation of an evil touch

During prayers, if you notice the manifestation of an evil touch, you are not sleeping and you notice that somebody is tapping or touching your head, you have one of those five battles to fight.

I went to minister in Ikoyi and after the ministration, I gave a word that when they got home later in the night, at midnight, they should start some warfare prayers. There was one lady that came there; a very sophisticated madam.

'Let me try what that man said', she said. So she woke up 12 midnight and was praying serious prayer: Let every stubborn pursuer in my life be buried alive'. All of a sudden, she noticed that a hand was tapping her at the back of her neck. When she looked and there was nobody, she screamed and everybody woke up in the house and ran to the sitting room.

She said, "When I was saying the prayer they gave at the meeting in church today somebody tapped me at the back." The husband said, 'You see what I have been telling you. Since you have been praying your former prayer, has anybody ever touched you? This kind of strange prayers you are praying now, you are inviting demons to be touching you.'

What the man did not know was that those things were already in the house before they (the couple) moved in. It was a warning signal that one of those five battles is on.

Uncontrollable slumber

During prayers, if you feel an uncontrollable slumber. When you are watching television, your eyes are wide open, when you are chatting with your friends too, your eyes are wide open, but immediately somebody says, 'Let us pray', you begin to slumber. It means your spirit man has been caged. Somebody somewhere or one spirit somewhere is feeling the effect of your prayers and does not want you to continue.

Increased attack

If during prayers, you begin to notice increased attacks, that is, the more you

pray, the more the attacks, then it means, you have enemies that do not want to go. They don't want you to go.

When you notice an increased attack, then know that you have enemies that do not want to let you go.

I gave a sister some prayer points about spirit husband. That night, they beat and tortured her. She could not sleep and they warned her to stop. The following night, she became more aggressive. The aggression with which she prayed was the aggression with which they beat her up.

The third day, she did not pray and she slept very well like a small baby. That is what we call peace on a tight rope. I encouraged her to keep on. She said they would kill her. So I said okay, sit down and start praying here. She began to pray in my presence and nobody beat her up.

So when you notice this kind of situation, you have one of those five battles to fight, It is a danger signal telling you there is a problem.

Heaviness of **the spirit**

When you notice heaviness in your spirit, you just notice that something seems to be sticking to your heart causing heaviness and unexplainable depression, then, you have one of the five battles to fight. That is why the bible says God is interested in giving beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning and garment of praise to replace the spirit of heaviness.

The attack of the rat spirit

When you are praying and what is called the rat spirit is attacking you, know that you have battles to fight.

What is the rat spirit?

When one is praying and something seems to be eating the prayers away. As you are praying, it is as if something is biting you. The enemy is stealing the blessings, even as the person is acquiring it. At times, God opens the eyes of the

praying person as he is praying and he sees rats running around. He should know he has one of the battles to fight.

Manifestation of the spirit of death

When you are praying and there is a manifestation of the spirit of death. That is, you are praying and all of a sudden, your body goes stiff. There is this sudden feeling of lifelessness as if they have removed your heart and the fingers go numb and the head begins to swell. You need to pray because the spirit of death is around the corner.

Attack by sexual spirits

If you notice that during prayers, you are attacked by sexual spirits and you find out that lust waves are coming over your body, then know that a spirit husband or a spirit wife is attacking you during the prayers.

Some people come to the house of God to deceive themselves saying 'I notice that anytime I concentrate and pray hard, I fall down.' So when you call a prayer point, they will be muttering the words - The instruction is, 'pray hard;' if you pray hard, there will be a powerful reaction.

However, the more you pamper the battle, the larger the bondage becomes.

Manifestation of the spirits of anger and rage

When you are praying and there is the manifestation of what we call mocking spirit. That is, as a person is praying, he is laughing in the process and he does not know why he is laughing. This is the mocking spirit. You need to stand against them.

Manifestation of grief and mourning

When you are praying and there is the manifestation of grief and mourning. All of a sudden, grief and sorrow envelope your heart. And it seems as if your heart is broken by something you do not understand. It is a danger signal.

Manifestation of sickness

When you are praying and there is a manifestation of sickness. The person was okay before the prayer started. But immediately prayer started, headaches, terrible weakness, tiredness and malaria symptoms take over. You have serious battles to fight out of the five battles.

Manifestation of fear

During prayers, where there is manifestation of fear. That is, as you pray, there is a sudden terror in your heart and you do not know the reason you are afraid. You have one of those five battles to fight.

Serpentine attack

If during prayers, you begin to notice serpentine attack. As if a serpent is attacking and biting and twining itself around you. Sometimes when you are praying, the spirit just appear in the physical. Then you have one of the five battles to fight.

Presence of bad odour

During prayers, if you notice that a bad odour fills the room, know that there are some foul spirits around you. Whether inside or outside. You have one of the five battles in place.

Seizure of voice

If you find out that during prayers, the enemy seizes your voice and you can't talk again until you decide that you want to sleep or stop the prayers and your voice comes back, then you have one of the five battles in place.

Very bad dreams

If after serious prayers, you have very bad dreams or the worst nightmares of your life, then you have one of the battle to fight.

Beloved, these are the 20 danger signals at the altar of your prayer. If all that you want to be doing is to be counting rosary, don't worry, they will not attack you

because you are not harassing them.

If all you are going to be doing is to be saying prayers that do not harm the enemy, they will leave you alone.

HOW THEY ENTER

You may want to ask, how do those evil things enter? There are seven major doorways by which satanic entities can enter into a life.

There are seven major doorways that can give them legal right to torment a person.

> ***Psalm 125:3 says, For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.***

There is something called the rod of the wicked. This rod is for the wicked, and not for the righteous. However, the Bible says, there is a possibility that the rod of the wicked can land on the Righteous. That is why the righteous should avoid iniquity. What are these seven major door ways?

Generational curses

If there is a curse in the family and everybody has been put under a collective captivity of curses. Then, prayer is needed to break the curses.

A person will be experiencing difficulties until he closes that door. So many generations are under one curse or the other.

Unforgiveness

If you harbour unforgiveness in your heart, you open the door for demons because the enemies will use it to torment your life.

Wilful sin

If you know that something is bad, yet you go ahead to do it, you will get into serious trouble. Sin is a destroyer and it causes all kinds of troubles. Sin is a destroyer and it destroys the lives of people.

I shared something a long time ago. In Lagos, a man went to a party, picked up a woman and decided to follow the woman home. As they were going she was asking this woman, 'I hope you are not married?'

The woman said she was not. They went and got to somewhere in the centre of Lagos. They entered into the house, jumped into the bedroom and locked the door. All of a sudden, there was a bang at the door. The man asked the lady who was knocking and she said it was her husband.

'But I asked you before we came here,' the man said. She replied that it was a slip of tongue. Then he asked her what he was going to do. The lady said he could hide under the bed. But when he noticed the aggression with which the man was banging the door, he reasoned in his mind that if this fellow enters and catches him, there will be problem. The man then asked the woman If he could jump over through the window, the woman consented.

The man jumped out through the window and when he landed, he found himself in the centre of a cemetery. The time was 3 a.m. that night. He looked all around him and saw graves. He tried to trace the gate of the cemetery. As he was approaching the gate, the gatemen who were not ordinary people, saw this person coming and they ran into their small kiosk, brought out their juju (charms) and began to chant incantations on him.

When he saw this, he then began to beg the men that he was not a spirit, that they should not rain incantations on him. When he went closer to them, they asked him how he got there. Then he explained to them. The men told him he was the eighth person to experience the strange incidence that year. They told him to go and look after himself.

Now he has three problems. He did not know the identity of the woman. He jumped into a cemetery. The cemetery keepers issued fresh incantations on him.

The door of witchcraft and occult

Whether consciously or unconsciously joining witchcraft or the occult opens doors to these things. When you join cults in the university, you open up your life to demonic attacks.

Curses and spell

Curses and spell placed on a person could open the door to demonic attacks.

Evil vows

Evil vows that the person has made and is not keeping.

Mouth

What you put inside your mouth or what comes out of your mouth. These are the 7 major doorways that cause disturbances during warfare prayer.

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS

You must be willing to be free. You must be willing to fight the battle.

That is a serious matter.

You must be born again in order to fight the battle.

If you are not, you are looking for trouble. A lot of church goers are not born again. That is why they fight, tell lies and cheat. They are not born again.

Make a list of all your known personal sins.

Confess and renounce each one of them. Make a list and, renounce them one after the other. Be able to pray the prayer of the Psalmist, 'Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my thought and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.'

Take your pen and enumerate them: If your own is lying, stealing, adultery,

pornography, anger, pride, hatred, malice, or you have familiar or witchcraft spirit and you carry out satanic assignments, then you confess and repent. The Bible says, 'when we confess our sins to the Lord, faithful and just is he. He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' Do not do general confession, no. Confess your sins one after the other as much as you can remember or ask the Holy Spirit to remind you.

If necessary, change your environment. If you have been in a house for 20 years and your life has been moving backward, change that environment.

Make a list of the people who hurt you and forgive them.

Pray the kind of prayer that will smite the enemy and call on God to help you during those prayer. Pray this kind of prayers.

If you are at the edge of serious breakthroughs but you notice that the prayer towards your breakthroughs is being attacked, begin to examine yourself. Examine your heart, and ask yourself, 'Is there any wickedness in me? Am I what the Lord wants me to be? Am I moving forward or backward? Is my life a good example unto the household of faith? Am I here to pursue a personal agenda? If you observe any sin or iniquity, ask the Lord to forgive and cleanse you.

Tell the Lord that anything that has been causing your prayers to return to your chest should be buried, in Jesus name.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every power, attacking my prayer life, I bury you now, in the name of Jesus.
2. Sing this song – I plead the blood, the blood of Jesus, I plead the blood . . .The blood of Jesus.
3. (Lay your right hand on your head and pray this like a wounded lion), Every witchcraft conspiracy against my destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every arrow fired into my prayer life, backfire, in the name of Jesus.

5. Every power that has decided that I shall not make it, what are you waiting for? Die, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every power that has swallowed my divine destiny, vomit them, in the name of Jesus.
7. Take your mind back your house and picture it in your heart. My house, become hot coal of holy fire that no demon can penetrate, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every witchcraft oppression in my environment, be disgraced this week, in the name of Jesus.
9. Every poverty covenant attached to my village, in my life, break, in the name of Jesus.
10. I receive the power of God to reject evil, in Jesus name.

WAKE UP YOUR PRAYER ALTAR

Prayer is the greatest power on earth. Prayer is the key to God's treasure house. Prayer is the only thing which the devil cannot do. There can be substitutes for many things done in the house of God, but there is no substitute for prayer. We may decide not to preach and just have a sermon, but prayer cannot be avoided. There may be a substitute for singing but there is no substitute for prayer. The man or woman who can really pray has nothing to fear.

Prayer succeeds when all other things fail. Prayer does not die. You may think it is not being answered but something is going on. The awesomeness of the power of prayer has not been adequately utilised by modern man. Prayer is man going to God for help when he becomes helpless. Therefore, the school of prayer has a large number of students and although the number of students in this school is so large, unfortunately, there is also a large number of dull students in this school.

Thousands fail in the school of prayer everyday. The Bible says when Moab goes to his high places and fails, he would come back to God's sanctuary to pray but will not prevail. Prayer is not a mechanical operation, or a parrot-like agenda, it is the Holy Spirit that should teach us what and how to pray at any given time.

But there is a problem. Without being spiritually sensitive, hearing from the Holy Spirit will be impossible. When you are not spiritually sensitive, you will not be able to pray targeted prayers that will yield maximum results. If a person is dull in spirit, the enemy will prey on that person and weaken his or her prayer altar.

> ***Matthew 13:15***
> ***"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears aw dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."***

One serious disease that is so rampant amongst Christians is being dull of hearing. Only the outside ear (physical) is hearing, the inner one (spiritual) is deaf. No man is as blind as the one who refuses to see. No man is as deaf as the one who refuses to hear. That is why Jesus always says: "He who has an ear, let him hear."

> ***Acts 28:27-28***
> ***"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it."***

In the passage above, Paul said some very harsh words to the Jews and these words are still very relevant today.

> ***Hebrews 5:11***
> ***"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing."***

One sign of immaturity in the Christian life is dullness of hearing.

> ***Luke 24:25***
> ***"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:"***

Jesus walked in the midst of the disciples after His resurrection, but they did not know Him. He spoke to them but they did not recognise that He was the one among them. He called them fools because they were dull of hearing.

One can hear and yet not hear. Spiritual dullness is indeed a serious problem. If you can pray dullness out of your spiritual and prayer life, you will become a prophet. Without being sensitive in the spirit, certain things will go wrong. You need to carefully note the statements below:

1. **Without being spiritually sensitive, you will grope in the dark:** Many years ago, a very beautiful lady brought a man and said that was the man she wanted to marry. But as they were coming in, there was a vision. In that vision, the hand of the man looked bigger than it was supposed to be and his hand was on the sister's head. I asked her if that man was her friend and she answered in the affirmative. I then instructed her to go and pray again but she refused and went ahead with the marriage. Presently, the sister is dead and she was killed by the man. He hit her in the stomach one day when they were fighting. Without spiritual sensitivity, you could become the friend to a serpent.
2. **Without spiritual sensitivity, we will be mocked by the enemy.**
3. **Without spiritual sensitivity, we will become fools in the spirit realm.**
4. **Without spiritual sensitivity, our lives may be cut short prematurely by the spirits of darkness:** Ninety percent of those who die everyday do not die at their appointed time. Their lives were cut short.

I remember a brother who was driving home from a prayer meeting. As he went, there was an impression in his heart telling him to stop and park the vehicle, but he refused. After some time, the voice told him again to park the vehicle but he refused again. After sometime, with the voice still pressurising him to park, he decided to park. As he parked the vehicle, the vehicle behind him moved forward. A few seconds later, the brother began to hear gun shots. The owner of the vehicle that moved ahead of him was shot dead and the vehicle was taken away. His corpse was thrown on the road. When the brother got to the spot, he began to praise God. If he had not been sensitive in the spirit, he would have been wasted.

5. **Spiritual sensitivity is the ability to receive messages from the Holy Spirit that will guard and guide you:** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the living God.

   Psalm 139:11-12
   "If I Say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

As far as the Lord is concerned, both darkness and light are the same thing.

6. **Spiritual sensitivity is the outflow of a regular communion with the Holy Spirit.**

7. **Prayers made with dullness of the spirit can hardly get maximum results:** If a student is dull in class, he cannot make progress in his academic life. The same thing applies to the school of prayer. If you are dull in the spirit realm, you cannot grow in your prayer life.

8. **Dullness of the heart is a prayer killer that has killed the prayer lives of so many people:** This is why we must be spiritually sensitive. The Bible says: "As many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God." (Rom. 8:19) When you are praying with spiritual sensitivity, it will enable you to take decisions that will not jeopardize your life or the lives of other people. It is like possessing a spiritual antenna that can pick up the wavelength of the Holy Spirit.

9. **Spiritual sensitivity empowers you to scan the environment to detect satanic inroads:** It is a tragedy when evil is around you and you are not aware. Spiritual sensitivity makes you aware of your spiritual environment. By the time Jesus got to the Garden of Gethsemane, He told them that the power of darkness was on the prowl.

10. **Spiritual sensitivity is sharpened by night prayers:** When you are praying with spiritual sensitivity, you will be conscious of when satanic activity is at its highest. You will be able to understand satanic manipulations around you when you are spiritually sensitive.

11. **Spiritual sensitivity enables you to gather information from your dreams:** Dreams are spiritual monitors. The teaching of the Scripture about dreams is very clear. God talks to people through dreams, but if you are spiritually dull, you will become a victim of dream manipulation. Once you begin to have wet dreams and semen discharge, you are almost going to be defeated unless you wake up and start fighting.

12. **Praying with spiritual sensitivity means you can recognise burdens in the heart:** The deeper our consecration, the more easily we can hear direct instructions from the Holy Ghost. This is why very sensitive assignments in the spirit realm are always given to serious-minded people. The Holy Spirit sharpens our sensitivity. Being an intercessor Himself, the Holy Spirit knows how to intercede for us.

13. **Spiritually sensitive people generally understand prophetic actions:** Sometimes in the battles of life, you need prophetic actions to overcome. A prophetic action is a divine prescription, it is a divine directive. If you act upon it, it will bring your prayer from the level of petition to the realm of answer. A person could pray without answers if he is not sensitive enough to find out the prophetic action that must be taken. For example, Hannah had no breakthrough until she took a prophetic action and vowed to give whatever child she was given back to God.

When Elisha saw that the axe-head sank, the prophetic action he took was to cut a stick and throw it into the river, then the axe-head came up. When Elisha saw that the waters of the land were bitter, he had to pour salt in it to heal the land. The instruction that was given to Naaman to go and dip himself seven times in Jordan and he would be made whole was a prophetic action. Moses threw ashes into the air and it became boils all over the people. That was a prophetic action.

Elijah's falling on the corpse of the widow's son was a prophetic action. Jesus said to the blind man: "Go and wash yourself in the pool of Bethesda." It was a prophetic action. Those are actions normally taken by men who are sensitive in the spirit realm. Sometimes, you need prophetic actions to overcome your battles. Prophetic actions defy natural explanation. They may seem stupid, but they have to be carried out without questioning. When you are spiritually sensitive, you will know the prophetic action that is relevant to your situation.

14. **Dullness of hearing has killed many believers before their time:** A man who was not prayerful was going to travel. His prayerful wife told him not to embark on the journey because she felt very uncomfortable in her spirit about the journey. She physically tried to stop the man from going but did not succeed. Then she started praying. When the man got to the airport, he was tired, so he slept off and when his flight was announced, he did not

hear. By the time he woke up, the plane was already airborne. He was so angry that he fought everybody at the airline for not waking him up. He got home and even fought his wife. Later, he learnt through the news that the plane crashed. It was then he began to beg his wife for forgiveness.

HOW TO GET OUT OF THE CAGE OF DULLNESS OF HEARING

1. **You must be born-again:** This is not negotiable. There are lots of people who go to church yet are very far from being born-again.
2. **You must repent from every known sin:** Every known sin will put dirt on your spiritual monitor and you will not be able to see clearly.
3. **You must be filled with the Holy Ghost:** It is not only the baptism of the Holy Ghost that you need, you also need to be filled with the Holy Ghost and you have to be in regular communion with Him.
4. **You must be a broken vessel:** Your "Yes" must be Yes and your "No" must be No. The Almighty must be able to trust you anywhere you are.
5. **You must be one hundred percent obedient to the Lord:** You must follow **any** instruction God gives you to the letter. This is a very serious issue. When you are with the Lord, 99% obedience is disobedience. What God wants is total obedience- 100%.
6. **You must be biblically literate:** You must know the word of God and become a Bible addict.
7. **You must have a prayer and fasting voltage that is very high.**
8. **You must have a channel of divine communication:** The most important need of any serious child of God is to hear from God. The most important thing in any situation is: "Is there any word from the Lord?" When you begin to hear from the Lord, it is then your progress as a Christian and as a minister begins. A lot of people have to pray spiritual deafness out of their ears because the problem is not that God is not speaking; He is speaking but they are not hearing Him. The Bible says God is a great communicator. The fact that you are not hearing God speaking is a very bad signal showing that He is not happy with you in some areas, or in one way or the other.

The Lord is not under any obligation to discuss with rebellious children. The fact that a believer could follow a stranger shows that he is not hearing from God. It

means that out of the three main voices that speak to man: the voice of man, the voice of the devil and the voice of God, you cannot recognise which is which. I counsel you not to get married until you can differentiate between these three voices.

Every believer must have a medium through which God talks to him or her. God can talk to you through your conscience as a voice. Our conscience is the detective inside us that queries us when we do something wrong. Your conscience is the voice of the spirit. When you do something bad, your conscience will tell you what you have done wrong. It is actually the voice of God. The reason He is so silent in so many lives is because our lives are dirty. The deeper you are in God, the louder the voice of conscience becomes. When you become born-again and the Holy Spirit comes into you, He will take charge of the voice of your conscience and will be using it to talk to you. Everybody has that voice inside.

You must have a way through which God talks to you. God can talk to you through reference and passages in the Bible. God can talk to you through a burden in your heart, impressions in your heart, an inward witness or through an inner or outward voice.

The voice of God spoke to Saul (turned Paul), asking him why he was persecuting Him. He heard it in his ears. God came into the tabernacle at night and called Samuel and he heard. Eli who was sleeping in the same tabernacle did not hear and Samuel thought the voice was loud enough for Eli to have heard. He ran to Eli and asked if Eli called him but Eli said no. This incident occured three times and the third time, the Bible says Eli perceived that God was calling the boy. Eli had once upon a time heard that voice before, but something had happened to him. The voice had been cut off from his ears- he had become dull of hearing. So he gave Samuel a lecture on how he could hear from God who he himself could not hear from anymore. You can be a spiritual tout in the spirit-one who calls passengers into the vehicle without entering the bus yourself. Beware!

WAYS GOD TALKS TO US

A. God can talk to you through dreams: It is good for God to talk to you through dreams, but the trouble with dreams is that you have to sleep before you can

have spiritual information. You can not have an emergency before you and say it is until you fall asleep before you can hear and know what to do from God.

B. God can talk to you in open spiritual visions.

C. God can talk to you in formats that others would know that you have seen a trance or a vision: You must be able to have a method through which He can talk to you. Get rid of dullness in the school of prayer today! May God help you as you do so in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS

Power of spiritual dullness, depart from my life, in the name of Jesus.

DEAD PRAYERS

SPIRITUAL CRISIS

A person who is not praying at all and the person saying dead prayers are birds of a feather.

When money supply is short, the economists talk about money crisis or cash crunch. If there is shortage of rain, we call it drought. If there is shortage of prayer as well, it leads to spiritual crisis.

Whenever there is a shortage of prayer in a person, church, family or nation, there will be a spiritual crisis. That is why prayerlessness is a sin.

> ***I Samuel 12;19 – 23: And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy Gad, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king. And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:***

In this passage, Samuel calls ceasing to pray a sin against God. Real prayer is like wrestling, a struggle and a sort of work. It is the Jacob- and- angel kind of ministry. It is Jesus in the Gethsemane garden kind of ministry.

The failure in the individual Christian life is the failure in prayer.

The failure of the Church is the failure in prayer.

Therefore, prayerlessness is that stage where a person prays less than he or she ought to, or praying less than God wants him to or her to pray.

Prayerlessness is a stronghold. In military parlance, a stronghold is a place where the enemy is entrenched; an area where the Christian does not have control unless he or she decides that enough is enough and he breaks the stronghold.

When you are praying the kind of prayer you should pray, results will start to come. But the result at first may not appear the way you want it to be, but eventually you will know through prayer.

When you are praying the right kind of prayer, then you will rise from your knees refreshed instead of being weary. It is not the kind of prayer you pray when you rise from your knees and you begin to weep. This is not the kind of prayer known as true prayer.

When true prayers have been offered to God, the table can be turned in favour of the minority against the majority.

As you are reading through this book, you already know that you are inside a prison wall. You may even be inside a dark dungeon spiritually, and you cannot understand what is happening.

Of course, somebody else has been in that kind of dungeon before. Apostle Peter for example. The people who jailed Peter had sealed off every exit they could, but there was one door they could not close – the door of heaven. Therefore, no matter what dungeon or prison you are in now, and even if men think they have shut all doors, there is one door to which they have no access – the door of heaven, which can be opened only by prayers.

When they took apostle Peter, he was surrounded with sixteen soldiers with locked up chains – one on the right and the other on the left hand, tied to human beings, not walls, so that if by any chance he tried to walk away, he would have alerted at least two soldiers.

But Peter prayed and forgot all about his trauma and went to sleep.

Using human logic, the time the answer to Peter's prayers came was too late, but God never comes late. Peter was going to be executed the next morning, and in the human sense, it was already late for Peter's answer to come.

This incidence has taught us a great lesson about prayers. Perhaps Peter was the only Christian in Jerusalem who slept peacefully that night while the others could not sleep. The Bible tells us that the others were holding a vigil for Peter to be released. But the man they were all sweating for was snoring away. This was the man who was to be beheaded in some hours' time.

Now, how was Peter able to sleep in that kind of situation? What kind of person is this man? Peter knew that untimely death was not his lot.

They prayed effective prayer. But there is the opposite side of effective prayer. It is ineffective, useless or dead prayers.

It can be very sad when a person lived a Christian life, died a Christless death, put in a Christless coffin, buried in a Christless grave, and a photograph of an angel pointing towards heaven is now inscribed on his tomb. It does not matter where the angel is pointing; he or she is already dead without Christ and is not going anywhere.

When you pray the kind of prayer you should pray, you will know within yourself that something positive has happened.

DEAD PRAYERS–WHAT THEY ARE

What are dead prayers? How do we know hem? How would someone praying dead prayers deliver himself or herself from the school of dead prayer?

Prayer of a sinner

This is dead prayer number one.

Proverbs 15:8: The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Proverbs 28:9: He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Abomination is one of the Bible's strongest terms for divine disapproval i.e, when God does not like something at all. He hates it with perfect hatred – the Bible calls it an abomination.

Therefore, the prayers of someone who turns his ears from hearing the Lord, the Bible says is an abomination. That is, God hates it with perfect hatred.

God has laid down in the bible, the principles of prayers that are acceptable to Him. So the positive confession of a witch or wizard, a lodge member or an occult person is, in the spirit things of God, negative, even though the confessions are positive.

Some who thought they had received material blessings from their parents may have been indirectly cursed if their parents are possessed, are lodge members or have incisions on their tongues. They may be saying the right things (positive) 'God will bless you and you shall be fruitful', but it is all lies. Because the Bible says that the prayers of a sinner are abomination to the Lord.

If someone has just returned from a witchcraft meeting and after she had taken her bath was invited to come and pray for a newly wedded couple, and the witch came forward and began to say: 'In the name of the Almighty', you shall be blessed'. It is all lies. It is very sad that most Christians do not understand the antics of the devil, for the Bible had said, 'My people perish for lack of knowledge'. (Hosea 4:6) Many of us today are victims of such bad prayers, including those who pour water on the bride's feet.

You may think that a particular person who had prayed for you cannot do you harm. How can someone who is a member of about twelve cults, pray for another person, and you say they are prayers energised by the Holy Spirit? No, the prayers of a sinner are abomination to the Lord.

There was a christian sister. One day, as she went through her husband's purse she found a love letter written by another woman. She went crazy and mad with anger. So she decided to do it her own way, - 'though we walk in the flesh, we war not after the flesh'.

This sister went to wait for her husband's lover in her office, and truly, the other woman turned up and fighting broke out. It is unheard of for a Christian to be fighting a daughter of the devil who had been trained in the art of destroying marriages.

How can that same sister come before the Lord to pray? Of course, trust the devil. The moment she opens her mouth to say, 'Father in the name of Jesus', the devil would say, 'Abomination,' and she would not be able to pray.

There are people now who are specialist in gossiping. They would say both what they saw and what they did not see. When they open their mouths to pray, the devil would Say, "Abomination" because the prayers of a sinner are abomination before the Lord.

A pastor went somewhere one day. This pastor drinks beer anytime he is thirsty. So on his way back on this fateful day, he was accosted by armed robbers. The armed robbers said to him, 'Come down and hand over to us your car keys'. But he replied and said, 'Don't you know I'm a servant of God? I therefore command blindness to come upon you.'

And the robbers said, 'Sir, what did you say you are? A pastor? You better bring this key.'

At this stage, the pastor spoke again, commanding blindness to come upon them.

By now the armed robbers had become furious with the pastor. They said, 'Listen sir, if you should repeat that statement the third time, we will deal with you ruthlessly. Just bring your car keys. At least you can see that we are not yet blind. Our eyes are still open.

Of course they took the keys off him, threw him out of the car and drove away. Why? The prayers of a sinner are abomination unto the Lord.

When two unmarried people join hands together to agree in prayer, the devil will take their minds off the prayer to some other things, and then, trouble occurs. The prayers of a sinner are abomination unto the Lord.

Beloved, there are some prayers you do not need to pray if you are not going to leave sin completely. You do not need to pray them if sin is still lurking in the recesses of your life.

I counselled a couple sometime ago and at the end, I gave them some prayer points to go home with. I said, 'Both of you should pray these prayers for two weeks, but note that there is only one thing that can hinder these prayers, Anger.'

But before I finished speaking, the husband said, 'Ah, it is her', pointing to the wife. 'Sir, the husband continued, 'She is the one who is always angry, and there it is now, the man of God has said it.'

But the wife countered and said, 'No, it is you.' Then, very soon, the husband thundered and said, 'Shut up.'

By now, I said 'Okay return the prayer points.' But they both started to apologise.

You see, the kind of prayer points I gave to them was the type that once you start praying them, you will be transported to the witchcraft coven and you will see them openly holding their meeting. Now, if they take that kind of prayer home only to start fighting, then, both of them will be boxed down by the enemy.

Therefore when you pray all kinds of prayer against your enemies and the next moment, you are cursing someone, getting angry and fighting then you are not yet ready to get started. But if you want to pray fire prayers like we do at Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, then you have to live a holy life. This is the reality of the matter.

No wonder the first powerful weapon in spiritual warfare is repentance. The reason some people are not making much progress in the school of prayer is because there are certain sins that are glued to them and they are not really prepared to tear themselves off them.

If by now, you still keep and nurture artificial finger-nails while at the same time praying fire prayers, those fingers are just like the fingers of the demons or the viper. Therefore when you say, fall down and die, they will laugh at you because you are in possession of their materials.

Praying without anointing

This is dead prayer number two. It is praying without anointing. That is, praying when God is absent.

It is a waste of time to pray when God is not in the prayer. That songwriter talked about 'A sweet hour of prayer.' The Bible tells us that as Jesus prayed, the fashion of His countenance changed. When you begin to pray under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, things will begin to move and flow.

Therefore when the power of the Holy Spirit is in your life, you will enjoy praying. Something you enjoy is a thing you sit down to savor, not wanting anyone to pull you away from it. But how many of us are like that?

Prayers lacking determination and persistence

This is dead prayer number three. Prayers that lack determination and persistence.

Let us put this in our spirit that nobody can ever grow to a large extent in the school of holiness if he does not know how to stand alone with God and be persistent. The lesson on persistence was taught by the Lord Jesus Christ.

> ***Mark 6:48 – 49 says that the people were in trouble and were struggling to remain afloat, while the wind was contrary to them. And the only man who could bail them out came around and looked as if He did not send them and would have passed by.***

> ***Genesis 32:26 says, 'Let me go', the angel said to Jacob. This is wonder upon wonder. The man who could bless Jacob, save and deliver him from his crooked life was making every effort to get away from him.***

Are you following these two passages? The first was Jesus pretending not to see them, and here is another man who could bless Jacob and change his destiny forever wanting to leave.

Look again at blind Bartimaeus. Jesus saw him and knew that he was blind but chose to walk on. But the blind Bartimaeus was wise enough to go after our Lord. He did not get angry that Jesus walked by without saying hello, else he would have died with his blindness.

> ***In Luke 24:27 – 29 we are told that Jesus had resurrected and some of His disciples were travelling and were grumbling. They were so unhappy that Jesus Christ was crucified. But as they grumbled, Jesus appeared to them and spoke with them, even though they did not know it was our Lord Jesus Christ.***

But now, Jesus went with them and as they came near the village, they were going, verse 28 says, 'And He made as though He would have gone further'. But in verse 29, we read that He was constrained by His disciples, because He did not behave as if He wanted to stay. And at last, He went in to tarry with them. But He would have gone if they had kept quiet. This was where that songwriter got his hymn– 'Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.'

Jesus made as if He would have gone further. So now we have three scriptures: Mark 6:48 – 49 where He saw his disciples toiling on the sea and was passing by.

We have Genesis 36:26 where the angel who changed Jacob's destiny wanted to leave, and the last one is Luke 24:27 - 29.

Why does this happen, Or is God trying to hide from us? Why the strange avoidance? No. That seeming avoidance or hiding is to make us become like

Jacob. 'I will not let you go except thou bless me.' The notion that God was hiding His face as if you cannot find Him anywhere is to bring out the Bartimaeus in you, whether you will become desperate enough to call upon Him.

Beloved, are you going through a dark period now and God seems far away? Count the period as a call for you to seek him and be more aggressive.

The Bible says, 'And ye shall seek me and ye shall find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.'

These are reasons prayers have to be filled with determination and persistence. You can see it for yourself; it is the style of the Almighty.

Once you ask God for something. He heard you the first time, but He wants to see how violent you can be in your spirit.

Jacob held unto the angel until one of his legs was broken, and yet he said, 'No, I will not let you go unless you bless me.'

People discouraged blind Bartimaeus and was asked to keep quiet, but he persisted in his cry, and Jesus stood still to answer his cry.

Prayers that Lack Specificity

This is dead prayer number four. They are prayers that lack specificity. That is, prayers that are, neither specific nor intense.

Readers of the Bible would come to know that there are many promises of God in the Bible. That was why Jesus had to ask blind Bartimeaus. 'What do you want me to do for you?' And the man said, 'Have mercy on me.' Then Jesus answered and said, 'Yes, I know. If I give you money now, that is mercy too, so which type of mercy are you talking about? 'That I may receive my sight,' answered Bartimeaus. 'Go in peace, thy faith has made thee whole.' Jesus said.

You must be specific and there must be intensity of desire. Do not just open your

mouth and say, 'O God, I want a husband or I want a wife.' What kind of husband or what kind of wife do you want?

It is an insult for a man to be speaking to God for things he or she is not serious about. When you are praying, call a spade a spade, and do not patch it up. Do not call it an agricultural equipment: call it a spade.

In the same vein, you must call sin – a sin. 'God, provide for me a vessel that can move me around. 'What is a vessel? Is it a horse? I want a job, I want a job. What kind of job? There are many of them on the streets, so you have to be specific – this or that one.

The Prayers of Idolatry

Dead prayer number five is the prayers of idolatry. What is prayer of idolatry? Prayers of idolatry are prayers that are not said according to the will of God. Prayers based on selfish motives.

An example of this is someone who already finds it difficult to feed his wife at home and who is praying for a second one. They are prayers of idolatry.

Someone who sees a big and beautiful plate in another person's house and is praying to have same even though he or she does not need it – prayers of idolatry.

The Bible says, 'Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.' We found that the Bible converted that statement to a prayer point. Meaning that right now, the will is not being completely done here on earth.

When some people are asked to lead prayers in the public, they tend to pray to human beings and not God, because they are praying to impress people – these are prayers of idolatry, and not according to the Holy Spirit.

Prayers said when the mind is already made up without finding out God's mind are prayers of idolatry. The Bible says if you come to a prophet of God with an idol in your heart, you will be answered according to the idol in your heart. You

will find that in the book of Ezekiel 14:4.

And it went on to say, 'And if the prophet be deceived, I the Lord have deceived the prophet.' (Ezekiel 14:9).

This happens when you have already put an image in your heart, you have already made up your mind, written the cheque, signed it and are asking the Almighty God to authorise it. No! He (God) will fill the cheque, sign and put a stamp on it.

Many years ago, there was a sister who said she had three different marriage proposals. This sister took the names of these three men to the beach for spiritual consultation. After the prayers, the sea-side prophet told her that the three men are good and marriageable people. Though the first one appears better because he has a car but on the whole, the three of them are suitable, the prophet told her.

And the sister said, 'Ah, prophet but this last one has married and divorced twice, yet he still approached me'. The prophet answered and said, 'All three are suitable' .

When you pray and you say, "O Lord bless this offering, bless that offering", but you know in your heart that you have offered the worst of all you have to the Lord – this is prayer of idolatry.

Indolent prayers

Dead prayer number six is called prayers of laziness or indolent prayers. Many people offer dead prayers through laziness. Many prayers of quiet time and personal devotion are sleeping exercises – start with one sentence and end it with another without being able to juxtapose both sentences.

Sometimes praying with the brain instead of the heart is lazy prayers. Those kind of prayers lack fervency. Whereas the bible says 'the effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man availeth much.'

Therefore because of laziness in prayer, the Bible uses the following words or

prayer: it calls it 'Watching'. It says, 'watch unto prayers.' It says 'Pray always.' Steering up oneself to take hold of God.' It talks about striving together in prayer. It talks about labouring fervently in prayers.

Occasionally, we come to the hour of prayer with exhausted body and weary mind, while expecting fire to fall. Some people come to the hour of prayer with exhausted body and weary mind, while expecting fire to fall. Some people come to the hour of prayer with minds full of disappointments and all the day's irritation. But if prayer is to calm the tempest, it cannot be lazy.

The Yoruba tribe has a proverb that says, 'You send a child of fire to the fire.' When the opposition is becoming too dangerous, you too have to become dangerous. Because, unfortunately, there is no gentle method of arresting evil.

For example, if someone suddenly takes off his or her clothes, picks a cutlass and runs into the market, there is no gentle method available but to use violence to arrest him. But if you stand and all you could say is, 'Man, drop that cutlass, don't be a naughty boy', then you are wasting your time.

Prayers that lack faith

Prayer that lacks faith is dead prayer number seven.

> ***James 1:5-6 tells us that if you are seeking for wisdom, ask Him who can give. But ask in faith, not wavering at all, for he that wavereth is like the storms of the sea, tossed hew and there. And let not such a man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord.***

Fragmented prayers

Fragmented prayer is dead prayer number eight. Look at the prayer below.

'Lord Jesus, I thank You for sparing my life and for protecting me I pray for our church now that you strengthen her I pray for Russia that you help her to grow. I also pray for my mother in the village that you heal her broken leg. In the mighty name of Jesus. I pray for my children and my Bible study leader' – The above is a string of fragmented prayers.

Prayers that lack boldness

The ninth dead prayer is prayers that lack boldness. True prayer must have holy boldness because they are like bows shot into heaven.

Moses prayed and said, 'Turn from thy fierce anger, O Lord,' Joshua prayed and the sun stood still. He said what will thou do unto thy great name? They prayed with boldness.

Praying in the name of angels

The tenth dead prayer is praying in the name of angels. The Bible seriously opposes it in any form. You have to pray in the name of Jesus. Any prayers you are praying and the name of angels are coming in, is a dead prayer.

Some people are fond of calling the names of angels Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, and Uriel. All these names are not names of angels of the living God. The function of angel Michael in the bible is well defined. He is an angel of war assigned to the Jewish nation. Therefore, if you are involved in praying to angels, you are saying dead prayers.

Consultation of magical books, and secret uses of the Psalms

The number twelve and final dead prayer is consultation of magical books, and secret uses of the Psalms, lost book of Eden, and the sixth and seventh books of Moses, then not only are you saying dead prayers, but you are daily bombarding yourself with demons. Also, these are intelligent foreign demons. Already, Nigerian demons are dealing with you and you persist in inviting foreign ones.

If you have been praying dead prayers, you are looking for trouble. If you have been praying facing a particular side of the wall whether North, East, South or West, or you have been praying without your clothes on, then you are praying dead prayers and also looking for trouble because you will end up doing more harm to yourself.

A mother once came to me crying. She had asked me to help stop her son from reading demonic books. But the boy did not want to listen to me. He spoke big grammar and was talking semantics on why he should read those books. He said

he knew someone that read them and got an American visa, and he too must get his own.

Despite my warnings to this young lad, he continued reading the demonic books. By the next time they came to call me, he was already roaming the streets and laughing strangely all over the place.

I called his name and asked what was wrong with him and he answered me with an insane laughter. Then I asked his mother what the matter was, she said that while he was reading one of the demonic books, something entered him and from that moment, he began to talk and act strangely.

At this point, I said, "Mama, he is mad already. Those demons are there, until they prayed for him in a church where they would tie down mad people", and it was there he had a bit of relief.

Beloved, you and I have to pray. If you have been praying the wrong or dead prayers, you had better repent. If you have been praying without faith, specificity and intensity, you had better repent.

It is okay with the Almighty if you stand on your feet and pray for ten minutes before going to bed, than for you to attempt to pray for five hours, then doze off – it does not make sense.

There are some of us who really should reduce the number of hours we spend sleeping. The more you pray, the less of these things that will come. But if you notice that the more aggressive you pray, the more serious your enemies become, then know for sure that you have been surrounded and being monitored. Then you should become more stubborn with your prayers.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every evil arrow flying by night, my life is not your landing place, in the name of Jesus.
2. Evil satanic birds, there is nothing for you to feed upon in my life, in the

name of Jesus.

3. Jesus, Son of David, disgrace my mountains, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every expectation of the enemy upon my life, be rendered null and void, in the name of Jesus.
5. My horn shall be exalted like the horn of a unicorn, in the name of Jesus.
6. I shall be anointed with fresh oil, for all the enemies that come against me shall flee from before my face, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every evil power coming against me in one way, I command you to flee in seven ways, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let the Red Sea open and let my Pharaoh go inside, in the name of Jesus.
9. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every congregation of herbalist, hired against me, fall, in the name of Jesus.
11. In Your authority, O Lord, I break the binding effect of anything evil ever put upon me from any source, in the name of Jesus.
12. I bind all enemy spirits that oppress me and remove them from my life, in the name of Jesus.
13. I command the power of the enemy working against my progress to take flight now, in the name of Jesus.
14. O Lord, let my hands be trained for battle and assign me my place in Your army, in the name of Jesus.
15. I expose all the enemies of Jesus Christ operating against my life, in the name of Jesus.
16. I sever myself from satan and any strange power, in the name of Jesus.
17. I remove the right of any strange power to afflict me and I proclaim their judgement under the hand of God, in the name of Jesus.
18. I weaken the strength of any strange power fashioned against me with the blood of Jesus shed on the cross at Calvary, in the name of Jesus.
19. I break every bondage of inherited sickness in my life, in the name of Jesus.
20. Spirit of infirmity in my life, come out now, in the name of Jesus.

BECOMING A PRAYER WARRIOR

Matthew 26:36-45: Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while go and pray yonder, And He took with Him, Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith He unto them my soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death; tarry yet here and watch with me. And He went a little farther and fell on His face and prayed, saying, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And He cometh unto the disciples and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, what could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing hut the flesh is weak.

It is the flesh that will complain about problems, yet, will not want to pray.

He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, O my father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And He came and found them asleep again for their eyes were heavy. And He left them and went away again and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

So, the Bible does not say we should not repeat prayers or words. What the Bible is against, is vain repetition.

Then cometh He to His disciples and saith unto them, sleep on now and take your rest, behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

He had asked them to pray and they didn't. Therefore Jesus was saying in essence, that the thing that will wake them up is coming very soon. When those people came, Peter who had been sleeping, took his sword and cut off the ear of one of them. Jesus told him that was not the kind of war He wanted them to fight. There, Jesus performed His last miracle - He attached the ear back.

I would like you to read on with rapt attention at this subject of "Prayer", which we have been treating for a while now.

The reason for concentrating so much on it is because it is a powerful area where the devil cheats on people a lot. If people could pray more and eliminate their unbelief, they would see the hands of God stretched forth and even things they did not ask for will begin to happen. God wants each of us Christians, to be able to war in prayers.

Unfortunately, many are not willing to be prayer warriors. So God will make or allow things to happen that will force them to pray fervently. If you have been praying and you are on fire, certain things cannot move close to you.

The human nature likes to stay quiet until there is a challenge or pressure. A lot of people just like to settle down but there is no life of settling down at the war front. So, God allows problems to come. Problems are not there to confuse but to reveal the importance and evil nature of the flesh to us.

When the flesh is inundated with trouble, it expresses itself in anger, bitterness and resentment. On the other hand problems reveal to us who God is and what He expects of us.

Some of the strongest problems I have seen in the lives of Christians are internal. The kind of prayers we pray at MFM, and the prayer points we dish out can not be withstood by any power or witch. It is when the enemy knows that the person still has a pre-programmed bondage in his spirit that he will still be laughing at the person and stay on, God sometimes allows this to happen so that the person will be on fire.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRAYER WARRIOR

A prayer warrior must be a person who grows spiritually not stagnant nor slow in growth. The Bible says we should desire the sincere milk of the word, so that we can grow. There are rules that regulate the growth of a normal child. The same way a Christian that desires spiritual growth. These are:

Daily Intake of Food - the word of God

A prayer warrior must read, study and meditate on the word of God, it is not just reading to quieten your spirit because you have been advised to. This is why we have our annual calendars and diaries which give guidelines on Bible-reading and memorizing passages. It is not to be done hurriedly. You should absorb the word of God.

Oxygen

Prayer is the fresh air and oxygen of the soul which makes it breathe well. It makes the soul grow well.

Exercise

Church activities keep us busy. Witnessing gives us the chance of exercising ourselves. Make sure you are doing something for God.

Rest

Rely on God at all times

Cleanliness

Keep good Company and maintain a clean spiritual environment. Avoid friends that will hinder your growth and environments that will corrupt the mind. Evil communication corrupts good manners. If you live your life the way you should, some unbelievers will avoid you because they will find you difficult to cope with. As they are talking about partying, sugar daddies, fashion and you are talking about Bible study, the battle of Armagedon etc you will both be operating at different levels. If your best friend is an unbeliever, it means you are not yet born again.

An unbeliever must not feel comfortable with a born again Christian. If they come to your house, expecting to be entertained with beer, as you bring out your soft drinks, they should become angry with you and leave.

Care

Do not forsake the assembly of the children of God; attend fellowship and be your brother's keeper.

Periodic Check-up

Examine yourself from time to time and confess all known and unknown sins.

> ***1 Cor. 11:31 says:***
> ***"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." As you pay attention to these seven points, growth is sure. If not, you will be stagnant. I want you to close your eyes right now and ask the Lord to help you. Tell Him to improve on your present situation. Ask Him to help you in the areas you know you are lacking.***

Die to self

Let God pull self out of you i.e. things that are not of Him. Anybody who means business with God must visit the spiritual graveyard where he will bury the flesh.

A young boy wanted to give the totality of his life to God. He was becoming very serious and God said, if he (the boy) wants Him to use him, He will first 'kill' him. He did not understand that God was referring to the flesh in him.

One day, as he was praying, he heard his friends downstairs, playing football. A voice told him to stop praying and join them.

The other voice told him to continue praying. The battle went on, until God said that was the flesh and that was why it must die. He then got up and shouted at himself, saying flesh should keep quiet and he continued praying.

After about six months, he moved into his room to pray and as soon as he opened his mouth, he felt the presence of God and saw His glory. He fell down on his face and God took him in a vision to heaven.

The Bible says; "Eyes have not seen nor ears heard what God has planned for the saints". I always tell people; that they need to pray for God to take them on a visit to heaven and hell. If you do, you will never be the same again; you will do

what God wants you to do.

One day, God showed him the vision of how angels buried his flesh. From then on, flesh had no more dominion over his life. This is the hardest thing for a Christian to do.

Some people wonder why some Christians come to church, hear sermons yet, there is no improvement upon their lives. This is because the flesh is the ruler of their lives. That is the hardest thing for a Christian to do - to bring your desire, ambition and habit to the feet of the cross and leave them there. You become like Paul who said: "T am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, but the life which I now live, I live in Christ who is in me." The old Paul was dead and the new one was alive. No wonder, those demons told the seven sons of Sceva: "Paul we know, Jesus we know but who are you?" It is because the flesh is still alive in their lives.

One secret that people do not know is this: the most refined and beautiful spiritual life will not start until self dies. It is then you can walk by the spirit. It is then you can be walking on the street and God will Say, "Close your eyes again and then open it". You will then see that the people walking on the streets are not the way the ordinary eye is seeing them. You will see that some are carrying coffins on their heads while some are wearing dirty pillow cases and so on and so forth.

By the time God says you should close your eyes again and open them into the physical, you will realize that God can capture your spirit and you would always want to be in the spirit. This only happens after the flesh has died.

A woman built a house for twenty years without bringing it to completion. She was approaching 70 years of age. One day, she went to a strange church where everybody prays at the same time, straining their voices. She was used to the kind where it is the Reverend that prays for everybody and it is paid for; where things are taken easy, communion taken, etc.

At this strange church, the preacher said; "If you have not been baptized in the Holy Ghost, stand up. An inner voice wanted to convince her that she was not

concerned. At least, she had been baptized and confirmed: Some people stood up. Again, the preacher said: "I am not asking if you were baptized in water or confirmed. I mean those who want to be baptized in the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in tongues. More people got up and she was the only one left, sitting on the pew. She looked round and said people might think she is a witch, so she got up.

It was a good thing she got up because, God in His powerful way, touched her by the Holy Spirit. The wind of the Spirit of God blew on her and she started speaking in tongues. For a whole day, she did not know where she was. If you greeted her, she would open her mouth to reply but would be speaking in tongues. They kept her in the church until she came to herself.

Afterwards, whenever she was insulted, she would just bless the offender with a smile. The flesh had died in her. One day, the spirit of God told her that she would finish building her house and told her to go there. On the way, she met a Pastor who agreed to go to the building site with her.

On arrival, the Lord opened her eyes to see two white pigeons tied at the two corners of the building. She showed the pastor who did not see them until he prayed and God opened his eyes and they killed the birds. That very night, the man who had sat on the wealth of the family died, after signing that a huge amount should be given to the woman. Thus, she was able to complete the building of her house.

When the flesh dies, your spirit eyes open. Things that you used to see as co-incidences will no longer be so to you. You will know how God is moving. Until you die to self, God cannot use you the way He wants. You cannot die partially or be half-alive unto God. You must get to the point where there is none of self remaining in you but all of God is in you. Unless you die to the flesh, you will continue to be a spiritual ridicule even if you are performing miracles; the devil can still catapult you downwards because the flesh is still alive in you. Until you die to the flesh, you cannot live unto God.

When someone who is dead to the flesh begins to pray, things will begin to happen. Like the promise in Isaiah which says; "While they are yet speaking, I will answer them." The truth today is that, if some of us who are asking for the

Glory of God experience Him, the person will die because he is not yet dead to flesh and the face of God cannot behold sin. It will cause an explosion of judgements and death. You may say this is a difficult and impossible task, it is not impossible. The Bible says: "Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect". If something is not possible, God will not say you should do it. One thing is sure, you can never know what you are capable of doing, until you try.

There is nothing you can achieve spiritually without determination. The Bible says, "With a purposeful heart, determined heart, move close to the Lord." With determination and intention, it is then the Holy Spirit will help. A lot of us abandon the job to Him; but He is only there to help. When you abandon the total load to Him, nothing happens. You cannot say you want to flow in the spirit and refuse to pray and read the Bible, nothing will happen.

Uncompromising Faith

God acted for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego the way He did, because they refused to compromise their faith. Many people will misquote the Bible. They will Say; "Render unto Ceasar what is Ceasar's". They mean, even if something is bad, as far as it is not God's, give it to them - beer, money etc. The truth is that you are not Ceasar's image. You are God's and He wants you to give yourself to Him.

When you don't compromise your faith, God gets excited about you and He can depend on you wherever you are. God is looking for someone to minister life at your place of work and he sees that sister 'A' spends hours making up, 'B' gets angry, brother 'C' is always combing his moustache, 'D' is drinking wine secretly and claiming not to drink alcohol etc.
It means every believer there has failed God and the blood of the co-workers who did not hear the gospel will be required from these believers who did not maintain their stand. The three Hebrew boys maintained their stand with God. When you compromise with evil as a believer, God will not come to your aid when you get into trouble. That is why Jesus said: "Whoever is ashamed of me in this adulterous generation, of him will I be ashamed in the Kingdom of my Father."

A Christian should not compromise. You can't stay in Egypt and confess that you

are in the Promised Land. You can't give yourself to the world and say you don't want to be a fanatic. Jesus was a fanatic and He said all he wanted to say dogmatically, without compromise. If you say you will leave your children to do what they like, watch pornographic films, stay at home while you come to church, you are compromising. When bad things begin to happen, you will not be able to move the hand of God. When a believer is getting involved in shady business, he is compromising his faith. Don't allow the devil to push you around.

Jesus told the disciples to sleep on; what would wake them up will soon come and it came and they even over-prayed. The strongest action you can take in any situation that faces you as a believer is to pray; ask God on your knees for help.

There was a time in Scotland, when there was great trouble. The city was so sinful that God decided to move. There was a woman who went into a ditch to pray. She was burdened by the atrocities and sins of the city. There in the ditch, she prayed one prayer point everyday: "O Lord, the wall of Zion is broken down, build it up". As a result of her persistent intercession, the Lord moved.

The strongest action you can take in any situation is to pray. Ask God to help you. Whatever is worth worrying about, is worth praying about. Prayer will unlock God's bank of ideas; therefore, everyone ought to be a prayer warrior. When you are a prayer warrior, then you can move into the twelve benefits of prayer.

Matthew 7:7-11: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find: knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth: and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? lf ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

BENEFITS OF PRAYER

It brings the right things to pass. It sends labourers into the harvest.

Matthew 9:38: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Matthew 18:18: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

IT DEFEATS THE DEVIL

It overcomes the impossible.

Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

IT REVEALS GOD'S ANSWER

Luke 11:9-10: "And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

IT SAVES UNBELIEVERS

Acts 2:21: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

IT BRINGS PEACE

Phillip 4:5-7; "Let your moderation be known unto all men. Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

IT IMPARTS WISDOM

James 1:5: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

IT HEALS THE SICK

James 5:13-15: "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

PRAYER CHANGES THE NATURAL

James 5:17-18 "Elias was man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

IT EDIFIES THE BELIEVER

Jude 1:20: "But ye beloved building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."

Now, with all these benefits, it is good for each and everyone to become a prayer warrior. Successful Christians are those who live consistent lives of prayer. When your prayer life starts declining, you too will start declining.

TIME

Today, Christians find it difficult to set 10 minutes aside for prayers, per day. There is something wrong with the believer who does not enjoy the power of prayers, nor the opportunity to talk to God. There is something wrong with the believer who frowns when he is called to pray and the one who does not

concentrate during prayers but is busy checking the time on his wristwatch.

Prayer is the only way to get the power of heaven into your life. There is a price to pay for getting God's power into our lives. It is spending time with God in prayer. An unserious Christian prays for less than 15 minutes a day.

A moderately serious Christians prays for 30 minutes a day. The fairly serious one prays for at least one hour. There are some people who can pray for four hours but will not do so until they are attacked, before they go for vigils. These ones are not serious at all.

Those who really mean business with God pray for at least two hours at a go. You may say you are very busy. If you are too busy to talk to your father, something is wrong with you and it means you will not have as much power as God wants you to have in your life.

You may have to decide to get up early as from now to pray. Doctors recommend 8 hours of sleep per night. You need God in your life, more than you need sleep. IF YOU HAVE GOD, YOU MAY SLEEP FOR JUST ONE HOUR AND YOU WILL BE REFRESHED. You should note that nothing will happen until you pray down God's power.

Brethren, 5 to 10 minutes per day is too short for a believer to pray. It is like spending 5 minutes daily with your father who gave birth to you. You will not get to know him very well, neither will he know you well. If a son spends 2 hours daily with him and you spend 5 minutes, the other will know the Father better. You cannot know him equally.

Many people pray for hours and then, when they get a relief, they relax and stop praying until something bad happens again. Such people are not serious. You can't know God if you don't spend time with Him. If you want to marry a lady, you don't go to see her for just 5 minutes a day. You will not know her that way.

You are either a prayer warrior or you are not. When a prayer warrior starts praying, he is no longer there. He is gone to be with God; his spirit is moving like fire and at that moment, he is connected with the current of heaven. A prayer

warrior is a bold person, he does not care what the situation looks like, he believes he can still pray to turn it around. It is in long prayer sessions that you get out of the natural into the supernatural. Many people have never prayed to the level of leaving the flesh yet. Some people come to the church and while praying, they open their bags to look for a handkerchief to wipe their faces.

When you become a prayer warrior, you will not even know that you are sweating because, your spirit, soul and body are into it. The fact that you are looking for a handkerchief shows that your body is not' part of the house, you are praying and your body is not. The house is divided. You can't be fervent that way. When I was younger, we had some strange ministers who conducted tarry meetings for those who want to receive the Holy Spirit. They had their common language they spoke. They would say, if while praying your nose is running, leave it or you feel like urinating, do it where you are. If you are sweating leave it, it means sicknesses are jumping off your body. If you feel you no longer know where you are, do not worry, God will not put you in an environment you don't understand.

After this briefing, a lot of people understood and feel better and were able to pray better and release themselves into the hands of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer is the key to God's power moving into your life. Prevailing prayer does not give up until heaven and earth cause what you want to come to pass. Power comes to you as you spend time on your knees in the presence of God, the source of power. When you talk of prayer, there are some that God is not ready to answer – the unbelievers.

No matter how religious and nice you may be; if you have not surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, your life is still being controlled by the spirit and powers of hell. God does not listen to such prayers. His eyes cannot behold sin. God is looking for prayer warriors today, men of power and violence. The kingdom of God has been permitting violence and God is looking for those that will take it by force. God is looking for men who will call down hell on their knees.

God is looking for men who have the secrets of God in their possession. Those who make God intervene in the affairs of men; His deputies on earth, who can change situations, persons and problems through prayers.

Men who can change history and rewrite it. There is no point being a Christian if you don't want to be a prayer warrior. Prayer groups scattered in different locations all over the country are doing a lot of good to this nation but it is not glaring yet. That must be encouraged and you must be a part of it.

If you have anyone living in your house, who sleeps each time there is a prayer meeting, or is not interested or prefers watching television while everybody is praying, and you allow this to go on, you are killing him or her. You are supposed to either ask the person to leave your house or force him to pray. That which is against prayer in his life, will invite the enemy into your house.

Many years ago, a girl was brought into our house. She talked throughout the night in her dream, conversing with some unseen creatures. I listened to what she was saying and the following morning, I called her. I observed that she did not seem to realize where she was. I warned her not to ever engage in any conversation in her sleep again.

If you allow family sentiments and say people will talk about you, you are dodging your responsibility and in this kind of situation, they will just kill you because this kind of girl is an agent of household wickedness that they plant in your house. Leaving her there means you are allowing them to operate. The family sentiment which is the inherited evil spirit will carry you away and you will become their prey. You may say you want to help in training family members but you must be wise so that you do not kill yourself in the process. The Bible says "Be ye as wise as a serpent and as quiet as a dove". Matt. 10:16.

May the Lord give you the spirit of a prayer warrior, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

1. O Lord, soak me in the spirit of prayer, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every power raging against my prayer life, bow, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every internal parasite working against my prayer life, die, in the name of Jesus
4. O Lord, repair my broken altar of prayer by your fire, in the name of Jesus.

5. Let the power to mount up with wing as eagle in prayer fall upon my life now, in the name of Jesus.
6. Thunder fire of God, destroy every satanic barrier mounted against my life, in the name of Jesus.

(Lay your hand on your head and pray like this)

7. Every satanic load slowing down my progress, be removed by fire, in Jesus' name.
8. Any power wanting to rebuild any barrier against me, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYERS

The subject of prayer is deep and intense. Those who have been reading our books should know that we deal with prayer and spiritual warfare in this ministry. If you have not been coming, you had better make up your mind to start coming.

We live in a very deep, mysterious and powerful world and this is why unseen forces work very hard to hinder people from praying. They do a lot of hard work to let people do everything but to pray.

We have lots of important lessons to learn about prayer. Prayer is not something to be done mechanically or in a lazy manner. Prayer is war. It is hard work. You need persistence in prayer.

> **Isaiah 64:l**
> ***Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence.***

This is a great prayer point; asking God to tear open the heavens and to come down with His presence. Every mountain will have no option but to melt and flow away.

> ***Isaiah 62:6-7***
> ***I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.***

This is one method of creating open heavens. It is through holy disturbance. God enjoys this kind of disturbance.

Prayer is one of the three pillars that uphold Christians and to make them stand in the faith. The three pillars are listed below:

1. Holiness
2. Word of God, and
3. Prayer

If you miss any of these, you cannot stand as a believer.

Prayer is the only thing that the devil cannot do out of all we do in the house of God. He can dance, sing, entertain, preach, counsel, but he cannot pray. Even angels do not have the privilege of praying. It is given only unto man.

It is often said that a Christian is most powerful on his knees. Men may reject your message, despise your person but they are helpless when it gets to your prayers. Once you start praying today, it does not matter whether the person you are praying for or about agrees with you or not.

When you spend time with God in prayer, it is the most useful thing on earth. Therefore the most important pre-occupation of the devil and his most important assignment is to keep people away from praying and he has succeeded a lot. My prayer is that he will not succeed in your life in Jesus name.

The hymn writer says:

> *"Christians seek not yet repose,*
> *Hear your guardian angel say;*
> *you are in the midst of foes,*
> *watch and pray"*

ACTIVATED BY PRAYER

The man who can really pray has nothing to fear. Whatever God can do can be made available through prayers.

If you look at Church history, you will find out that every great move of God, any great revival that had ever come to pass, could be attributed to prayer. There would be someone who prayed for it.

There can be no fresh anointing without a visit to the school of prayer. It is prayer that converts promise to performance. The good news is that God responds to violent praying. When God points a finger at the enemies, they are finished, not to talk of when He arises.

Jacob prayed violently and wrestled with an angel of God for seven hours, repeating the same request until he got it in the morning. He said "I will not let you go unless you bless me". It worked for him.

Blind Bartimaeus cried out violently. He refused to keep quiet until Jesus heard him and abandoned all others and asked for him to be brought forward.

The Bible does not say: "Preach all the time" But "pray all the time" (1 Thess. 5:7)

> **1 Thess 5:7**
> ***For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.***
>
> **Ephesians 6:18**
> ***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;***

When you pray the way you should, your life will no longer remain the same. The spiritual conflict in which we find ourselves is such that even if you believe there is no problem, because you belong to one community or the other, you have women or men with whom you relate. In this conflict, the deciding factor is prayer. You may think those who are praying are fools. But prayer is the only wise thing you can do.

Prayers do not die. Prayer will continue to work even when we have forgotten that we prayed.

OPEN HEAVENS

Let us now consider the importance of the open heavens. It is important to understand this issue because it will make us obtain breakthroughs for our lives. Many uncomfortable or inconvenient situations will remain the same until you obtain breakthroughs.

An evangelist went to a place where the Gospel had never been preached. He had the Gideon New Testament Bible and distributed it to everybody. A little boy received one and kept reading it. He read the whole New Testament Bible and did not really understand. He saw where the Apostles received the Holy Spirit and how others received. He wanted the experience but did not know how to go about it. He started praying, since he understood the importance of prayer. Every day after school, he went into a forest to pray till evening.

One day, a man dressed in white appeared to him. The man took the small New Testament Bible in his hand and gave him a complete Bible and asked him to read. As he started to read, he started to speak in tongues.

Of course, the devil was enraged and he wanted to use the boy's father against him. The father had been complaining about the boy's absence and he decided to cut off his head that day. As the boy approached the father, the father saw two hefty men, one on either side of the boy each with swords in their hands and their eyes red and frightening. His father was so afraid that he ran away and gave up on his intention. He said the boy should continue doing whatever he was always going out to do.

AN ANSWERED PRAYER

Another man went into seclusion on a mountain. He embarked on a 7day fasting and praying program. On the 6th day, a man came there to pray, suddenly, the Lord told this brother to go and tell the man that just arrived to stop smoking, that if he stopped, he would have breakthroughs. This brother was reluctant because he felt God had not answered his own prayers and he was sending him to deliver a message to a smoker.

Nevertheless, he went and he came back to his former position to continue his prayers. Then another man came in. About ten minutes later, the new man walked up to him and said that the Lord asked him to give the brother N500,000 before he started praying. There and then, he signed a cheque in the name of this

brother. That was how God answered his prayers for open heavens.

Failure, poverty and lack will remain in many places until your breakthrough comes. So if you desire breakthrough in any dimension of your life, you must manifest faith that can not be swerved.

You may ask why do we need breakthroughs? Since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden, the heavens became brass, especially the second heavens. It became the habitation of dark powers.

In the book of Deut 28:23, the Bible says the heavens can become brass.

> **Deut. 28:23**
> ***And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.***

If you find God saying that He will open the windows of heaven, it means those windows are not always open. There are times when the windows are shut. When the heavens become brass to reach, God will be impossible to access. The angels of your blessings may not be able to reach you. Therefore, you need to bombard heaven with violent prayers.

EQUIPMENTS FOR BLASTING THE HEAVENS OPEN

1. Prayer and fasting
2. Worship
3. Praises
4. Holiness
5. Sacrificial giving

I remember the story of a boy who wanted a cow, he kept pestering his parents to give him money, until one day, they gave him $5 as part payment. He kept it in his pocket and was always going about with it, looking forward to the day he would buy his cow.

One day in church, the pastor encouraged the congregation to give sacrificially and God would bless them. After much thoughts, the boy got up from his seat and went to the altar, just as the pastor was about to pray on the offering, the boy dropped the $5 note and stood there and said, "My cow is in this bag". The Pastor was surprised, and he asked him what he meant. He now told him his story and the pastor recounted it to the congregation. Suddenly, a man got up and said he was a cow seller and the Lord had just ministered to him to give the boy one. This was how the boy got his cow. You can blast the heavens open with prayers!

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every hold of the spirit of prayerlessness in my life, die now, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every spirit stealing in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every spirit of blindness in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every spirit of poverty in my foundation, die, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every problem planned for my future, you shall not see daylight, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every warfare against my breakthrough in the heavenlies, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
7. O Lord, let every cycle of problems in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
8. By the blood of Jesus, I make my breakthroughs untouchable to any evil power, in the name of Jesus.
9. You powers working against my treasures, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
10. Thank God for the victory.

THE HOUR OF PRAYER

This chapter is about prayer. You must take note of the following enemies of prayer:

1. **Lack of repentance:** Sin is an enemy of prayer. Any willful sinner is going to hell fire no matter what they call him or her.
2. **Unbelief:** You must cast the garment of unbelief away so that it does not hinder you.
3. **Hatred:** If you hate anybody, the Bible says, you are a murderer. There was once war in a city. The enemies were pursuing two men. These two people were arch enemies; they did not like each other at all. One of them hid inside a pit. The other ran into the bush and hid there. The enemies were searched for them and after some time, they got the man in the pit and wanted to kill him, and he was begging them saying, "Please sirs, my wife just delivered a baby five days ago, please have mercy, don't render my baby fatherless". The other man hiding in the bush shouted and said his enemy was lying and in the process, he exposed himself and the people were able to kill both of them. That is what hatred does. Believers should not hate anybody, the only person they should hate is the devil.
4. **Unforgiving spirit:** If you refuse to forgive those who offend you, you will be looking for tormentors. You must forgive all who have offended you.
5. **Ingratitude:** If you are not grateful for what God has done for you and you do not count your blessings, you will be inviting trouble into your life.

You must utter these miracle cries aggressively. Determine that your situation must change today. God does not mind going to the uttermost part of the earth to root out your blessings. God does not even mind removing a whole town because of one person.

THE HOUR OF PRAYER

A man shared a testimony with me. He led a prayer meeting somewhere and called a fire prayer point which says, "All those who are planning evil against

me, gather here now in the name of Jesus. Everybody prayed and the spirits started coming. When they came. He told the congregation, "Now, issue the fire of judgement upon them," and they began to call on the fire of judgement. The man said he prayed like a mad person until his clothes were soaked. A week after that time, he started to get information from his village. The first person to die was the chief priest then others followed. Many of us do not know those who are in charge of our problems, but when you fire a divine arrow, anything can happen. You must pray fervently if you want to experience victory.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I break every hold of witchcraft over my life, in the name of Jesus.
2. All my unfavorable situations, change now, in the name of Jesus.
3. I command all my battles to be converted to blessings, in the name of Jesus.
4. You mountain confronting me, crumble now, in the name of Jesus.
5. I bind every desert spirit, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, bear me up on the wings of the eagle before my enemies, in the name of Jesus.
7. Lay your hands on your eyes and pray like this: O Lord, anoint my eyes to see my divine opportunities, in the name of Jesus.
8. I refuse to allow my past to disturb my future, in the name of Jesus.
9. I bind the strong man of financial problems, in the name of Jesus.
10. Let every satanic battle confronting me, fall apart now, in the name of Jesus.

SECTION 2

EXPLORING THE POWER OF PRAYER

Introduction

The bible tells us that men ought always to pray and that we should pray without ceasing. However the devil is trying very hard to prevent us from praying or to make us weak at the place of prayer. It is not very prayer that gets the desired answers. It is not every word uttered when praying that gets the attention of God. There is a way to pray if you want God to answer. There is a prayer strategy if we must get answers.

This section explores the power available in prayers and provides the right strategy for prayers. We shall see the benefits of being in the right state as we pray in order that our prayers will avail much.

You will not fail in the school of prayer.

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

This passage of the Bible instructs us to pray at all times without getting faint or weary. This means prayer is a necessity.

> **2 Chronicles 7:14-16**
> ***"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and PRAY, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will hear their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."***

Our land needs deliverance. "Land" in this sense could mean a country, a village, or even a community. God has promised to heal our land, only if we humble ourselves and pray.

Matthew 9:18-23
"While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself; If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise.

WHY DO WE NEED TO PRAY?

I read a book sometime ago where the author said that when things are bad, you need to pray, and when things are good, you need to pray so that the things get better, and when the things get better, you need to pray, so that the things become the best they can be. As far as we are still living in this world, we must continue to pray until we die. Jesus started and ended his ministry with prayer. Jesus prayed and the countenance of His face was changed, and His garment was transformed.

A lot of us are saying we want to get married. The truth is that you need to pray before you get married, and after marrying you need to pray more so that the marriage will last. You need to pray before you get pregnant, and after getting pregnant, you need to pray even more so that you can deliver safely.

Once a woman delivered safely, and after giving birth, she fell ill. The doctor diagnosed the sickness as the type women have after giving birth. However, after seven days, she died. She could not breastfeed the baby before she died.

You need to pray because of the calling and vision of God for your life. The enemy at the same time sees what the Lord wants you to do, even if you have not seen it. All that the enemy is doing is to push you out of that destiny, and make sure you confess with your mouth that you are tired. I pray that you will not get

tired, in the name of Jesus.

You need to pray before you get a job, and after getting that job you need to pray, so that you will be promoted. After promotion, you need to pray, because you will face a lot of challenges in that position. Every step we take in life, one needs a good amount of prayer to back it up. There are a lot of things in our lives that we need to pray about.

You need to pray so that the enemy will not trap you with sin.

If you are a prayer warrior, you need to pray that the enemy will not arrest your prayer motion.

You need to pray concerning the good dreams you have for your life.

You need to pray that the enemy will not bring you down suddenly. There are lots of failures the enemy has planted at the edge of breakthroughs. You need to pray against them.

The enemy can decide to arrest your prayer life so that you do not pray the way you are supposed to, you will not know what you are supposed to know. You will pray to break through in the name of Jesus.

You need to pray to God to raise intercessors for you. The case of Lot in the land of Sodom and Gomorrah is a prime example. If not that God raised Abraham for Lot, he would have perished in the land of Sodom and Gomorrah.

You need to pray for intercessors and your ministers against the attacks the enemy is waging against them.

You need to pray for those that are praying for you so that you can succeed in your life.

You need to pray because some people have seen the shining star of your life.

Matthew 2:2
"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When you were born, a lot of demonic wise eyes saw your star. They know how great you are destined to be in the future. That is why they create confusion along the way so that you will not achieve success. I pray for you today that you will achieve what God has destined for you to achieve, in the name of Jesus.

You need to pray because of the evil ordinances that the enemy has organised to monitor you. The enemy sent his agents to monitor Jesus Christ, but unfortunately, they could not succeed because of His prayer life. You need to pray because of the powers that are monitoring your life.

You need to pray so that the enemy will not take your picture and use it against you.

There are a lot of strategies of darkness in the house of God today. You need to pray because some people are carrying out evil research on how to cage your life. If you are born again, but you have a weak prayer life, the enemy will shoot you down effortlessly.

Anytime you dream and see yourself naked, do not take it with levity, because some people somewhere have removed your spiritual power. You need to rise up and silence such enemies. I pray that the Lord will help you do so in Jesus' name.

You need to pray so that the good things the Lord has positioned for your life will not be stolen by the enemy. You shall make it in the name of Jesus.

The mothers need to pray that the enemy will not kill their bundles of joy, in the name of Jesus.

The enemy knows the kind of business you will do and make it.

When you are at the right place, they will try to seduce and take you away from that place.

You need to pray because of your evil background. A lot of us come from wicked homes.

You need to pray so that evil and strange men or women will not arrest you on the journey of your life. A lot of people have gone into the devil's trap. They married their enemy not knowing that the plan of the enemy is to kill them.

You need to pray so that the enemy will not discourage you along the way of your success. You need to pray so that the enemy will not give you information that will work against your career.

You need to pray so that you will not die as a tenant. I pray that every good foundation you have laid in your life for a good accommodation will be successfully completed today, in Jesus' name.

You need to pray because of the hour of the powers of darkness.

> **Luke 22:53**
> ***"When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness."***

The powers of darkness have their operational hour to arrest people. They know the time-table of God for your life. I pray that God's time for you will not be arrested by evil powers, in the name of Jesus.

We need to pray so that we will not suddenly enter into temptation. The plan of satan for those standing is that they should fall suddenly. One fact you need to know is that if you are the best in any area of your life, you are being trailed by the enemy.

A brother helped somebody to get a job at his place of work. It was this person that ended up removing the brother. This is why you need to pray that those you have helped will not be used against you, in the name of Jesus.

You need to pray so that the good things God has planned and destined for your life will come to manifestation. God has great plans for you, but the enemy is fighting seriously so that these things will not be realised. You shall realise God's plan for your life, in the name of Jesus.

You also need to pray because of your spiritual life. It is the most important aspect of your life. If you cannot find away spiritually, you will not find a way physically. If your spiritual life is caged, it will be difficult for you to experience good things.

Prayers make God have interest in your life. When you start praying, God will overlook your sin and rescue and deliver you. The hour of prayer is the hour when you have fellowship with Heaven. You might say you do not know the next step to take in life, but there are many things God has designed for your life. The time you start praying, those things will manifest. The hour of prayer is the hour of communion with God. It is only when you are praying that you will have dominion over your enemy. The only time you can have peace in life is the time you begin to dominate all those things that are dominating your life. No matter how small the enemy is, do not overlook him, because he can destroy a life. We need to achieve a better prayer life. If you want impossibilities to become possible, you need to pray.

> **Matthew 19:26**
> ***"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."***

Those things you think are impossible will become possible when you pray. God is calling you to pray so as to achieve a successful and success-filled life. The ability to renew your strength lies in a successful prayer life.

We need to pray so that the place we call the house of prayer will not be converted to a coven by the enemy. A lot of places of prayer have been turned upside down and have become graves and covens to many lives. You need to pray today because this is the hour of change.

> **2 Chronicles 7:12**
> ***"And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him,***

I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice."

The enemy has planned to turn our place of prayer to a desolate place. They have planned to move you away from your rightful position. But it is left for you to cry unto God. I pray that any enemy encamped in our midst, the Lord will chase them out, in the name of Jesus. All the agents of delay and disappointment of miracles in your life, will be wiped away by the Lord in the mighty name of Jesus.

When you discover that your prayer life is not what it is supposed to be:

1. Quickly check your prayer base. If satan attacks your prayer base, all the appetite for prayer and fasting will cease. The hour of prayer will be replaced with hours of sleep.

- When satan attacks your prayer base, you will receive constant intrusion of unfriendly friends.
- When you are occupied with so many responsibilities to the extent that you no longer have enough time to pray, then you need to address your prayer base.
- When you desire to eat too much instead of praying, you need to check your prayer base.
- When you use the time you are supposed to pray to sleep, then you need to check your prayer base.
- When you begin to lust after the flesh, you need to check your prayer base.
- When the desire to commit sin increases in your life, then you need to check your prayer base.
- When you discover that your prayer life is not going as it is supposed to be, you need to check your prayer base.
- When you examine your prayer life and discover that it is weak, you need to check your prayer base.

Check yourself to be sure that you are not controlled by satanically-induced ignorance that will destroy your prayer life.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Anybody that satan wants to use to arrest me, let the angel of God chase him away, in the name of Jesus.
2. Demonic insects, eating up my prayer life, die in Jesus Name.
3. Every curse of stunted growth in my spiritual life, break in the name of Jesus.
4. Any power assigned to rearrange God's programme for my life, die in the name of Jesus.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

James 5:17-18, Elijah was a man subject to like passion as we are and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rain not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heaven gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit.

The above scripture shows that whatever temptation you think you are subjected to, Elijah was also subjected to it, just like you. So in essence, what that bible passage is telling us in a sense is that we ought to be ashamed of our prayer life and that if Elijah, a man of like passion, could close heaven for three and half years and put the key in his pocket and walk away, He said, "what about us?". To be quite honest with you, anybody who can really pray has no problem. There is nothing that is happening that you cannot sort out on your knees. To be quiet honest with you, the power of prayer is yet to be explored to the modern day man. A lot of modern day men do not know the mysterious power of prayer. It is easier to pray than to get angry. Everything we do in the house of God, the devil can do better, the only thing the devil cannot do is to pray, because there is nobody to pray to. Many of the challenges that we are facing are only remaining because they have not seen somebody to confront them with the kind of prayer that they need to be confronted with, and I am afraid a lot of men are faced with issues that their prayer altar is too weak to deal with. Many are used to complaining and grumbling, but they are not giants in the place of prayer.

The great Apostle Joseph Babalola came back from a crusade and he was praying with his team for the night. One Sunday night, as he continue to pray, all his boys were saying amen, until everybody fell asleep. He was still on his feet praying while everybody slept but the man of God continued the prayers until the following Tuesday morning. He finally said, "in Jesus' name, I pray amen" and he opened his eyes, he asked, "Where is everybody?" They said, "Baba, you started praying since Sunday night. Today is Tuesday"

John 10:34, Jesus answered them, is it not written in your law, I said, ye are gods?

Men, do you understand the implication of this scripture? This scripture is saying that you are not an ordinary human being, but a god. God is saying all of us are little Jesus scattered all over the place. That is why we should operate in a supernatural way that people would look at us and open their mouth in wonder. We should operate in a way that witches should see us and run. We should operate in a way that if we appear in a place darkness will disappear. We should operate in a way that when we speak words, the words will bring fire and power.

A brother used to go to a church, in that church, they believe in holiness. He married a wife; another holy sister but every time, in the house the sister would slap the chest of the brother and say, "Bro, you call this one you are praying prayer". But the brother did not understand, that was what this woman used to say to him every day. Then one day, the sister rose up, locked the door of the house and threw the key under the bed and before the eyes of this brother, she became a python. The brother jumped on the bed and shouted "blood of Jesus", then the sister transformed back into her normal self and said, "this is the reason every day, I tell you ,"Bro, do you think it is prayer you are praying like this?" There are many men who do not even know where they are. You are secretly dating a sister in the office, you don't understand who she is. They are serving you tea, the person serving you tea is from the water and you don't know. Because you refuse to key into the word of Jesus Christ that says, "you are a god".

So the sister eventually told her husband, well bro, I just think I should reveal myself to you. We belong to a group of people who swallow children and vomit them in our coven". She said, "but I don't want to do it again, take me to Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries". After this, they brought the sister to my office; when I started praying, she scattered the whole of my office, turned things upside down, she ate the rug like somebody was eating meat. I had to remove the rug from her mouth eventually, the serpent left and she became okay. The holy brother was watching all this. When we finished, we said, "Okay, now you can go". He said, "Man of God, let her stay here with you, I don't see myself touching her again". I said, "You don't see yourself touching her? "Before, you were touching her when she was not delivered, is it now that she is delivered that you can't touch her?".

Is it not written in your law, I say ye are gods. I don't know whether you have

ever viewed yourself like that? If you have viewed yourself like that, you would key into that and become something that would terrify the enemy instead of them terrifying you.

A man in Lagos went to his village. He had not been to that village for twenty five years. This village was somewhere in the south west. He went on leave. That day he went to the market place to buy something, all of a sudden thunder and lightning struck a cow in the market place and the cow fell down dead. Everybody was watching as they believe that it was a taboo to eat anything killed by lightning or thunder. Everybody was looking at the dead animal but the man said, "Let us bury the animal". They replied him, "No, the sango worshipper is coming to collect it". That's what he does anytime he is hungry; he will send thunder and lightning to kill something and then come to take it away." This man was not the king, but he had the village under his control. The man from Lagos said, "Bury the cow and forget about the sango man". They told the man from Lagos, "We will bury the cow but if the sango man should come, we will tell him that you are the one that told us to bury it". The Lagos man said, "Yes, tell him that I am the one who ordered you to bury it".

Not too long after the incident, the sango man started coming down from the hill where he was staying. He was walking majestically down to the market place and when he got there, he said, "Where is the meat that my thunder has arrested?" They said, "It has been buried", he said, "What?" they said, "It is not us, it is this man that came from Lagos that told us to bury the cow." The man was not even a pastor, he was just a deacon in his church. The sango man got angry, he began incantation straight away. Immediately he began incantation, there was no rain and lightning began to strike, and you could see the sparks of the lightning coming from the top of the mountain. As the lightning was coming towards the Lagos man in the market place, what did he do? He only pointed at the lightning and direct it back to the house of the sango man. As he did so, the lightning turned on its course and struck the top of the house of the sango man destroying it. This made him so embarrassed and disgraced that he just walked back and nobody saw him again for a very long time; he was so ashamed to come out.

God told Moses, you shall be like a god to Pharoah (Exodus 7:1). People do say there are plenty of witches in their family, there is a strongman in their family,

the bible says, but you are a god; begin to operate like one. After two months, the man was able to come out, what did he do? He sent thunder again to the market place and the thunder killed a goat. Meanwhile, the deacon had gone back to Lagos, the sango man came again. Before he got to where the goat was the people had buried it. So when he came, he said, "Where is my goat that the thunder has arrested?" They said, "We buried it." He said, "You buried what? I will show you people". The people told him to go and sit down, "Is it not your thunder that somebody controlled with one finger?"

There is an anointing that takes somebody from an ordinary man and convert him to a level where he becomes a god to his enemies.

The third scripture that bothers me is in Galatians 4:1, Now say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be Lord of all.

Do you understand the implication of this scripture? What this scripture is saying is that, your father may be the owners of heaven and earth, your father may have all the facilities, but as long as you remain a spiritual baby, you are not different from the servant, and because you are not different from the servant, all kinds of forces would be pushing you here and there. Take a three year old child whose father is a billionaire, the father bought him a private jet and a jeep, and, the father parked all the documents and gave to a three year old child. Although he is the owner and the father owns all those things but because he is a child he is not different from the house boys and house girls who are looking after him because he is totally helpless, he cannot even help himself. To take a-one-year old child and put him on the street, he would be useless to himself unless he is assisted. That's why the bible says woe unto you when your king is a child and your princes are eating breakfast. You see, the problem of Christianity is that we are not growing. A lot of people are getting big horizontally not vertically. Some are getting fat but spiritually thin and as long as you do not grow, you will remain a servant, although you may be the head. The scripture tells us why a lot of deliverance is still needed; this is because we are not growing. What am I telling you? You can outgrow the need for deliverance because the heir, as long as he is a child differeth nothing from the servant; although he is the owner of everything but he is still a servant. This means that you can be a child of God and have God as your father and have all facilities in your name, but all the same, you will not get them because you have not grown. There is a level of

growth that is needed to control certain things and God will not give it to you if you are still a child. God will not give a machine gun to a six-year-old boy, it will be too much power for a small boy.

> ***1 Peter 4:18, And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?***

My late father who was a pastor finished reading his bible one day and decided to go on a three-day dry fasting and with a single prayer point: "Father, I want to make heaven". On day three, he had a revelation, he saw himself going on the narrow path. That path was so narrow that you cannot place two legs there at once, but one leg at a time. You can neither move to the right nor move to the left. As he was passing through that way, a voice came to him, "Broad is the gate that leads to destruction, while narrow is the gate that leads to life and few there be that find it". So you can't bribe me with your fasting, you need to walk in the narrow way before you can make it.

You can see that the criteria for making heaven is very strict and tough and God will not lower his standard because of anyone. People may be preaching grace all over the place and you see a pastor who sleeps with his church member and you say it is grace but the standard of the bible remains the standard of God.

> ***Matt. 20:16, So the last shall be first, and the first last, for many be called but few chosen.***

I hope you understand the implication of this verse that you just read. That is, you can't just say I have been there from the beginning. I was there when Mountain of Fire started. This is why we have to be careful and we have to pray that God will not replace us with stones. Because the Almighty can pick a terrible witch doctor, baptize him with the Holy Spirit, fill him with signs and wonders, throw him into the street, then those of us who have been born again for thirty years will be carrying his hand bag and following him around. This is why it is good to strike when the iron is hot.

> ***Rom. 8:19, For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the Sons of God.***

Beloved, this passage is telling us that there are millions out there waiting for your manifestation. Your family members are waiting for your manifestation. The entire world is waiting to see you manifest. John Wesley said, "Collect fire from on high and people will come and watch you bum."

WHAT DOES MANIFESTATION MEAN?

- It means to reveal
- It means to illuminate
- It means to advertise
- It means to announce
- It means to uncover

In other words, there are many who are multi-billionaires, kingdom-builders, but they are under cover, they are not manifesting, they are under the bushel. There are many who are supposed to do something that would change lives worldwide but they are under the shade. David was like that, he was suppose to be the next king but he did not look like a king; he was covered. In fact, they did not consider him fit enough for Samuel to even see; he was at the back of the desert. But it is the sons of God who would manifest, not a child. The scripture says, "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given". While the child had the genes to become a son, but not yet. So some remain at the child level; they refuse to manifest as a son. It is not everybody who lives in the barracks that is a soldier, so it is not all the children that are in the house of God that are sons. Paul the Apostle had two thirds of the New Testament inside his belly, yet he was so covered up that he was even busy killing the Christians he was supposed to be ministering to. Moses had the five books of the bible in his bosom, but he was rearing sheep, something was covering them up. Isaiah was the prophet of the Messiah, but he was in the palace. So it is that covering powers we want to pray against now: the evil covering that is preventing your manifestation.

Even as a pastor, a time would come when people would walk up to you and say, "Are you the man or should we look for another?" The same way people asked John the Baptist, "We are looking for the saviour, are you the man or should we look for another?" Who are you? Are you the one we are waiting for or should we look for another? There are millions of destinies attached to yours just

waiting for you to manifest. You yourself know within you that you are not where you are supposed to be, something within you is telling you that you can be better than this, but something is covering you. The bible says, "These are the horns that scatter Judah so that Judah cannot raise his head". It means there is something that brings down the heads.

That is why we call God, "the glory and lifter of my head". because there are powers that can submerge one's glory. They have covered people up and some go to the grave like that without manifesting their glory.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Any power covering my destiny and my voice, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every dark covering upon my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. My father, I am ready for my exhibition, announce me to the world, in the name of Jesus.
4. O God arise and make me a solution-provider, in the name of Jesus.
5. O God arise and make me a problem solver, in the name of Jesus.
6. Lost blessings of my father's house, I recover you now, in the name of Jesus.

THE STRATEGY OF VIOLENT PRAYERS

Matthew 11:12;

> ***"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."***

The first thing I would like you to understand as you read this book is that, there are prayers and there are prayers; there are enemies and there are enemies. A person who is battling a principality is different from a person facing a small demon. There are weapons and there are weapons. In the armoury of the Almighty, there are assorted weapons.

God has an armoury, the enemy also has an armoury, but whenever a problem becomes stubborn, whenever the enemy is on an agenda to kill and to destroy, whenever the enemy is ready to bury alive, the only way out is through violent prayers. Violent prayers are needed these days to bring stubborn situations to an end.

WHAT ARE VIOLENT PRAYERS?

They are prayers that demand that what must be must be. When you are looking at something and you know what it is supposed to be, but it is not, then you need violent prayers. Violent prayers are prayers to make those hired against you to fall like Balaam. Balaam raised seven altars against the people of Israel. Violent prayers are prayers that make evil altars to turn against their priests. They are prayers that make the enemy to die in your place. Violent prayers are prayers that bring down the fire of God.

UNIQUE PRAYERS

Violent prayers are prayers from the mouth of a desperate Christian; prayers resulting from holy madness. They are prayers to arrest the arresters. Violent prayers are words charged with the fire of the Holy Ghost to fight spiritual wars. Violent prayers are Mount Carmel prayers that Elijah prayed and fire fell.

Violent prayers are 'enough is enough' prayers. Violent prayers are prayers that swallow problems; they do not negotiate at all. Violent prayers are prayers that create greater snakes to swallow the snakes of the enemy. Violent prayers are prayers that scare the enemy; they are prayers that use the anger of God and arrows of God as a weapon. Violent prayers are prayers of the widow who said, "Avenge me of my adversaries." (Luke 18:1).

Violent prayers are prayers that use the axe of God for fighting, they are prayers to blast the altars of the enemy. Violent prayers are prayers that use the blood of Jesus; they are prayers after the order of Moses that put boils on the enemy. Violent prayers are prayers that will introduce the broom of destruction to sweep off the enemy; they are prayers that will bring forth seven angels to fight against the enemy.

Violent prayers are prayers that use the rod of iron to break the congregation of the enemy into pieces. Violent prayers are prayers that will use terrifying noises to chase the enemy out of their hiding places. Therefore, when a situation becomes stubborn, when a situation becomes the kind that wants to take your life, what you need is the prayer of violence.

VIOLENT WARRIORS

Qualifications of those who can pray violent prayers:

1. People who have surrendered their lives to Jesus.
2. Those who have repented from all known sins.
3. Those who are living holy lives.
4. Those who are desperate for a change i.e those desperate for transformation.
5. Those who are not ready to give up, i.e., persistent people.

There was riot somewhere and some people went to attack a child of God. They surrounded where she was but she looked at them through the window and said "Go away from here. If you don't go away, I shall not hesitate to call on the God of Elijah against you." They did not respond, then the lady started violent

prayers. It was the leader of the group that first somersaulted and started shouting, and then the others ran away. When the enemy is not going to rest until they take your blood, then use your most potent weapon-violent and aggressive prayers - against them.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I receive strength and power to be a warrior, and not to be a worrier, in the name of Jesus.
2. I smash the head of the strongman on the wall of fire, in the name of Jesus.
3. Let hell open its mouth without measure, and swallow all suckers of peace in my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. There shall be no regrouping or reinforcement against me, by the strongmen in my family, in the name of Jesus.
5. Let the angels of God roll the stones of fire, to hinder the strongmen in my way, in the name of Jesus.
6. I cause open disgrace to all strong in my family, in Jesus' name.
7. Let all the enemies of my soul start their days in confusion, and end them in destruction, in the name of Jesus.
8. I refuse to wear the garment of sorrow, in the name of Jesus.

IGNITING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

To everything we have in the spirit world, there are always levels. The only thing that has no level because it is general, and no one can claim to have more of it than the other, is salvation. It is either you are saved or not. There is no small, minor or major salvation. It is either you are going to heaven or you are going to hell, there is no middle camp.
But other things like faith, anointing, prayer and some of the things we do in the house of God have levels.

What you must know today is that while you remain where you are in your prayer level and use the same old weapon and measure, the enemy you are fighting against is studying your weapon. Therefore, you cannot afford to remain in your present level of prayer.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF PRAYER

In the fourth chapter of the Acts of Apostles, after the Apostles had been terribly beaten up and warned never to preach again in the name of Jesus, with death threats hanging upon their heads, they still continued, they did not give up. They rejoiced while they were undergoing torture, and for this singular act, they were counted worthy to be called the sons of God.

There was a friend of my father, who was a very good preacher. When he speaks, his voice can be as loud as someone using the microphone.

One day, he went to preach somewhere, and for some reasons that were not known, this man was arrested by the police and thrown into the cell. The cell was so narrow that the preacher could not lie down, but had to place his legs on the wall with his head lowered. He was very uncomfortable.

This man remained in this cell for two hours, and all the while, he was praying and singing choruses. But after spending the fourth hour in the cell, he stopped praying and singing choruses and said, 'O God, what kind of trouble is this?'

As he was crying, a fellow inmate on the other side of his cell shouted at him and said 'Ah, pastor, you are the one crying. That means you are a theoretical preacher. Did you not read about Peter in the Bible?'

The issue of prayer works better in theory. It is only when it comes to the practical aspect that we know those who are real prayer warriors.

When the Apostles prayed, the Bible tells us that the place in which they were gathered, shook. It was not only a spiritual shaking, but could also be felt physically.

The place was shaken to its very foundation. But right now, we have not gone half way of what the Apostles did. We even read that the knees of the Apostles made permanent marks on the floor of the apartment where they prayed in the upper room. We have not yet gotten to that level.

HOW MUCH DO YOU SURRENDER TO HIM?

That ancient song writer wrote thus:

'O, what needless pain we bear because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.'

By "everything" is meant everything, including the hair attachments on your heads and what you pour on your body. Have you asked questions from God on those things?

The eye lashes you have been scraping, the red and green paints you have been applying on your lips, nails and toes, have you asked the Lord about them? Have you taken them all to God in prayer?

Your blouses, shirts, and shoes, have you taken them to God in prayer?

By the time you take half of your life to God in prayer every morning, you would have spent one hour, except you are a spirit and do not dwell amongst people.

THE POTENCY OF PRAYER

Prayer is the key in the hands of faith to achieve great things.

Our fathers used to tell us that prayer is the staff to walk with God and to fight the devil because it is the only thing that he cannot do. But all other things we do in the house of God, satan does them extremely well.

The devil is a perfect preacher and a good singer. You do not need the organ when satan sings. But he cannot and does not pray because he has nobody to pray to.

It is an established and proven fact that a Christian is greatest on his knees. Even when the weakest Christian kneels down to pray, the devil trembles and the person who can really pray has nothing to fear because prayer can do all the things that God is able to do.

When the spirit of prayer comes upon you, that is what is called the spirit of revival. There has never been a revival that started anywhere without some people praying thoroughly. That was how the fire of prayer was ignited.

Prayer is a battle

Prayer is the spirit of revival and God's method of doing things. All the time that God has ever moved in the history of man could be traced to one man or some people somewhere kneeling down to pray.

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED THE MYSTERY IN PRAYER?

There are lots of mysterious things about prayers that most of us do not understand.

But some may want to ask, "Why should we pray at all? After all, God is Almighty and self-sufficient. Can't He just do that thing which I had asked of Him?"

Why did God device a system or plan of prayer at all?

Why should God depend upon our prayers before He acts?

> ***Ezekiel 22:30-31: And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.***

Here, God wanted to avoid issuing out well-deserved judgements upon the rebellious people. He does not want to do it, but strangely, He was helpless because there was no intercessor, there was nobody to stand in the gap.

Why then should God depend on the prayer of man before He can withhold judgement?

Why is God begging us to pray? Is it not a mystery?

There are powers in prayers that we do not yet understand.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodist Church, once said that God will do nothing except in answer to prayer.

Angels do not have the privilege of offering prayers to God except the redeemed believers.

By not praying enough then, we are not only cheating on God and the world, but also on ourselves.

> ***Exodus 32:9-10: And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.***

In the passages above, God was begging Moses to allow Him to work, to take action on the stiff-necked people. It therefore means that a man can withhold the hands of God through prayer. God told Moses to leave Him alone. He was simply saying, 'Moses, please stop praying.'

Therefore beloved, you too must refuse to leave God alone, you must not give Him peace, you must keep bombarding the heavens, and you must not give up.

Moses discovered and understood this great secret. He discovered that it was possible to hold God down until be receives an answer. This is part of the mysteries of prayer.

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!!!

Prayer does not fear opposition. Therefore, the entire responsibility for our prayerlessness falls on us, not on God.

But, you should also be aware that prayer is not easy. The flesh will aggressively object to it, for it hates to pray. If you want to become a prayer warrior, you must force yourself to pray.

There is one Negro Song that says, 'Anytime I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.' But if you are going to wait until you feel the spirit moving your heart before you pray, then the devil will make a dustbin of your head. You must force yourself to pray when you feel like and when you do not feel like

You must pray till you are in the spirit. Do not say you want to be in the spirit before you pray, but always compel yourself to pray because that is the only thing the devil cannot do. That is the one thing the devil cannot stand.

WHY MUST YOU IGNITE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Prayer is serious fighting because satan is an experienced strategist and an obstinate fighter who does not acknowledge defeat except he is forced to.

Each time you pray, satan is busy fighting the fight of his life. So, whenever you pray, you are only insisting on the victory of the Lord Jesus. You are insisting that the enemy must leave that particular spot, because he has in his kitty, only those things you allow him to use.

Therefore, you must gradually recover from satan all the lost ground. This is why prayers have to be definite and persistent.

For these reasons, general prayers sometimes do not help as your prayers must be targeted.

You must also recognise that the enemy continually renews his attack in order to recover those grounds he lost to you, and which you must defend with the last drop of your blood. How? Simply by prayer. You defend your ground by prayer.

When the devil wants to destroy a person, he first withdraws the power of prayer from that person. Once he succeeds in doing this, all other things will soon be withdrawn.

Once the prayer life of someone is becoming weaker and weaker, such a person is looking for big trouble. Therefore, you must do something to ignite your prayer life.

DO NOT REST ON YOUR OARS

All we have discussed so far is just a part of the coin. The other side of the coin is for you to believe that you have already made it. Do not say, well, I am a powerful prayer warrior and therefore do not need to improve. You are deceiving yourself, because every part of your prayer-life needs fire.

If through prayerlessness, you lose a particular area of your life to the enemy, then you are going to lose more except you wake up. The 'madness' of the early church was demonstrated in their prayer lives as buildings shook to their foundations each time they prayed. God expects us to be like the early Apostles who prayed their hearts out.

WHAT IS THE RATING OF YOUR PRAYER LIFE?

Now, what is the state of your prayer-life? Are you fervent and persistent? Are you specific? Is it not true that most of us approach God only when there is an emergency?

You must do something about this today!

Pray and get more fire. If you already have prayer fire, add more to it.

Prayer is hard work.

That Jesus sweated blood while He prayed means prayer is hard work. But a lot of prayer lives are weak.

SIGNS OF PRAYER LIFE THAT NEEDS TO BE IGNITED

When you begin to notice the following in your life, your prayer life needs to be ignited.

Praying very well when you are in a general meeting.

Praying very well when you are in a serious problem.

Inability to wait before the Lord for a long time after prayer.

Having intense fear for fasting or being the kind of person who would go and break a fast because you forgot.

When prayer time has become boring or there is loss of interest in prayer meetings.

Blaming others for prayer failures.

Inability to pray when at home after church prayer meetings.

Blaming misfortunes on prayer failure.

Sleep taking off prayer time.

Having the belief that prayers are meant for only those who are in difficulties.

Cleverly harbouring the spirit of slumber or getting tired very quickly during prayers.

Praying only with understanding and not also in the spirit.

Lack of concentration during prayer.

When newspapers, magazines and television takes away time or prayer.

Lack of prayerful friends.

Chatting with friends for hours but can only pray seriously for five minutes.

Inability to sustain a prayer point for a long.

If you never prophesy when you pray.

Living above your experience and proving to be super spiritual.

Saying that, 'I will not give testimonies of my small victories, but wait till the big ones happen', shows that your prayer-life is weak.

Having the time to entertain long list of friends, but not being able to spare any for prayers.

When we got born-again, our idea of short prayer was one hour of standing on our feet and praying at the top of our voices. Long prayers meant three days without moving an inch from the prayer venue. But the definition of long prayers

these days is ten minutes. 'Ah, he has prayed for too long and has just spoilt the whole ceremony.'

In those days, when they say let us say a short prayer it cannot be less than one hour. In those days also, you cannot dress to church as if you are attending a wedding ceremony because you could be there praying for hours.

Conversion was genuine in those days. Men lived holy lives. People could be trusted. But these days, if somebody says, 'Father, protect us, guide us, and accept all our praises, in Jesus' name, amen,' the same person that has just said these prayers goes back to his office to steal, simply because he was not praying.

There has been a misconception of what prayer is all about. Some people think that prayer is to just kneel somewhere and for a man of God to lay his hands on one's head and begin to pray. That is only when it is believed that prayers have been said. No!

Something is wrong with the spiritual life of someone, if as he goes to bed around ten p.m, he cannot wake up to pray until it is morning.

Something is wrong with the prayer life of someone who is more interested in listening to music than praying.

Something is wrong with your prayer life if you become suddenly weary and weak once they say it is prayer time.

Something is wrong with your prayer life if your heart pumps faster than it ought to each time they roll out the time table for vigils.

If your prayer-life is weak, then, something inside of you is an enemy of prayer. The thing is there, even if you do not know it.

Once bad thoughts fill your heart, your prayer life is weak.

There is a man of God in South Korea. This man of God is the pastor of the

world's largest Church. He once said something that interested me. He said in his church, once he calls out a prayer point, they will not stop until he jingles the bell, and that they are, in fact, ready to continue with the prayer point for two hours non-stop.

But here, people would want the prayer point to change or stop outright. You therefore have to assume the position of a referee.

Some people just want to excuse themselves by saying, 'The Bible says, 'Do not make repetition.' No, the Bible never said that. What it says is do not make **'vain'** repetition.

An example of vain repetition is this: Every Sunday you confess Psalm 51 and read our Lord 's Prayer.

Once you notice that your prayer-life is becoming weaker, then something is wrong.

If you notice also that your visions are becoming unclear and cloudy or you do not even see anything at all, then know that your prayer-life needs more fire.

May be you are the kind of believer whose ear is like that of Samuel but you hear nothing. However, you know that something wants to talk to you, because you feel a kind of buzzing in your ear, then your prayer life is weak.

Now, what are we going to do? Our prayer lives need fire. We need to change the gear level of our prayer lives and take it to the level where God wants it to be.

THE WAY OUT

TAKE AUTHORITY OVER THE SPIRIT OF WEAKNESS

It is a spirit that causes weakness in prayer.

TAKE AUTHORITY OVER THE SPIRIT OF DRYNESS

You must take this to your heart if you want to swallow the fire of prayer that there is a spirit that hinders people from praying the way they ought to. You may say well, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. In that case, you must pray against that spirit which makes the flesh weak.

PLAN AND KEEP YOUR PRAYER TIME

You cannot leave the most important thing on earth without plan. If morning time is the best time for you to pray, stick to it, and if it is in the evening, then hold on to it religiously. Do not pray a plan-less prayer or any time prayer. You must have a regular time when you meet with the Lord. What most of us do not know about God is this: God will be waiting and eager to meet with you at a particular time once He knows you have formed the habit or dedicated a particular time to meet with Him, either in the morning, afternoon or evening. He will be waiting for you even before you get there.

The moment your prayer-life becomes irregular, it will be difficult for God to hear you and the enemy will start to cheat you.

PRAY AS YOU HAVE NEVER PRAYED IN THE PAST

Our flesh is a rebellious child that can still be tamed. It can be made to succumb, to comply with our dictates. It is just like the brain. If you decide that you want to be lazy, your brain will agree with you. For example, when you are told to memorize a verse in the scriptures, and you make excuses indicating how worn-out and tired your brain has become, then, the brain will surely agree with your assertion.

But when you forcefully put the word in there, even when your brain is trying to reject it, the thing would have no option than to stick.

It is the same thing with prayer. Pray like you have never prayed before. Move up from five to ten minutes before praying time and increase your prayer tempo.

PROLONG YOUR PRAYER TIME

You must forcefully prolong your prayer time. Though it may be difficult at the start, but once it sees that you are serious, then it will co-operate.

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT FOR AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR A DAY

This instruction is for those who want to ignite their prayer lives, those who want to pray to a particular level that God will be showing them what is happening without sleeping.

PRAY SILENTLY WHEN YOU ARE NOT ENGAGED IN ANY ACTIVITY

You can pray while sitting in the bus or while driving. That is why the Bible says we should pray without ceasing.

DELIVER YOURSELF FROM THE SCHOOL OF SLEEP

It is you who have to deliver yourself from this school. You have to stop sleeping because you must pray, and do not stop your praying because you must sleep.

BE SKILLED IN FASTING

Thank God for the Mountain of Fire and Miracles 'Power Must Change Hands' programme which has taught many people some level of fasting.

LEARN TO OPERATE THE 'PUSH' FORMULAR

The word PUSH means, Pray Until Something Happens. Learn to operate this formular. Do not give up midway into your praying. PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS.

BE HOLY

You must be holy when you pray to God. If you are not, your prayer becomes an abomination before God. The Scriptures affirm that the prayer of a sinner is an abomination before God.

CULTIVATE THE HABIT OF PRAYING OVER EVERYTHING BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME IN THE MORNING, LIFT UP YOUR ITINERARY BEFORE GOD.

KEEP YOUR TONGUE FROM SPEAKING EVIL

As long as your tongue has no control, your prayer-life will have no power.

PRAY, NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL

Whether you feel like it or not, pray. Take the offensive, do battle at the gate of the enemy, and always be battle conscious.

Beloved, these are the keys you need to be able to put more fire into your prayer life. They must be applied to the letter if your prayer life must receive that needed uplifitment.

Now, if you know that your prayer life is down, please, lay your right on your chest and say the following prayers vigorously. God does respect sincere prayers from deep down in the heart.

The disciples of our Lord Jesus never asked Him for any material thing. All they said was, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' These men prayed and got results. They turned the city upside down with prayers.

There is nothing prayer cannot do. Once the prayers are not enough, the power too would not be enough. The arm of God can only respond to violent praying.

A growing church is a church that prays, and a praying church is a church that

grows.

Now, you are going to cry to the Lord.

PRAYER POINTS

1. O Lord, pour into my life, the spirit of prayer, in the name of Jesus.
2. Let spiritual blindness depart from my prayer-life, in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord, make me a prayer champion, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every enemy of prayer in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every benefit that prayerlessness has stolen from me, be returned, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, ignite my prayer-life with Your fire, in the name of Jesus.
7. Let my hand become the sword of fire in the name of Jesus. (Raise up your right hand while you pray).
8. I cut down every demonic tree planted against my life, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let my legs become the thunder of God, in the name of Jesus.
10. I trample upon serpents and scorpions, in the name of Jesus.
11. O Lord, increase my prayer temperature, in the name of Jesus.
12. O Lord, let every locust, caterpillar and palmer-worm assigned to eat the fruit of my labour be roasted by the fire of God, in the name of Jesus.
13. The enemy shall not spoil my testimony, in the name of Jesus.

O LORD, WAKE UP MY PRAYER FIRE

It is one thing to come before the Lord; it is another thing to leave His presence with something. It is true that blessing abounds where He reigns, but we have many examples in the Scriptures of those who went to His presence but left with punishment. Some went and came out with blessings. Some went and their lives were never the same.

It is one thing to attend a service; it is another thing to meet God. Now, we will challenge some structures that have been hindering so many people from seeing the Lord, quenching the fire of God in their lives and have been burning their destinies.

I want to give you an analogy about the types of churches we have in Nigeria.

One day, a man fell into a dry well and could not get himself out. While he was in the well, several visitors came to see him.

The first visitor that came was Brother Sympathy. He said, 'I feel for you that you are inside this well. Ah what a pity!' Yet Brother Sympathy walked away, leaving the man in the pit.

Then came the number two visitor, Brother Logic. When he saw the man inside the well, he said, 'It is logical that somebody must fall inside this thing by its location. It is logical, so remain inside.' He then walked away.

The number three visitor, Brother Condemner shouted and said: 'Only hard people like you fall into this kind of well.' It is stupid, foolish idiots like you that fall into pit.' This Brother too walked away and the man remained in the well.

Fourth visitor, Sister Mathematician came along and said, 'Let me calculate how you could have fallen into this well. What is the circumference of the well?' She calculated everything, noted it and went away.

The fifth visitor, Sister Journalist came and said, 'Yes, this one will make a very good story. Can you narrate how you managed to fall into this place?' After sometime, she walked away and the Brother was left unrescued.

Then came visitor number six, Brother Judgement. He said, 'You deserve this pit, stay there', and walked away.

Sister Self-pity came along and said, 'You fell into the well? You have not seen anything yet, until you see my own well. Don't worry, stay there.' The Brother remained in the well.

After sometime, another visitor, Brother Charismatic came along. He said, 'You are inside the well, begin to confess that you are already out.' The man began to confess. Brother Charismatic went away and the man was still in the well.

Very soon the ninth visitor, Brother Holiness came and said, 'You are a sinner, your sins made you fall into this well. So suffer for your sins. Now, cry, moan and be sober inside the well.' Brother Holiness walked away.

Then came Brother Hope. He said, 'Do not worry, things could be worse. You are inside a well, you should thank God that you are not inside a dungeon. Manage it, some people are in worse condition than yours.' Still, there was no solution and the man remained in the well.

Later, Brother Faith came and said, 'Well the reason you fell in was that you had no faith. If you have faith, you will walk out.' Brother Faith went away and the man remained in the pit.

Then came visitor number twelve. Her name was Prophetess. Sister Prophetess started speaking in tongues and said, 'Hear the word of the Lord, things will get worse inside that well. Yet there are angels with you inside the well. So enjoy yourself.'

The fellow remained inside the well.

Then came visitor number thirteen, Brother Prayer Warrior. He says, 'Get out of this well, in the name of Jesus. By whatever method you want to, just get out, in the name of Jesus.' Then Jesus appeared, and rescued the man out of the pit.

I hope you understand the truth behind this analogy? I will not say more than that.

Many people do not seem to understand the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. Many commit sin with their mouths every day because they do not understand MFM.

It is very simple. There are different categories of soldiers. In the armed forces, you find drivers, nurses, musicians, etc., some carry Madam's bag to the market and follow her about. There are those who blow trumpets, those who clean the armoury and mechanics; all these are soldiers.

However, when there is war, there is a particular group of soldiers called the combatant soldiers. The church of God is like the Armed Forces with different departments as named above. The Mountain of Fire and Miracle happens to belong to the combatant one.

Many people do not understand. It is like a woman who went to the market and found a grenade, a small bomb. She did not know what it was. She took it and put it in her basket of yams. She exchanged pleasantries with people as she went along the road. Suddenly, there was an explosion. Both her yam tubers and her head went the same direction. Why did this happen to that woman? She did not understand. That is why sometimes when we see things that are bad, we scream. When we see civilian Christians, we scream at them to drop whatever it is they are holding that is against the word of God.

Some people would say, what is wrong with them in that place, i.e., MFM. Nevertheless, if you have not seen a grenade before, simply because you are not the combatant type of soldier, you may be playing with it.

That is why, for example, when we see some people having attachment in their hair, we tell them to remove it. The person in question would often say, 'Jesus

has delivered me, I can put on anything.'

You do not blame them because that is their level of reasoning.

Most times when we warn these types of people, they usually disobey until it explodes on their faces. Then they rush down to MFM. If you have never seen the Queen of the Coast in your life, you will not understand some prayers we pray here. Nevertheless, whoever has seen what the Queen of the Coast like, will scream at whosoever dresses like her. He would then tell the person not to dress similarly. Most times the reply is, 'That is how our pastor's wife dresses.' Your pastor's wife could then be one of them inside the water.

If you have never seen witches eating people up, when you pray some prayers, you would only wonder, what manner of prayer this is? When we say, "vomit", and you vomit just little of what you should vomit, you must have to continue with that prayer until you get to total deliverance.

Nevertheless, when a Christian warrior sees the things that other Christians do not see, he becomes aggressive in the spirit. We are not saying anybody will end in hell-fire because they cannot see, but maybe they might just have decided to remain in a more relaxed department. If you are not facing any problem, you can afford to go to a church where all you do is clap for the preacher. However, when you finish your ceremony in church and get home, the spirit will tell you, 'I am here.'

THE MYSTERIES OF PRAYER

> ***Psalm* 65:2: *O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.***

Most people are not born again but the Bible says, *'Unto thee shall all flesh come.'*

This means, before the people of God are saying the prayers, no flesh can stand before Him. This is because the fellow who is going to answer the prayers, it is to Him that all flesh report. He has control over everything.

Isaiah 64:1: Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence.

What is able to put a hole in the heavenlies and blast the place open? It is the mystery of prayers.

Many of you must have heard me share this testimony. Let me share it again for the benefit of those who have never heard me share it.

A young student of about 11 years went to a seminar on prayer. An unusual preacher graced the occasion. He said that any believer who does not pray is not wise. He also said that all Christians can pray, and that any Christian that does not pray for one hour per day in this Nigerian environment is wasting his time.

This student took the lesson and when she got back to her school where she was a boarder, she decided to put what she learnt at the seminar into practice. So every day, she prayed for an hour before going to bed. She religiously did this every day until one day, at night, as she knelt down to start her prayers, she noticed that in the dormitory, all the young people were restless. They could not sleep well.

She also noticed that in the midst of all that was happening, as she was praying, a bird flew into the dormitory. She rose, took her bathroom slippers and slapped the bird down. She took the bird, put it in a locker and went back to her prayers. After this event, Strange enough, she noticed that normalcy enveloped the whole place when she locked up the bird. She then prayed her normal prayer and went to sleep.

At 6.00 am, the dormitory bell blasted everybody awake. Everybody rose in response except a particular young girl. They dragged her down from her bed, poured water on her, someone pinched her but she did not wake up. Then they reported to the principal and brought the school nurse who tried to wake up the young girl. All this was without success. It was almost 8.00 a.m and everybody looked on helplessly at the situation. They were looking at the young girl who was breathing but did not wake up.

After sometime, the young student told them about what she saw the previous night.

"Sir, when I was praying in the night, I saw a bird and slapped it down, and put it in my locker, she narrated. The principal only replied with contempt and asked her for the bird. As she opened her locker thinking that the bird was dead, the bird flew out and went to the sleeping girl, pecked her nose three times and flew away. Then the young girl woke up.

There was pandemonium all over the place. Some male teachers wet their pants. Some teachers were afraid and threatened to resign.

The power of the prayer of a small young girl turned the fortune of the school around. Before that, they noticed that for several years, they had rated the school low until this incident happened.

FIRE

When a person says fire, it can mean several things. The mystery of prayer can take invisible things and convert them to visible. The mystery of prayers can trap a witchcraft bird, keep it alive, and disgrace it.

Those of you who have been attending MFM for a while, will remember a day when prayers were going on and a witchcraft bird fell and turned into a human being. This is not just a fabricated story because I talked to the woman myself. I asked her what she was doing here.

'Actually, Our assignment is not here, it is at the University of Lagos we have a mission. If we knew you were having a vigil, we would not have flown across this place,' she said. I asked her if she would give her life to Jesus who has the greatest power, she declined and said, 'No, God forbid, I cannot give my life to Jesus.'

The anointing of these last days will be of fire. When we say, "Fire", it can mean flame, it can mean heat and light from something burning. It can mean to set ablaze or make hot. It can mean to inflame. Many do not understand the prayer

in which we say, 'Come out by fire.' It means, if you are stubborn, let fire chase you out. As you know, fire has an unfriendly nature. When fire enters the forest, it does not discriminate between the mosquitoes and the elephants.

THE NEED FOR PRAYER

Prayer is a mysterious thing. It is so mysterious that some people sometimes ask, why should we pray at all? After all, God is the Almighty and self-sufficient; He knows what we need. Why do we need to ask? Why is God requesting for prayers? Can God give any help outside Himself? Why did God devise a system of prayer at all? How and why does God depend on this intercession of men?

> ***Ezekiel* 22:30: *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.***

God is looking for somebody who will stand in the gap. He said to Abraham that if He finds forty righteous men in Sodom, He will not destroy it. Abraham never stopped there, but went further to ask God, 'Sorry, sir, supposing you find thirty-five righteous men?' He said, 'I will spare them.'

Abraham kept giving particular numbers until he got to number 10. God says, 'If I find ten, I will spare them.' If Abraham had gone further and may be he says one, perhaps, God would not have destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. However, he stopped at ten, and God also agreed with him on 10, righteous. Abraham felt that there should have been at least ten righteous people there.

Many people are very quick at criticizing their pastors but are not willing to stand in the gap by interceding for them. They invited me to a meeting, and when I got there, I took the microphone, knelt down and asked them to pray for me. All of them began to grumble and told me, it is I that should pray for them. They virtually refused to pray for me. They do not understand Scriptures. Paul said, 'Brethren, pay for us.'

God is helpless without someone's intercessory prayer and this will not be completely understood until we get to heaven. No wonder the Bible says, 'Pray

without ceasing' (II Thess. 5:17). Don't stop praying. It did not say, preach without ceasing or sing without ceasing. But it says, 'Pray without ceasing'.

Why should God depend on our prayer before He can execute judgement? Why is God literally begging us to pray?

Angels have not been given the privilege of praying at all. Only the redeemed have been given the privilege. So by not praying enough, it means we are not only cheating on God, the world and our generation, we are cheating ourselves. That is why somebody said, "prayer is the greatest privilege of a redeemed soul".

Prayer is a weapon in our conflicts. Prayer is a defence in the moment of peril and retreat in the season of exhaustion. Prayer is the mightiest force in the universe. One praying man or woman shut up with God will shake the devil's kingdom. He does not have to leave his room to make a difference. That is the mystery of prayer.

If you see the wonder-working anointing God has deposited into prayer, many of us will not need any persuasion before we pray. All the traders in the garden of our hearts, the prayer quenchers, should be dealt with, then we will see miracles happening.

Sometime ago, I was in MFM Port-Harcourt. There was a brother there; when they called a prayer point, his academic brain took over. The prayer point was, 'Let every satanic pest running after my life die.' He prayed the prayer point anyway. When he got home, in his sitting room, there was a large rat in the centre of the room. It was dead. The brother was very happy. Then he realised the importance of the prayer he prayed earlier in church. He then took the big dead rat, wrapped it in order to show the pastor. Before he got to where he parked his car, a mad man on his way home took a big stick and broke all the car windows. When he got there, they did not surprise him. He knew that when the enemy is about to be defeated, they get desperately angry. They do all kinds of terrible things because they know that their end has come.

When I came back from England, they gave me a flat somewhere. We normally prayed before going to bed. I did not know that the prayers were causing so

much disturbance. A woman was about 50 or 100 metres away from my flat. I had never seen this woman before. One day, she wrote a petition against me to my office. She reported that I usually wake up at 3.00 am and shout till 6.00 am. She called me 'Ashewo', i.e. a prostitute, thief and all kinds of names. She said all kinds of terrible things. In the last paragraph of her letter, she said, 'People like Dr. Olukoya are not supposed to be living in a civilized place like this. We should give a place to them around Mushin.'

They sent a copy of the petition to me. I read it several times and I was not clear with the content because I did not know what she was talking about. One day, the woman complained as usual that my noise was too much. She came to my office and demanded to see me. Then, I happened to enter the office she was but she did not know I was the one. I just sat. Somebody then confronted the woman and said, 'The person you said was shouting is right here before you.' Then said: 'This one does not look like a trouble maker.' The next minute, the woman said, 'It is him, he is the one.' I was a little puzzled. She said, 'He is not the only one, there are also other people with him.'

I said, 'I am the only one, I live alone.' Then off we went to my residence with policemen and other people in my office. The woman entered, looked under every chair, entered the bedroom and searched everywhere. After sometime, she said, 'They have all gone to work, they will soon come back.' Even people who followed me from my place of work were almost believing her. That is the devil.

The day God delivered me from the troublesome woman, I was far away in Cuba somewhere in Havanna, the capital. The woman, I was told, went again to my place of work and reported that I have started again; but they told her I was far away in Cuba. So it was then they knew that what she was saying was not true. It was at this point they told her that she had a problem. It took me time to realist that those prayers I prayed at night were the cause of the problems.

Then the words of the Scriptures about the Syrian army became clear to me. When we say 'O Lord, ordain terrifying noises against my enemies', they would just be hearing noises, but will not know the source of the prayers.

Despite the oppression of the children of Israel they multiplied in Egypt. When somebody is going through a hard time, it brigs out the best in him or her.

Opposition is what will show you where the real fire of God is. The more you stir the fire, the more it burns. So any problem you may be going through now, they are growth classes. With due apology, many of us would not have become prayer warriors if not for household witchcraft attacks. I hope we all understand what I am talking about.

One night, a man woke up and found out that some people were discussing inside his room. 'How many pints of blood is left in him? "Three. Let us leave him for now. We come next week to drink the rest." When the man looked around, he found nobody. Suddenly he heard, 'Switch off that light.' He then shouted, "Jesus" and ran out.

The man came and narrated this incidence to me. I asked the professor and said, 'Why did you not tell them, this is the house of a professor.' Then he said, 'Dr. Olukoya, that is not what we are talking about, but why should they be meeting in my parlour?' The Professor became a prayer warrior by force. Let us look at Exodus 32 verse 9-10:

> ***And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.***

The Lord told Moses in verse 10, 'Now therefore, leave me alone.' What does this mean? It means a man can withhold the hand of God through prayer. God told Moses, 'Leave me alone, stop this prayer. Leave me and let me destroy these stiff-necked people', but Moses did not let God rest. You must keep bombarding heavens because your miracles are on the way. You must not give up. The Bible says 'You who remember the name of Jehovah, give Him no peace until He has established Jerusalem and make her a praise in the earth. 'That is, you should keep bombarding heaven.

Moses discovered this great secret. He discovered that holding onto God was possible until he received the answers.

I was talking with somebody recently. The person was challenging us and asking

why we always repeat prayer points. Then I decided to give him a small lecture. We started from Jacob. The man said, 'Unless thou bless me, I will not let you go.' I said, "How long does it take to pray the prayer point you just mentioned?' 'Well in about a few seconds or so", he replied. Now tell me another prayer point the man was praying, and I asked his again. He said, 'The Bible says that was what He was saying.' At the end, the man could see reason going by biblical truth.

Our conversation went on. I also told him about the prayer Elijah prayed to bring back the rain after locking the heavens for three and half years. I reminded him that Elijah can achieve this after fervently praying seven times. It was not until after praying the seventh time that the boy Elijah sent to check for the signs of rain came back and gave positive reports that he saw the sign of a man's hand. Even when he was saying the prayers, he put his head between his knees. Maybe you should try it and put your head between your laps to pray. You cannot even sleep in that posture unless you are a witch. We do not know how long it took Elijah to pray, but he did not have another prayer point.

The prayer Elijah prayed to release the rain was very difficult as you can see. Still, on the lecture with my friend, I mentioned the experience of Jesus Christ in the garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus said one prayer three times. That is, three sessions of prayer. He was hammering the same prayer point, 'Lord, if this is Your will, take away this cup from me.' The Bible says, He prayed this prayer, and repeated the word. After hearing this, my friend then admitted that he understood. I thereafter asked him if he wanted to be convinced more. He said it would not be necessary but that he does not believe in repeating prayers because the Bible says, "Do not make vain repetition". I pointed out the fact that the Bible did not say don't make repetition but vain repetition.

In fact, Jesus had to touch a man twice before he could see. He touched him the first time and asked him if he could see anything. The blind man said, 'I see men standing as trees.' Then Jesus touched him again, then he affirmed that he could see. I do not know how many divine touches you have received, but you would not miss anything if you can have another.
The mystery of prayer does not recognise geographical distance. A man can sit in his sitting room and be affecting Russia. He could just sit down there and be causing pandemonium somewhere else.

One brother in his place of work always prays. When others are cracking jokes, he is busy praying. Soon they promoted him to the post of a supervisor, then to the post of the manager, leaving behind the other casual workers.

The prayer warrior is a man that can bring things out of the pit whether that thing likes to come out or not.

> ***Luke 18:39: And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.***

What brought the best in blind Bartimeus was opposition. The people opposed him. This made him develop the spirit of a fighter. He kept on shouting. That is why they say, 'Winners never quit and quitters never win.' Those who run away from prayer meeting because no one has solved their problems are blind bats. It could just have been the next blow that would stop their problems, but they fail to apply it. This is because the time they have been blowing hard on the wall, it would have been cracking but at the point they expect them to give it the result yielding blow, i.e. the one that will bring down the cracked wall, they retreat. Eventually, such people backslide. The next thing is that you find them in a dead church where they could easily satisfy their lust and meet their ungodly needs.

Most of the people that fall into this category come from homes infested with witches and wizards. The uncle could even be a herbalist.

There was a young woman who comes regularly to our church. Her sister wanted to deliver a baby and was to be operated upon. But she did not want the operation. So she rushed to the hospital with a bottle of anointing oil and got there on time. They were just about to wheel the pregnant woman into the theatre when she got in. She stopped them. The doctor at first declined, but the young woman was bent on giving her sister the anointing oil and she held tight to the bed.

She remained adamant until one of the doctors said they should allow her. As the anointing oil got into the mouth of the dying woman in labour, it was as if a divine thunder struck, the baby popped out right there at the entrance of the

operation theatre.

When the medical team saw what happened their perspective changed. The doctors said, 'Give us that oil,' She refused and said, "You were struggling with me before and would not let me. Now you are demanding for the oil."

If you run away from prayer meetings, the enemies would remobilise and reconstitute their forces and rebuild their walls that you have broken before. If the broken walls did not have pillars, they will introduce iron pillars. So when you eventually see the reality of lie and come back, you will start afresh. That time, those that were praying for you, God might have promoted them. They will not be available to pray for you again and the new ones may not have time for you, so be wise.

> ***Luke 24:24-29: And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is fur spent. And he went into tarry with them.***

Jesus had already been crucified and he was resurrected. The people were very sad and were complaining about Jesus being killed. They were telling stories. It is from the above passage the words of that beautiful hymn came: *'Abide with me thus come the men tide.*'

This is another incident to show you that you can constrain God. Jesus made as if He would keep going. It made the disciples to want more. We need to intensify our desire for God. If you have never experienced the supernatural, you must increase your desire. God is doing as if He is going away, you must then constrain Him to stay with you.

The Bible wants us to keep worrying God. Like that widow in the book of Luke 18. She says, 'Avenge me of my adversaries.' She kept saying the same thing every day. Then the judge, who was worn out of the woman's plea, decide to oblige. When you seek God, you must seek Him with the whole of your heart.

Now if you are Nigerian, not a white man, know what you are facing. If you go to a white man and tell him about a cauldron of darkness, he may not understand what you are talking about. He may say, "Macbeth is a play written by a white man known as Shakespeare". But to a black man, it is a different thing. His (the black man) manner of praying to address things is different from that of a white man.

A fellow from MFM went to America to preach and called some prayer points about household wickedness and some white men began to pray. Some of them fell down and began to vomit some substances from their mouths. They surprised the preacher who came from MFM. He was shocked that even the whites have household wickedness.

Somebody praying in London is different from somebody praying in Lagos. That is why unseen forces work hard to keep us from praying. They do not mind our singing, and they do not mind the preaching, long as far as you do not pray. You can teach anything you want to teach as long as you do not pray.

The largest single church in the world is in South Korea, headed by a man of God called Youngi Cho. The man tells people that the secret is prayer. I have been seen a very big Nigerian pastor who wrote in one of his books that anything he achieves, he achieved by wisdom and not by prayer. However, the man with the largest church in the world says the secret is prayer.

This large South Korean Church will challenge you. Once the pastor gives them a prayer point, if he does not jingle the bell, they can continue till the following day. But here, when we pray for just 10 minutes, some people will keep quiet by themselves. Some will be looking at their wristwatches. Others will remember that there are mosquitoes. God will help us and wake up our prayer fire.

Luke 18:1-7: And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that

men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

You must know that anywhere Jesus is speaking, His words are to be taken very seriously. It is not just one of the prophets speaking. This is the One who sent the prophets. What Jesus says in this passage means there is a 'fainting spirit' that can affect prayers. It is whether you are praying or not praying or you are fainting.

We can see from the above passage, a woman who refused to allow her prayer fire to die, in spite of the delay she experienced in getting an answer.

The subject of prayer is deep and mysterious. Happy is the man whose prayer fire is burning all the time. Because of the depth and power of prayer, unseen forces are working very hard to keep us from praying. They would not keep us from mumbling words, or from saying words that would only get to the ceiling, but will keep us from praying serious prayers. The unseen powers work hard at this. They are not bothered if you memorise scriptures, and know how to do praise and worship. To them, all things are good, as long as you are not praying. But when with the knowledge you have, you add prayer, there will be a mighty release of fury from the bottom of hell fire.

The power of prayer is beyond human reasoning, since it is not the kind of thing you sum up. That is why people have said that prayer is one of the three pillars that upholds the Christian. The other two are the word of God and holiness. These are the three pillars on which the life of a Christian stand. If you remove these three, a Christian will be in a very serious trouble.

You can say, 'I like to pray, but I just cannot live a holy life or read the bible' or

you can say 'I want to be holy but I cannot study the word of God.' You won't get very far if these are your notions. But of all the three things I have said, the one the devil contest with the most is prayer.

As I used to say, prayer is the only thing the devil cannot do. He can sing and shout and he can preach. Even somebody has said that the devil is the best 'pastor' because he knows the address of every member and visits them regularly. But what he cannot do is to pray, because there is nobody he can pray to.

It has been said that a Christian is greatest on his knees and that an hour spent with the Lord is greater than ten hours spent with any peacher or friend. So if you ask me the most important preoccupation of the devil now, I will tell you that it is keeping men from praying.

The man who can really pray has nothing to fear, and when you begin to pray, the am of God has a deep and mysterious way of responding. No matter how the enemies try, prayers do not die.

Someone could have prayed twenty years before and the manifestation can be coming now. So it would be wrong to say, 'I have prayed and nothing is happening.' If God opens your eyes to see what is happening, you will be rejoicing and even pray more.

HOW DO WE WAKE UP OUR PRAYER FIRE?

This is the key point in this lesson. You must repent and confess any sin of prayerlessness. If the devil cannot beat you in your prayer, he cannot beat you anywhere. The sins of prayerlessness must be confessed and repented of completely.

You must go to a place where you can receive a spiritual release of prayer. That is, you must go to a house of God where prayer is top priority, where there are no ceremonies and there is absolute concentration on the right spiritual things. It is a disaster when you have a five-hour service and you spend three hours dancing; one hour for the collection of offerings; 30 minutes and five minutes for sermon and prayers respectively.

The apostles in the Bible prayed along with the people. They all prayed together. They did not give a single person the authority to pray while others say amen. Everybody prayed. The Bible tells us that after the apostles have been beaten-up and warned not to preach anymore in the name of Jesus. They were sent away. The bible says, 'They went back to their own company and reported to them.' And when they said this, they lifted up their voice in one accord and started praying. The Bible says, 'When they were praying, the house where they gathered in shook.

How many of us have been to a prayer meeting where the whole church and the ground shake when they pray? That's why I said we have not started praying yet. So you must go to a place where you can have mighty spiritual release to pray.

Some people come to our Wednesday prayer meetings. They pray like fire, receive fire, but the graveyard of 'churchism' and ceremonies have swallowed them up, so they come back again to receive fresh fire, having lost the first one they received. What a tragedy!

Take authority over fire quenchers and dryness. There are certain spirits that attack people according to their weakness to paralyse their prayer lives.

The spirits which perpetrate this evil differ from person to person. For some people, it is to keep them too busy, for some they are made unhappy. For some people, it is poverty and depression to other people. These anti-prayer spirits are numerous and act differently. What they do is to dribble men according to their nature.

Some people can pray and people acknowledge them for that. But the enemy could give them the wrong prayer points. So he would be praying the wrong prayers in spite of the fact that he prays hard. This depicts the kind of evil spirit fighting against him.

To some people, it is anger. They get so angry that their bodies would be shaking and so they won't be able to pray. For some, it is malice. For some, it is overeating etc. So, the devil assigns demons against people that suit or control their natural or fleshly habits.

If you are the type who overdresses, you waste your time before the mirror for two hours dressing up. That is the anti-prayer spirit that will be working against you.

For some people, it is the television or soccer. So according to the weakness of men, the devil arranges and assigns against them anti-prayer spirits.

For some, it is marital discord; because of the marital problems, they will not be able to pray.

For some, it is sickness. If a person is sick and begins to climb five staircases at a stretch. At the end, he pants hard and becomes weak. With this, it might be too difficult for him to pray effectively. This is his own anti-prayer spirit. So we must take authority over those spirits that quench fire and cause dryness.

SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

What do we mean by spiritual dryness? This is when a person says the same thing everyday. Men and women who pray like that do not always study their Bibles.

You must repent and confess the sin of prayerlessness. You must make it a habit to go to a place where you can receive a spiritual release to pray. The anointing for prayer is supposed to be in all churches. But the reality is that it is not so.

Take authority over the prayer quenchers and spiritual dryness.

I have been trying to explain to you that these anti-prayer spirits are like a custom-built car made for each person. That is how the devil has organised it. So the prayer-quencher of sister 'A' is different from that of sister 'B'.

We thank God for what he has been teaching us. We don't teach people to overdress. MFM could not be bothered about how beautiful or ugly you are. The important thing is for you to make heaven and to subdue your oppressor. When you insist on looking the way you want, nobody would object but when it takes

priority over your spiritual life, you will be in trouble.

You should know that the longest you can live here could be 120 years or so. But by the time you are this old, you become useless to everybody, including yourself. Know that eternity is coming which would be much longer than the world we are in now.

This body of clay to which so many of us are paying so much attention, that we don't have time to do what we should do, will die and disintegrate to dust. But the spirit man is the one that will stand.

How can somebody sit for two days plaiting her hair? When they do a part one day, the next day they go to the salon to continue the other part, attaching demonic hair on their heads. May God help us.

You must decide to pray the way you have never prayed before. This means, you must decide that, "Okay, if that is the situation, I must improve it with prayers".

Have a regular plan for prayer and keep them up. Sit down on Sunday and take your Pen, draw a time-table of prayer and you effectively keep to the plan.

Intentionally prolong your prayer time. If you have been praying from 6.00-6.30 p.m. you can prolong it intentionally.

Reorganise your prayer altar if it has collapsed. Take positive actions to reorganise your prayer altar. If the family altar too is not functioning, make efforts to reorganise it. Start afresh. There is no sin in this.

Learn to pray silently under your breathe when you are not consciously engaged in any activity. Pray silently when you are in the car or in the bus. This way you are charging your praying battery.

Pray in tongues for at least 30 minutes a day. You can pray in tongues for 15 minutes in the morning and before you go to bed, you do the last 15 minutes of praying in tongues. This will awaken your prayer battery. This also means it is

very important that you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Fill your heart with God's words as it will boost your prayer life. There was a time I talked about the techniques of memorising the bible. The message was titled the 'Table of your Heart.' So if you want to memorise the word of God, it is in that message. The Bible knowledge of so many people is very shallow. We have some people who are 'prayer-point factories'. But in bible knowledge, they score zero. The devil can use this against you.

Sometimes, they pray the wrong prayer because of the inadequate knowledge of the word of God. You will pray the wrong prayers without the knowledge of the word of God.
Ask the Lord to give you power to concentrate. The day you get this kind of release then you begin to enjoy prayers. The reason many of us do not see or hear anything is because we cannot concentrate. Many cannot do something consistently, for example, 30 minutes prayer without taking your mind off. You need to ask God for the grace to pray for long period.

I must tell you that prayer is hard work and it is not a lazy man's work. If you say you are going to pray when you feel like it, you will never pray. Pray when you feel the presence of God and pray also when you don't feel His presence. Whether His presence is manifest or not, put yourself into the prayers and start praying. If you want to follow what that Song says, *'Anytime I feel His presence moving in my heart I'll pray'*, you will never pray.

Pray whether you are happy or not. This is because if in the period of unhappiness, you run away from prayers, the enemy may remobilize and the battle will becomes hotter.

Pray when answer comes quickly and when there seems to be no answer.

If God is to use your mouth in a powerful way, you must keep your tongue from evil. If God must use your tongue to affect your generation, you must keep it away from evil.

Pray on small and big issues. There is nothing too little to pray on. Even your dressing and wherever you are going. You become a prayer warrior on everything. That songwriter says, 'We lose many benefits because we do not take everything to God in prayer.'

Do not maintain just one posture during prayer. Sometime stand, some other time, sit. You must feel free to change your posture when praying so that you will not get tired and find it difficult to maintain your concentration.

Have a hideout for prayer. It could be in your room. It could be somewhere secluded where you can always go to pray.

Instead of worrying over your cares, take them to the Lord in prayer.

Fast frequently. If you have been fasting from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon before, you may change it from 10.00 to 6.00 p.m, so that your prayer could be effectual.

Believe the Lord as you pray.

> ***I Samuel 12:19-24: And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king. And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.***

Samuel in this passage says 'God forbid that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing . . . .' This is telling us that prayerlessness is a sin. Real prayer is like

wrestling, it is a struggle. Many modern-day Christians and churches are failing in the school of prayer.

When a person is not praying the way he is expected to pray, he is sinning against God; he is sinning against the pleasant power and promises of God. Unfortunately prayerlessness has become a stronghold in the lives of many.

In view of the above, we shall go into serious practical prayer before we round off this lesson. God told Ezekiel, "Can these bones live?" These were bones that were dead and dry. But God asked Ezekiel if they can live. This question is very interesting. Prophet Ezekiel would have seen it as perplexing. The bones were not only only dead and dry, but were also scattered.
Prophet Ezekiel looked very well at the situation which seemed terribly impossible. The problem is this, there are thousands of bones in the valley. Who will merge them together? I mean it was virtually impossible.

The second problem is that there were no flesh on the bones. The question is, who will add flesh to them? Even if there is flesh, they were all dead, how can they live?

But God asked, "Can these bones lives? Ezekiel contemplated on the question and said, 'O God, thou knowest?"

Then God told him to prophesy to the dry bones, and as he did, the miraculous started. There was the sound of noise, the rattling of the bones as they tried to locate themselves. The bones were trying to form up. This is the power and the mystery of prayer.

I have shared this testimony before, but I will share it again. Some people wanted to put the house of God into trouble. They planned to dump a corpse inside the church and go to report at the police station that the person was killed by the church for rituals. They came in the night around l.00 a.m. with the corpse of someone they had murdered. Someone held the corpse by the legs and another by the hands. But in those days, there used to be prayer meetings every day and night in the house of God.

By 5.00 a.m, we will be in church for morning prayers. We prayed till 6.00 or 6.30 a.m. It was from the church prayer meetings that some people go to work. In the evening again will be back for the evening prayer meeting. Some may not even go home. Some would lock themselves up inside the church and hold vigils.

That day, the people of God were just praying in the church, not knowing that something was happening outside. Then the evil people brought a corpse and were about to drop it, but an angel of God who was nearby watching them apprehended them, and told them to hold tight to the corpse. So they could not leave the place. They were glued on the spot until those that came for morning prayer meeting met them.

Then they began to question them, demanded to know their mission. The culprits began to confess their sins. That was how they were arrested. Meanwhile those praying inside were yet to find out what was happening outside. Their prayers filtered out and arrested the evil doers. That is what your prayers shall do as you pray, in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Ask the Lord to forgive you of the weakness in your prayer life.
2. Every enemy of my breakthroughs, I send you back to the Red Sea, in the name of Jesus.
3. Doors of breakthrough, open by fire, door of failure, close by fire, in the name of Jesus.
4. You powers of the masquerades, I bury you, in the name of Jesus.
5. O Rock of Ages, pursue my pursuers, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, open the doors by fire and provide profitable employment for me, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every curse of failure, break by fire, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every witchcraft from polygamy, release my life by fire, in the name of Jesus.
9. O Lord unless you bless me, I will not let you go.
10. O God that answer by fire, touch me now, in the name of Jesus.

11. Let all flesh eaters assigned against my life stumble and fall whenever they want to carry out their operation, in the name of Jesus.
12. Let all my blessings that the enemy have swallowed be vomited now, in the name of Jesus.
13. The good things that are at the point of death in my life, be resurrected now, in the name of Jesus.
14. Begin to prophesy unto your problems, in the name of Jesus.
15. All the pregnancies of the devil upon my life, be aborted, in the name of Jesus.
16. Thank God for the answers to your prayers.

SECTION 3

NULLIFYING THE WICKED AGENDA

Introduction

God's thoughts towards His children are thoughts of peace and not of evil. He has reserved the best for us. But for every great plan of God for us, satan and his agents have their own wicked agenda. This section analyses the wicked agenda of the enemy and teaches what to do to nullify them.

If you are to be a battle-axe for the Lord, you will face a lot of problems. The Bible says they who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus must suffer persecutions. If you do not want to be a battle axe for the Lord, if you just want to be a mediocre Christian, if you want to warm the benches and be quarrelling with people who sit beside you or even fight people at the car parks to the extent of tearing their clothes, and at the end you say, "amen," there will be no problem. But know that at the end of the day, you will go to hell fire, the home of unprofitable servants.

Personally, I have faced many problems in my life, but I overcame them all. You cannot become God's general without confronting adversity and afflictions. You cannot become a world general without fighting wars. Afflictions and adversity have no friends. Adversity is that unwanted enemy who continues to knock at our door in the middle of the night calling you again and again to come and fight.

Somebody was tired of reading stories in the newspapers, which he called bad news. So, he decided to publish his own newspaper to carry only "good news." But to his amazement, people were not buying it and within a short period, the newspaper folded up.

THE MEDIA

The news media, you will find out, specialises in publishing pains and adversity. They know that people are ready to read them, to feed themselves on negative and sensational news items. For example, the caption, *"Girl burns herself to death after she was jilted by a boyfriend,"* will attract the attention of many people. But a headline such as, *"Man celebrates 90th birthday,"* will not have such effect. Many people will say, "Eh, this one should die and go." The devil is cleverly feeding the whole world with the negatives. If you want to run an advert that will attract the attention of many people, just put a naked woman in it and you will succeed. The message will sink in their brain because the devil has programmed people's brain like that.

However, in spite of the adversities, we have a promise that we have a good heritage.

> **Isaiah 54:17:**
> ***"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servant of the Lord and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."***

It does not matter what the weapon is, the Bible says the prosperity of the weapon shall be withdrawn completely.

DARK PLACES

> **Psalm 74:20:**
> ***"Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are fill of the habitations of cruelty."***

This scripture above means there are places on earth that are dark and the Bible recognizes them. The only place on earth that light shines is the church of God. The Bible says, *"Ye are the light of the world."* What is done in the dark places of the earth are wickedness and cruelty. It is from the dark places that wicked stones are thrown at the sons of men. In those places, there are no friends, even if you say you belong to them, they are still your enemies.

There was a case of someone who transfers witchcraft spirit into a woman and pushes her to the market place to confess that she is a witch. The old woman gets to the market and says, "Behold, I have eaten twins and their legs are in my mouth." Then people at the market say, "Abomination." The same person who put witchcraft into her and sent her to the market place to confess tells his children to pick up stones to kill the woman.

It is a useless activity to serve the devil. If you call yourself a witch, wizard or a fellow with familiar spirit, you are wasting your life and at the end of the day, you will land in hell-fire. So it is a senseless thing to do. It is a certificate of destiny demotion. Think about it.

THE DARK PIT

Proverbs 28:10:
"Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit, but the upright shall have good things in possession."

What the Bible means here is that the enemy will fall into his own pit.

Proverbs 26:27:
"Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."

There is something called boomerang. It is a small curved stick, when it is thrown at a person and it misses its target, it will come back to the person who threw it.

Proverbs 11:8:
"The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead."

Ecclesiastes 10:8
"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him."

Some of us are wasting time crying, worrying our brains and calling God a liar. If you study the Bible very well, you will discover one of the principles of the power of God. That principle says, "The weapon formed against the people of God falls back on those who set the force in motion." Sometime ago, I was praying with a certain sister. Everything was upside down for her. As I was praying, a woman appeared and said, "What is your business in this matter? Why? Is this person your sister? Do you know her before? Why are you wasting your time? Leave her alone. We have not come here to cause trouble. So, you too, don't cause trouble. Just stop this prayer and let her go." I continued the prayer and told the sister what I saw. Thereafter, she went home and the following week somebody died. It was the woman that appeared to me while I was praying for her.

VARIOUS TESTIMONIES

The weapons formed against the people of God often fall back on those who formed them. I can give you various testimonies on that. When I was an undergraduate, we were going to have an examination on Chemistry. I had two note books on that course. Life was not as easy as it is now. In those days, examinations were taken more seriously than is the case now. At the end of the year, you would be tested in all the areas where you have been taught. If you fail, you will repeat the class. It was unlike now that questions are broken into pieces and people are still failing, or they claim to be sick when the examination time draws near. All examinations were done in June. The weeks before the examination, somebody stole one of my note-books, the one I needed most and no student agreed to give me his note book. I went home very sad, but I heard a voice from the Holy Spirit saying, "You still have one note book, remember?" I said, "Yes." The voice said, "Read that one." It didn't take me up to two hours to finish reading the notebook I had with me but I was still worried about the stolen one, until I got to the examination hall. There was not a question from the big notebook that was stolen. So, all the person who stole it did for me was to allow me to concentrate on where the questions would come from, and I am sure he would have wasted his time studying the notebook that he stole and eventually, he would have failed.

DIVINE INTERVENTION

The case of one sister was different. The enemy sent a demon to her but as it announced its name and said, "I have been sent to beat you," the sister said, "Are you sure you are at the right address? I command you to stand at attention, in Jesus' name." The thing stood at attention and the sister said, "Take your big club and begin to beat yourself according to what is written in the Bible that "no weapon formed against me shall prosper but it shall prosper in the camp of the enemy." The demon-idol beat itself until it smashed its own head and disappeared. After that, five people died in the sister's village, including the chief priest, and they never sent another demon-idol to her again. What I am saying is that your deliverance shall bring doom to your enemies. That is God's principle. The same Red Sea which brought deliverance to the Israelites brought destruction to the Egyptians. The pillar of fire which gave light to the Israelites gave darkness to the Egyptians. The night which brought deliverance and joy to the children of Israel brought lamentation and tragedy to Egypt. The den of lions

through which Daniel moved into promotion brought disgraceful termination of his opponents.

Somebody who was very close to me and has gone to be with the Lord now, was in his sitting room one day when suddenly, a demon-idol appeared. Such a thing may be strange to some people, but in some places, it is a normal fighting spirit seen often. This demon-idol walked up to this man and called him by his full names, including the ones nobody knows he bears. It said, "I have been sent to you." And before this man could move, the idol struck the man's right hand with its big club and the hand became instantly paralysed. The idol walked out slowly and disappeared. Such spirits are never in a hurry. The man was a child of God but did not have enough spiritual knowledge. So all he could do was to grab a bottle of water by his side, prayed on it and poured it on his hand and the hand became normal again. The demon-idol came back another time because the first time the man did not deal with it thoroughly. It was allowed a second chance to fight.

The fiery furnace which was air-conditioned for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego killed those who threw them into the furnace. That which is life to you will kill your enemy. The sword with which Goliath meant to cut off the head of David was eventually used to cut off his own head. All the credentials of Goliath did not scare David. In fact, looking at him, David was not impressed. David said, *"For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the army of the living God? (1 Sam. 17:26)"* The same force that the enemy has created to destroy you will, as a matter of necessity, destroy the enemy. The arrow fired by Joseph's brethren got back to them, though it took a long time; in 15 years Joseph who was sold into slavery and expected to have been dead, became their lord.

BACK TO SENDER

As somebody uses his pen and paper to deal with you, the same pen and paper shall deal with him. The Syrian soldiers who came to Dothan to take Elisha were the ones taken captive. The Bible tells us that the wicked are always firing stones and arrows at the righteous, but glory be to God that all the stones and arrows can be forced to go back to them.

The Bible talks about the fiery darts of the enemy. The spiritual world is fashioned in such a way that once a bad thing has been initiated, it must happen to somebody. It is the same thing with God. Isaiah 55:11: *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but is shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it.* "If God says somebody should go and receive blessing at a service and the person happens not to come to church, or he is sleeping, that blessing will not go back to God, it will locate someone else and hand it to him. When the enemy programmes death into the life of a child of God, God will do a simple substitution, the righteous is removed from trouble and the wicked is used as a replacement.

SOME OF THE THINGS FIRED AT CHRISTIANS THESE DAYS INCLUDE:

Physical and spiritual sickness: When a person who is usually very happy, reads the Bible and rejoices every morning, wakes up one morning and does not feel like reading the Bible or praying and instead feels depressed and unhappy, it means the stone of the wicked has been fired against him. If it is the day that the angels of blessing are coming to him, there will be problem because he has started the day on a deficit.

Arrows of disappointment: There could be arrows of curses, spells, death, poverty, confusion, etc. A person who receives such arrows will be confused. There are also arrows of self-destroying utterances and of terrifying dreams. Some people are afraid of sleeping because immediately they close their eyes, they are surrounded by evil things and problem starts. Sometime ago, a woman shared an experience with me. She said while she was sleeping, she felt somebody beside her whom she thought was her husband and this person made love with her throughout the night. In the morning, when she woke up, she did not find anybody by her side again and she started looking for her husband, only for her husband to come in at 9.00 a.m. and told her that he spent the night in the office. It was then that she became scared. That was the stone of the wicked. It could be a stone of disappointment, frustration, doubt, temptation into sin, etc.

THE GREATEST SPIRITUAL SPY

The greatest spiritual spy that reports us to the camp of the enemy is fear. Fear reveals our strength and weakness to the enemy. The Bible says in

> **2 Timothy 1:7,**
> ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind."***

A believer should be free from fear at all times and under all circumstances. When fear occupies your heart, you make yourself a subject of arrows and stones of the enemy. The enemy, with the help of his scanning machine, will *see fear in you* and know that all the prayer points you are calling are out of the heart of fear. That spirit of fear will show itself. That is why it is often said that the commonest demon in the whole world is fear.

ARROWS OF THE LATTER DAYS

Many weapons and arrows are being used against people these days. Some people are choked on their beds and they find it difficult to breathe. Some people hear voices asking them to do strange things. The kind of sin they did not commit before they became born-again would become easy for them because a strange voice urges them to do it.

A sister was on her bed one night and suddenly heard, "Daughter, rise up," and she got up naked at midnight. Her husband and the children were not up. She passed through the sitting room and walked into the street. However, as she was going, she suddenly heard another voice which said, "But the daughter of God does not run mad, go back home." It was then that her eyes cleared, she saw that she was in the street and she went back home. When she entered, she woke her husband up and told him what happened and he could not believe that she walked out naked. But she actually did.

DEMONIC VOICES

Some people hear voices from the spirit world. Many just pray short prayers and sleep. You should be giving testimonies if you know what some people face everyday. It could be the arrow of sudden depression. When it comes upon a happy person, all of a sudden the joy of the Lord disappears. It could be a

paralytic wind. People who experience that evil wind have been here for deliverance. They could be in their houses and a gentle breeze blows upon them and they suffer paralysis. Until that evil wind comes out, they will remain paralysed. It could be a cold chill at night. The room could be hot and all of a sudden it becomes cold and before you know it, the heat clears away. It is the stone of the wicked. It could be a heavy head. It could be 'things' moving all over the body. These are arrows of the latter days. A person could be eating and all of a sudden, sees a strange item in the food which could be a very big insect or a cockroach.

EVIL WEAPONS

When weapons are set in motion against the children of God, as a matter of necessity, the weapons fall back upon the forces that set them in motion. People's hair or parts of their body could be cut off. Spiritual or physical snakes could be sent to someone, these are wicked arrows. A sister working in an office gave a testimony. Somebody told her that if she got promoted to a particular post she would not live to enjoy it. She thought it was a joke. One morning, as she was drinking tea, she perceived something cold on her legs and by the time she looked, it was a big snake. She called in her messenger who was a huge and strong man. When he entered and saw the serpent already winding itself around her legs, he ran out and at that stage the woman knew that she was on her own. Then she said one prayer: "You evil serpent, be electrocuted, in Jesus' name." As she prayed it, she suddenly saw fear in the snake which shortly stretched out and died. If that sister had not known what to do, she would have been killed and forgotten by now. It could be heat in the head. Do not take it lightly and say it will go. Even if it would go, deal with it first. There is no harm in doing that.

Feeding people in the dream with what they would not ordinarily eat is also a wicked stone. Women having sex with men in the dream is an arrow of the wicked. Receiving false emergency message from home is an arrow of the wicked. You need to pray against it.

SATANIC DREAMS

When a person begins to see coffins in the dream, it signifies the spirit of death. The enemies are sending the person to the grave. You really need to pray

seriously if you have that kind of dream. When anything at all comes upon you and you want to shout for help to Jesus in your dream but you cannot, or you are not able to pray or fight against the thing, it is a wicked stone. Anything that does not allow you to have the consciousness to shout the name of Jesus when you are under satanic attack in a dream is a wicked stone. It must go back to the sender. Some people dream and see themselves picking eggs in the dream and eating them. The meaning of this is that the enemy is putting incurable diseases in their body. Such people really need to stand up and do something quick. If you dream of flood carrying away your property, send back the flood to where it came from. If somebody sees herself in a wedding ceremony with a strange person in the dream, she needs to destroy that church where she found herself and send fire to the bridegroom or bride. If somebody dreams that his hat or cap was flying away or that his dress was being removed and he found himself or herself naked, he or she needs to pray against the spirit of disgrace. The enemy is using many things like that to harass the people of God. You must learn to take action because the Bible says, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." (Isaiah 54:17).

WAY OUT

If you are attacked, do not panic. If you do and you expose your situation or announce yourself to the unbelievers around you, they will not offer you any useful advice. They may only re-arrange your problems and you will have more problems. Do not be afraid because of what the Bible says in Psalm 23:4: *"Yea, though, I walk through the valley of shadow of the death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."*

You must not try the devil's solution: If you do, the arrow will multiply because it is only light that can overcome darkness. If you receive help from him, you will pay back manifold. The devil has no free gift. Anywhere you go to and a gift said to be of God is not offered freely, that gift is something else; it is not from God.

Learn to cover yourself with the blood of Jesus.

Learn warfare scriptures: For example, Deuteronomy 28:7, which says,

Deuteronomy 28:7
"The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face, they shall come out against thee one way and flee before thee seven ways."

See also

Deuteronomy 7:15,
And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

Jeremiah 1:9
Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

Isaiah 8:10
Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

Isaiah 54:17
No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Numbers 23:23
Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

Psalm 68:1
Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him

The scriptures above are examples of warfare scriptures.

Learn to call on the fire of God. When the situation becomes hard, the answer is fire.

Learn to direct evil arrows back to sender.

This is how to deal with the stones of the wicked. When the enemy throws a stone at you and it goes back to his camp in multiples then he will know that our God is the Almighty.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I break the law of sin and death upon my life, in Jesus' name.
2. O Lord, heal my waters and my bread, in Jesus' name.
3. Evil garments, be torn away from my body and be cast into the sea, in Jesus' name.
4. Oppression, be shifted away from my foundation, in Jesus' name.
5. O Lord, you promised to take away evil plantation from my life, therefore, take it away, in Jesus' name.
6. O Lord, command men on my behalf, in Jesus' name.
7. Every wind of darkness, fade away by fire, in Jesus' name.
8. Every arrow fired against me and my family, backfire, in Jesus' name.
9. Every arrow fashioned against my destiny, backfire, in Jesus' name.
10. (Hold your head with your two hands and pray like this): I fire back every arrow of the enemy projected into my head, in Jesus name.
11. My problem shall become my promotion, in the name of Jesus.

HOW TO PRAY WHEN YOU ARE ATTACKED

For quite a long time, many people have requested for a book containing series of prayers to pray when under satanic attack. This request centres on the need for a body of knowledge and prayers for tackling the enemy, fire for fire.

The attacks of the enemy are inevitable. This is because the world is a battlefield. The devil is a restless fighter. As long as satan keeps on fighting, there will be attacks from time to time. Since you cannot prevent attacks, you must be well-equipped with weapons of winning life's numerous battles.

The Bible has made it clear that battles are raging. The heat of spiritual warfare is on.

> **Ephesians 6:10-19**
> ***"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole amour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole amour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,"***

Christians are the prime targets of the devil, the common enemy of mankind. More than ever before in the history of the world, he unleashes his rage and

destruction against people, because he knows that his time is short. Christians, especially, experience strange attacks, both physical and spiritual, day and night. In such conditions, we are not expected to be helpless or defenceless, rather, we are supposed to pray and subdue the enemies who have come to attack us and to disgrace them.

Isaiah 59:19
"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."

Exodus 14:7-14
"And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

INEVITABLE EXPERIENCES

As long as a person is alive, he will always face attacks, especially, if the person

is a Christian. You may wonder why you should be under attack? You must understand the mysteries of life; once you are a child of destiny, you will come under attack. You do not have to offend anybody, or go against any law. Once your destiny is glorious, you will face attacks.

Joseph came under attack because of his dreams. Later on in Egypt, he came under attacks again, because he refused to commit fornication, an offence against his master and a sin against God.

When a person comes under attack, he would have decisions to make. Unfortunately, under this circumstances, people take wrong decisions, which compound their problems.

In the text above, the nation of Israel was under attack. Although born in the cradle of miracles, they found themselves in the midst of problems. They marched forward, but got to a standstill and did not know how to escape.

THE CHALLENGE

They could not go further. The pillar that was leading them had led them to a seeming destructive location: in front was the Red Sea, and behind was the host of Egypt, as well as Pharaoh himself. On the right and the left were insurmountable rocks. Behind them, was the raging foes, pursuing and ready to attack and devour them; surely this was a time when hope would naturally die. If you are a man or woman of destiny, you would have identified with the above description. There would have been a time when you were attacked from all sides, or you may even be passing through that an at the moment.

Perhaps for many years, the devil has been using you to fabricate bricks for his building, and you have found a way of escape by giving your life to the Lord Jesus Christ. All of a sudden, fresh problems came up against you.

The Bible says,

> **Isaiah 59:19**
> ***"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his***

glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."

Why is it that you find yourself under attack even though you are praying? What do you do when these attacks come against you? You must aggressively pray violent prayers when under attack.

PRAYERS TO BE PRAYED WHEN UNDER ATTACK

1. Praise: Exalt the Lord. When Paul and Silas were in the prison, they praised the Lord with all their hearts; the earthquake of deliverance descended upon the whole prison, and the chains that bound them broke.

2. Bind every spirit of Fear: That is, bind the powers that will make you panic. Psalm 46:10 reads, *"Be still and know that I am God I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.* "If you do not bind the spirit of fear and panic, you will make more destructive mistakes. You will do terrible things that will worsen the situation. Then the weapon of surprise by the enemy will catch up with you.

3. Ask God for wisdom concerning the steps to take and the decisions to make: Ask Him what He wants you to learn in the situation. When there is a crisis, there is concentrated information which you have to analyse with wisdom. Pray for divine wisdom in any situation, you find yourself. (James 15)

4. Pray that the power of God should move in the Situation.

5. Pray warfare prayers: The Bible says, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* When you are a real fighter you intimidate the enemy. Use your weapons of warfare; the word of God, the fire of God, angels of God, the blood of Jesus, to fight back and launch a counter attack against the enemy that wants to deal with you.

6. Pray that it is the enemy that must surrender and not you. Be determined to fight through, and the Lord will raise a standard against him. The text in Isaiah

59:19 in its original text actually says that when the enemy comes against you, the Spirit of God will come like a flood and raise up a standard against the enemy. Many people interpret it to mean the enemy rising up like a flood.

BASIC CONDITION: YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

The prayers you are going to pray will discomfit the enemy, but before you do that, you need to surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ if you have not done so.

You have an opportunity today to make your Pharaoh sink in the Red Sea, and to disgrace all your oppressors. The prayers you are going to pray will lead to deliverance. They will repair every rotten part of your life and make all infirmities to jump out.

Pray fervently and with all your heart. Do not be alarmed by what you may feel afterwards. Concentrate and allow God to do His work.

The Bible says:

> **Obadiah 1:17**
> ***"Upon Mount Zion, there shall be deliverance and there shall be holiness and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."***

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every foundational altar, speaking against my destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Thou star of my destiny, come out of that witchcraft cage by fire, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every manipulation of my blessings by unfriendly friends, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Promotion power, envelope my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
5. This season, hear me and hear me well, you must deliver my breakthroughs, in the name of Jesus.
6. Power of the valley in my dream life, die, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every rag of poverty in my family line, die, by fire, in the name of Jesus.

8. Thou cycle of hardships in my family, break, in the name of Jesus.
9. Anointing to prosper under any condition, locate me by fire, in the name of Jesus.
10. The Lord shall perfect everything concerning my life, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every power of enchantment in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
12. Affliction shall not rise again in my life, in the name of Jesus.
13. I rebel against the power of demotion in my life, in the name of Jesus.
14. You the vehicle of my life, catch Holy Ghost fire, and become uncomfortable for any evil driver, in the name of Jesus.
15. Father Lord, re-charge the battery of my life with your fire of solution, in Jesus' name.
16. Any gate of hell contending against the progress of God in my life, be dismantled by the Holy Ghost fire, in Jesus' name.
17. Every unrepentant and wicked enemy, assigned to cut off the source of my life, be terminated by fire, in Jesus' name.
18. Any account of rejection and impossibility opened against my divine destiny, I liquidate you by fire, in Jesus' name.

PARALYSING DARK WICKED WEAPONS

The devil instigates people to go and annoy men with dark powers. There was a time some people were fighting very close to where I was. One of them was decked with charms from head to toe. He was boasting of his plan to deal ruthlessly with a small boy. I looked at the man and smiled. I told those who were standing by, "This man who decorated himself with 'juju' has no power." The fact is if you see demonic people, they are quiet and have a gentle disposition, they do not trouble anybody. They speak very softly. They look completely harmless and innocent. Those who have powers do not display. When the devil wants to deal with someone, he will instigate the person to go and annoy such people who are loaded with demonic power.

There was a man of God who was having difficulties in his ministry. Whenever he issues a word of authority to demons to leave in the name of Jesus, the demons will reject his orders. This worried him. As a result of this, He went to fast and pray. The man challenged God, "Why is it that demons refused to obey my command. After all, the Bible says; *"In my name you shall cast out demons."* The Lord then told him "How can you cast out the same demons that are resident in you?" God reminded him of the waist band he threw away without undergoing proper deliverance. He passed through deliverance and since then, his authority was restored to him.

THE NEED FOR CAUTION

Many sisters are in trouble today because they are loud-mouthed. They abuse the whole world. Recently, one of such evil men was abused; he smiled and walked away. When he reached his coven, he said, "You demons, go and trouble the woman who abused me today, including all her children." That was all. The woman who spoke carelessly put herself and her children into trouble.

Christians should not make jest of mad people or strangely dressed people. It might be a trap for them to say what they are not supposed to say thereby endangering themselves.

There are lots of satanic gadgets around us. The devil makes use of these gadgets to deal with unsuspecting victims. There are satanic weapons and symbols. We often know a lot about satanic weapons but not much is known at the moment about satanic symbols.

TALKING CHARMS

A few years ago, we preached to a man and-pleaded with him to bring out his charms. When the charms were thrown inside the fire, the charms started a strange discussion and we could hear the sound of voices. The talking charms caused quite a stir.

Meanwhile, the owner was visibly shaken. The man said, "These charms are talking and I can hear them." We said yes, "we can hear them too". He said further, "And I have been keeping these charms with me for about ten years." I said, "yes that was how they have been discussing in your house over the years."

If you remember that when you were young, you used a satanic waist band, you need to pray. The spirit behind such demonic belts could still be there, although you are born again. Have you ever been to the Bar Beach in Lagos for satanic baptism? You need to deliver yourself from such satanic snare.

EVIL WAIST BANDS

I remember a man of God who happened to be the only child of his parents. As a small boy, he was given waist bands to serve as protection. When he was born again, he threw this waist bands away without undergoing a deliverance ministration. This has a negative repercussion on his ministry.

Also, many people are ignorant of symbols of the occult. Many who passed through the School of Deliverance were privileged to come across most of these occultic symbols which include necklaces, rings and earrings. Several people are ensnared ignorantly by these symbols.

It is an irony that people use their money to buy bondage.

Unless you rise up to attack the spirits behind these evil things, you may not

experience permanent victory.

DEMONIC GADGETS

If you possess charms, white garments, chains, prayer uniforms, prayer candles, prayer incense, prayer mats, prayer beds, etc, it would be better to remove and burn them. If a special seat dedicated to "God" is in your house and you tell people, "Nobody should sit on this chair; for it is God who sits on it," such a chair needs to be burnt. God will not sit on such chair constructed with hands. The only thing that would sit on such chair is a demon.

Another powerful snare the devil uses successfully is heaviness in the spirit. It is a powerful tool of the enemy. Any time someone sits to review and meditate on problems, the next thing would be to go deeper into the snare of the fowler's net. This is satanic deception because since God created the heaven and the earth, sorrow, crying and heaviness have never solved anybody's problem.

SATANIC DECEPTION

You could cry and roll on the floor and bang your head on the wall. Such things do not move God. The only thing that moves God is your faith, not murmuring and grumbling.

The Bible teaches that the garment of praise should replace the spirit of heaviness. Instead of coming to God's house with the spirit of heaviness, it would have been better to prepare a highly concentrated chocolate and milk, drink it and sleep off. The enemy will prevent such a person from hearing God's word and he would even increase the sorrow of such a person.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I declare that satan and his wicked spirits are under my feet, in the name of Jesus.
2. I claim the victory of the cross for my life today, in Jesus' name.
3. Every satanic foothold in my life, be dismantled by fire, in the name of Jesus.

4. I put off all forms of weakness, in the name of Jesus.
5. Lord Jesus, come into my life by fire. Break down every idol, and cast out every foe, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every wicked spirit planning to rob me of the will of God, fall and die, in the name of Jesus.
7. I tear down the stronghold of satan against my life, in the name of Jesus.
8. I smash every plan of satan formed against me, in Jesus' name.
9. I smash the stronghold of satan formed against my body, in the name of Jesus.
10. Lord, let me be the kind of person that would please you always, in Jesus' name.
11. Holy Spirit, bring all the work of resurrection and Pentecost into my life today, in the name of Jesus.
12. Every witchcraft power, I cast you into outer darkness, in the name of Jesus.
13. I confound every stubborn pursuer, in the name of Jesus.
14. I bring every power cursing my destiny into ineffectiveness, in the name of Jesus.

POWER TO STOP THE TIDE OF THE NIGHT

Many people have lost their property in the sleep. During the hours of the night, satanic attacks, stealing e.t.c are the order of the day. Night raiders pillage people's lives during sleep time

Job 34:20
"In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand."

When you sleep, the night raiders can take away anything without much effort. This is the reason a lot of people die in their sleep and some even wake up with a lot of troubles which were deposited in their dream.

The doctor knows how to prevent different kinds of diseases and sicknesses. In the day, they are mighty, they know the right things to employ, but in the night, with all their medical knowledge, the night raiders can programme sickness in their body, which they will not be able to diagnose. Then medical knowledge and technology will become useless.

A lawyer knows how to argue and win cases. They are sound in their knowledge on how to interpret the law, but in the hours of the night, they will see themselves being arraigned before an evil judge and they will not be able to open their mouth to argue anything.

THE EVIL JUDGE

This reminds me of a very wealthy man. One night, he saw himself being arraigned before an evil judge. By the time the man looked well at the judge, it was his own nine-year-old daughter.

She gave the verdict. What was the offence of the man? She said he used to give her brothers and sisters large chunks of meat but he always gave her a small piece. The man promised to give her big pieces meat from then, but she said it

was too late, and she delivered the judgement.

When the man woke up, he was never himself again. He did not remember the dream. He became insane and things began to go down for him. But after deliverance and violent prayers, when the man came back to himself, he was able to recollect what happened before that evil experience. Mighty people can be arrested effortlessly in the night.

Many of the problems we see during the day are programmed, completed and delivered during the hours of the night. Most of the terrible things people experience during the day are programmed during the night hours. These are the activities of the night raiders. That is why the night remains the best time we can pray the most successful and targeted prayers.

Any battle won in the night is the victory of the day; and any battle lost in the night is the defeat of the day.

> **Proverb 4:16-17**
> ***"For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence."***

The Bible is talking about the night raiders. When somebody is hungry and eats food, he or she becomes satisfied. To a natural human being, there are some food that he or she likes. Some people like pounded yam while others like rice. But the food of the night raiders is wickedness. They get satisfaction and derive pleasure in carrying out wicked works; and their own water is violence. If you have this kind of power to confront, you must be fully armed.

> **Job 27:20**
> ***"Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the Night."***

Those are the kind of things that go on in the hours of the night, tempest and stealing. The devil comes to steal and to destroy.

A lot of people lose many things in their sleep. This is the reason why in the dream, if somebody collects money from you; you must not take it kindly. As a woman, it is bad if you sleep and somebody comes in and takes one of your shoes, and you looked for it and you could not see it. It is a serious matter for a married woman to loose something in the dream.

A lot of evil goes on at night. The evil night raiders go about to perpetrate their work and to programme evil into people's lives. At night, we have what is called "terror of the night". There are powers that go about at night with terror and fear. We have what is called "pestilence", which is like a disease or a plague. They work in darkness. So if you are the kind of person who likes to walk in darkness, roam about aimlessly at night, or you are the type who likes to visit disco houses or clubs at night, pepper soup joints and all kinds of evil places with coloured bulbs where you will not see the face of the person next to you, in such environments, there are pestilences.

Pestilences walk about in darkness. There is the power that smites by the moon. The moon can smite. When the moon smites somebody, he becomes mad, that is why when you see a person who is insane or mad, many of their cases are not medical. An experienced deliverance minister will know that the power that should be contested with is the power of the moon.

The power that controls madness is programmed inside the moon. So when you are conducting deliverance prayer for a person with a mad spirit, you should know that the power controlling that spirit of madness is in the moon. See Psalm 91.

Who are the night raiders?

1. They are marine powers. These are the night raiders that go about recruiting people. Familiar spirits and forest demons, are the night raiders. This reminds me of a young couple who got married in the city and decided to spend their honeymoon in the village. They went to their village and in the middle of the night while they were sleeping, they began to hear steps from the gate. They heard the sound when somebody opened the gate. Before this time, there was a bombardment of noises, but all of a sudden there was quietness everywhere.

The personality came in through the window, it was the woman that was seeing somebody, she saw the person staring at her but she was glued to the bed and could not say anything to the eyes staring at her. After a while the evil personality went away. They heard the movement as if somebody was going away. When they woke up in the morning, they ran away from the village. They did not stay to continue the honey moon again, but the deed had been done.

The following month, when this woman was to see her menstrual period, what was coming out of her were maggots instead of the normal blood. It was maggots that the night raiders had planted in her .

2. We have forest demons that wander in the night, moving from one place to the other. That is why, if you are the type that goes about with prostitutes, you cannot be free from them. Most of the ladies you see standing in the darkness with their eyes and hands making signs, that some men stop for, are night raiders.

3. They are wandering spirits; evil spirits can impersonate them, they may be the spirit of the dead.

4. The night raiders: are wandering spirits, evil angels, wicked personalities on evil assignments, ancestral spirits, satanic spies that go about to spy on people. When you are in your house and you see a wall gecko, don't take it lightly, some of them are demonic spies. They are looking at you, immediately you turn**,** they take cover. They are evil spies.

5. Dream manipulators- these are evil night raiders, they manipulate dreams. They will show you something but it is always the opposite in reality .They will turn good dreams to bad dreams. They manipulate it. They will show your enemies as your friends and friends as enemies. They are the night raiders.

6. Drinkers of blood and eaters of flesh are night raiders. They siphon blood from people. I have told you of a man who slept and somebody came with two kegs and plugged a hose on him and began to drain his blood. After one keg was filled up, the evil person was filling the second keg when the

man woke up and he was never himself again. He was feeling lifeless, and there was pain on the spot where the hose was plugged to drain his blood. Some people would sleep and wake up staggering as if there is no life in them again; some would collapse. This is the evil handiwork of the night-raiders known as the drinkers of blood and eaters of flesh.

7. **Spirits from the second heaven or demonic idols.** Demonic people usually send these evil spirits to people in the night. They are the night raiders and they go about to torment people's lives. These evil night raiders' visits are terrible. They carry out evil assignments and very few people can boast of not being tortured by them at one time or the other in their lives.

I had an experience several years ago. They came to call me that I should pray for somebody. The lady was blind, she became blind suddenly while she was in her bedroom. It was her boyfriend that gave her something to put inside her water and use it to bathe and immediately she put the water on her body, she became blind.

Eventually, the man confessed that he did not know the thing would turn out like that. The boy did not want the lady to leave him. The lady was very beautiful. He went to a marabout to collect 'juju', love portion, so that the lady would not leave him, but unknown to him, it was another thing they gave to him. This is what happens to people who patronize marabouts and demonic prophets; who collect so-called anointed objects, so-called holy water, and all kinds of materials, including anointed handkerchiefs.

When I saw this lady I said "I will not pray for you today, I will come back tomorrow. I want to pray about this issue and ask the Lord". That day I was the only one in the whole duplex where I live. In the middle of the night, I woke up to pray to ask God about the predicament of this lady. All of a sudden, I heard foot steps climbing the staircase.

There are night raiders who go about to visit people in the middle of the night. Terrible problems that come against many are mostly programmed and executed at the small hours of the night. These night raiders deposit things in the lives of people as they leave. When they come at night, they leave some evil spirits or evil deposits behind.

You must pray against these powers especially in the hours of the night.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Any witchcraft curse working against me, be revoked by the blood of Jesus.
2. Every decision, vow and covenant of household witchcraft affecting me, be nullified by the blood of Jesus.
3. I destroy with the fire of God, every weapon of witchcraft used against me, in the name of Jesus.
4. Any material taken from my body and placed on witchcraft altar, be roasted by the fire of God, in the name of Jesus.
5. I reverse every witchcraft burial fashioned against me, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every trap set for me by witches begin to catch your owners, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every witchcraft padlock fashioned against any area of my life be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let the wisdom of my household witches be converted to foolishness, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let the wickedness of my household enemies overturn them, in the name of Jesus.
10. I deliver my soul from every witchcraft bewitchment, in the name of Jesus.
11. Any witchcraft bird flying for my sake, fall down and die and be roasted to ashes, in the name of Jesus.
12. Any of my blessings traded out by household witches be returned to me, in the name of Jesus.
13. Any of my blessings and testimonies swallowed by witches, be converted to hot coals of fire of God in the name of Jesus.
14. Any strongman representing me in the register of inherited failure, fall down and die in the name of Jesus.

POWER TO DEFLATE SATANIC CONFIDENCE

Some wicked powers have satanic confidence. It is believers that fear death. Those who operate at the gate do not fear death at all. This is why they can board a vehicle and cause it to be involved in an accident. They make covenants with death, in covenants of destruction. They vow that they will submit the lives of certain people for destruction.

> **Isaiah 28:14-18**
> ***Wherefore hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule this people, which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.***

Can your life be donated? When you are fired up it is impossible. When the people involved in these covenants become born again, they have to do a lot of prayer warfare to set themselves free from this collective captivity. These powers at the gates are very stubborn, they resist everything, they endure even fire.

An American was preaching on the television one day about gifts. In his illustration, he showed that when God pours down blessings, they are ours. You may be praying fire prayers, sending fire into the camp of the enemy; they will endure the fire and resist, believing that you will soon stop the prayer. If you do, they will recover.

THE EVIL DONATION

A man wrote me a letter sometime ago. He said he got married as an unbeliever, his wife refused to become born again and was not comfortable with his prayer points; infact, she would tear up the written ones. So the man started memorizing them and would pray them by heart. One day, the woman suddenly came down from the bed and started confessing that she belonged to a cult where she had been asked to donate her husband. The fact that the man had become undefeatable means she would have to die in his stead. She eventually died on the spot.

ACTIVITIES AT THE DEMONIC GATES?

At the gates, they operate clever satanic network and information is passed easily from one to the other. Satanic people spy on people, homes, businesses, etc. There is something called bugging of telephone lines. Conversations are monitored through this means. Both the caller and the called are heard and decisions taken are known. The bugging systems include evil marks and incisions. If you have incisions on you and you do not nullify their effects upon your life, these will continue to supply information to the evil world about you.

A little girl who had familiar spirit and had ruined her father financially was brought for deliverance sometime ago. As she was being prayed for, she was smiling. Suddenly, a brother changed the prayer point and she fell and started wriggling on the floor. A voice spoke through her in Latin. When challenged, the voice said he was a demon from Rome. If you go through the Bible, you will find out that the principles are there. David chose 5 stones so that if one missed, the other would hit the target. But the one he threw did not even miss because he challenged Goliath in the name of the Lord God of Israel.

EVIL OBJECTS

Satanic decorations, occult materials, spiritually contaminated jewelries, objects possessed by evil spirits, snake and ladder games, whot cards, satanically inspired home decorations, demonic crosses and stolen clothes all serve as informants. At the gates is the habitation of lying. John 8:44 talks about the devil being the father of all liars.

If you build anything on a foundation of lies or half-truths, it will not stand. It not only disturbs God's guidiance for your life but also makes you take steps that are not right for you, which produce greater loss than gain. If you tell lies, you will need other lies to maintain the former and give it credence. When a lie sees the truth, it flees; there will be the need for a greater lie to be able to re-enter. These powers make people tell lies and encourage them at the same time, such lies are recorded against the person. When you tell lies, you are building on a sandy foundation and you are heading for hell-fire. This also attracts liars into your life. Lying prevents understanding and no enjoyment of permanent good results; it leads to bondage and earns the punishment of God. Unfortunately, a liar passes this on to his descendants. Whatever profit that is made by lying is eventually vomited.

THE EVIL TRAFFIC

At the gates, demonic hangers or landing spaces are created in the lives of people. They start when a child is young. Were you greatly embarrassed as a child or as an adolescent? Were you involved in a pattern of sadness at the beginning of your life, which continued building on each other?

Do you have difficulty recalling anything about your childhood? Is your childhood totally blank to you? It is these powers at the gates that are responsible; they don't want you to remember so that you will not work on it. Have you hated yourself and wished you were someone else or wished never to have been born? Do you have difficult years and recurring memories of what someone did to you as a child which still makes you feel troubled when you think about it? Do you overreact to things? All these are created at a tender age by these powers at the evil gates.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every roar of satanic lions against me, be silenced, in Jesus' name.
2. Let the activities of vagabond evil broadcasters be terminated, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every satanic programme against me, be nullified, in Jesus' name.
4. Every power hunting for my secrets, be confounded, in Jesus' name.

5. I paralyse every power of bewitchment fashioned against me, in the name of Jesus.
6. Let any demon living inside any member of my household depart now, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every spirit of pocket-with-hole, be mended by the blood of Jesus.
8. Let all evil rivers flowing down to me from my ancestral line dry up now, in the name of Jesus.
9. I quench the power of 'star paralyzers, in the name of Jesus.
10. Let every power of unrepentant witchcraft be disgraced, in the name of Jesus.

SECTION 4

PRAYERS FOR DIVINE INTERVENTION

Introduction

God is never late in any situation. He is an ever present help in trouble. He is ready to manifest His power in whatever you are going through by divine intervention. Without His presence in your life, you cannot experience divine intervention.

The teaching in this book and the Holy Ghost vomited prayers will, ensure that you always have divine presence and covering that will

Psalm 62:6 says,

> ***"He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved."***

That verse looks very simple, but it is actually heavily pregnant. God is the only benefactor we can lean on without any fear of being disappointed. He is the only one who can meet every need of man. He is the God of all flesh.

WHY DO WE PRAY?

We pray because the serpents of Pharaoh are troubling our destiny and we must fight back. We pray because we are determined that evil kings must not reign over us. We pray because hordes of Goliaths are rising up against the children of the Most High. We need to disgrace the Goliaths and tell them that the God of Elijah is still on duty. We pray because the wings of the troublers of our Israel need to be clipped. We pray because it is dangerous for believers to keep quiet and allow evil to demote them and kill them. We pray because long standing yokes will not be able to extend their visa. We pray because foundational Jericho walls must be broken to pieces. We pray because the cry of family idols that have been limiting the movement of the children of God must be finally silenced. We pray, because the reign of mockers must be terminated. We pray to provoke an overtaking and an overturning, to promote the children of God. I decree that there shall be overtaking and overturning that will favour the children of God. For the enemies that are rejoicing now, their joy shall soon be silenced, in the name of Jesus.

REASONS FOR PRAYER

We pray so that the children of God can rise to that place where evil birds cannot reach. We pray so that long term enemies of God's children will have continuous war until they perish. We pray so that anything that has been stolen from any child of God will be abundantly restored. We pray to ensure that the servants

riding upon the horses of the destiny of the children of God are overthrown from the horse, and those who are becoming slave-drivers to the children of God will become slaves themselves.

We are praying because the Lord said we should decree that the labours of past years should be compensated. We pray so that the Lord will open the doors of favour and enlargement. We are here so that the roots of stubborn affliction will dry up and die. We pray so that the evil horn that scatters and does not want us to lift our heads shall catch fire. We pray so that the transforming power of the Holy Spirit will possess us and make a change. You need to pray with the spirit of "With God all things are possible". You must fill your tongue with sharp arrows of prayer and fire them to the areas you need to fire them.

CONCLUSIVE PRAYERS

You should pray what we call in spiritual warfare, conclusive prayers. Many talk and talk, but talking has not brought results. Many cursed and cursed, but the Lord has no respect for that. The only thing that can make a change is prayer. It can bring about changes in individuals, changes in the community, changes in our family and changes in our nation. More than any other time in the history of our generation, we need a lot of prayer. We need to use the chemistry of prayer to resolve issues. Prayer is the key of faith that opens every locked door. Prayer is the key to God's treasure house. Prayer, is the staff to work with God and fight the devil. Prayer is the only thing the devil cannot do. There are substitutes for many things, but there is no substitute for prayer. A Christian is greatest when he is on his prayer altar. Men may refuse our words and decide not to even listen to what we are saying, but they are helpless against our prayers.

SATAN TREMBLES

The devil trembles when he sees saints gathered in prayer. That is why we keep saying that the person who can really pray has nothing to fear, because prayer can do all God can do. Prayer is God's method. God does nothing but by prayer, and he does everything with it. Every great movement of God, since the beginning of the world has always been traced to a kneeling Christian. Prayer will release the energies of God. At the end of the day, no matter what the flesh may do or no matter your scheming, they are helpless before the prayer warrior.

This is why Christians must wake up and be serious. We need to reduce our entertainment and politics in the church and go back to the altar of prayer.

Prayer is the refuge of the afflicted. Prayer is the wealth of poverty. Prayer is the strength of weakness. Prayer is the light of darkness. Prayer is the hand that strikes down satan and his hosts. Prayer cm even arrest the hands of time. Prayer can arrest anything that the scientists have put together. Where there is no prayer, there is really no power. The need to use this weapon to achieve what God wants us to achieve and to move our nation and destiny forward has become more urgent than ever before. Pray and you shall experience divine intervention.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Let my prayers release angelic intervention to my favour, in the name of Jesus.
2. I receive the anointing to disgrace satanic arrows, in Jesus' name
3. I cut off every supply of food to my problems, in the name of Jesus
4. Let thunder from the Lord destroy every evil altar, constructed against me, in the name of Jesus.
5. Lord, release me from known and unknown curses.
6. I rebuke every power working against the soundness of my mind, in the name of Jesus.
7. I seal the rebuke with the blood of Jesus.
8. Let every untamed enemy be tamed by the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYERS TO ARREST DIVERSION

The enemy hates any form of focus on the Lord. He specialises in diverting the attention of heaven-bound saints. We must therefore arrest any type of diversion sponsored by the kingdom of darkness.

One of the weapons of the kingdom of darkness is what I call vagabond arrows. They are targeted towards anyone who has the capacity to shine like stars. The devil's major intent is to turn wonderful stars to vagabonds or wandering stars. Since the beginning of creation, the enemy has converted stars to vagabonds. The evil conversion has continued all through the ages.

In Genesis, we see the first example of a vagabond person.

Genesis 4:12
"When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shall thou be in the earth."

Deuteronomy 21:18-21
"If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them. (That is, the person is a vagabond child). Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him and bring him out to the elders of the city and unto the gate of his place. And they shall say unto the elders of the city, this our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice, he is a glutton and a drunkard. And all the men of the street shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shall thou put evil away from among you and all Israel shall hear and fear."

In Psalms, we see how serious the vagabond problem is. It is a terrible curse. It says,

Psalms 109:10

"Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places."

THE VAGABOND ARROW

In Acts of the apostles, we have an interesting story. It says,

Acts 19:13-16
"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there wm seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew and chief of the priests which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of their house naked and wounded."

Here, we see vagabond Jews being attacked. That is the reward of the vagabond.

Now, let us look at the master of all vagabonds.

Job 1:6-7
"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto satan, Whence comest thou. Then satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." (So all vagabond anointing is from the master vagabonds). **1 Peter 5:8** also says, ***"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."***

Luke 15:11-15
"And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with

riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine."

When he had lost everything, famine arose and he, the son of a wealthy man, was reduced to feeding pigs. This is the result of the vagabond anointing that was upon his life.

IMPORTANT LESSONS

We can pick a few lessons from the experience of the prodigal or vagabond son.

1. A vagabond is always a sorrowful person. Sin will bring sorrow always and it never fails to find men out. It may not be in a dramatic way, but at the end of the day, the sin of a man will find him out.
2. The vagabond spirit causes demotion. The son of a rich man started to feed pigs, and for a Jew brought up in a proper Jewish family, no greater humiliation can be directed at him**.** The job made him ceremonially unclean and brought him shame.
3. A sinner is always in a far country.
4. Vagabond people are always very selfish.

WHAT IS THE ANOINTING?

Anointing is a supernatural thing. It is a supernatural equipment that makes a person to achieve supernatural results. It is the ability to do things without sweating. God does not have counterfeit materials. Neither does He give them to people. These are the last days and many evil things are happening. The Bible has a very bad picture for the last days. It says that men's hearts shall fail them for fear, many false Christs and many false prophets shall arise. Many shall be lovers of themselves, lovers of money and haters of good things.

The Bible also says that in the last days, the devil will increase his activities. He will release terrible spiritual bullets upon the human race. Now we hear that divorce rate has gone up tremendously. Youths are taking to drugs and it is now very rare to find somebody who is still a virgin at the age of twenty.

The book of Luke says it will get to a time when the heart of men will fail for fear, but we need to be successful in whatever warfare we are waging, no matter how fierce the battle is. The enemy will make some progress because of sin. One of the reasons the enemy has so much control over many lives is because they have found it difficult to forsake their sins.

WANDERING STARS

When a person constantly repeats a particular sin**,** satan will take up his abode in that area of the person's life. As a family continues to repeat a sin, the devil will use that area to get them. It could be the spirit of worry, fear, sexual sin, laziness, abusive tongue, etc. He will use these sins as his base.

The vagabond spirit is the spirit that makes a person to live an irregular life, or a wandering life. The person goes from one place to the other with no purpose; an aimless life. A lot of people are operating under the influence of the vagabond spirit. God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh, and God expects us to be able to rest in Him. But those under the vagabond anointing are restless in their spirit. People under vagabond anointing wander from city to city, from job to job, from house to house, and from marriage to marriage. They are never able to really settle down.

THE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

People under the vagabond anointing are always tormented by the spirit of poverty. When a person is under the vagabond anointing, the spirit of poverty finds it easy to move in. This will give rise to so many other things, which include restlessness, confusion, financial bondage, depression, loneliness, hopelessness, suicidal thoughts, sorrow and grief.

The vagabond spirit makes people to waste their investments. Nothing they lay their hands on works out. The person may have B.Sc. in Economics, Masters in Philosophy or Ph.D in Accounting, yet, nothing prospers. It is this vagabond anointing that is responsible for lack of focus. A lot of people are not focused, that is why the devil is able to do so much havoc.

A person that was meant to settle down to sell vegetables will be busy looking

for an office job. There is no focus. When the devil knows that you are in a wrong place, he will attack whatever you are doing. One of the greatest mountains that most people face is the mountain of ignorance.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I refuse any evil diversion, in the name of Jesus.
2. I will not take my eyes off the Lord Jesus, in the name of Jesus.
3. Lord, anchor your mercy to my head, in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord Jesus, let me receive the touch of signs and wonders now, in the name of Jesus.
5. Let God be God in my Red Sea situation, in the name of Jesus.
6. God, let it be known, that You are God in every department of my life, in the name of Jesus.
7. Lord, do a new thing to my enemies, that will permanently dismantle their power, in Jesus' name.
8. Lord, let uncommon techniques be utilised to disgrace any opposition against my life, in Jesus' name.
9. Let the earth open up and swallow every stubborn pursuer in my life, in the name of Jesus.
10. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, manifest yourself in your power to bless me, in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS FOR EXPLOITS

THE MANTLE

The mantle that came upon Elisha represents the anointing. Immediately it came upon him**,** the Bible says that he moved. There was no reluctance at all.

We also see that the man had good relationship with his parents and neighbours. He gave them a farewell party to say, "thank you" and moved on. The reason many people will not grow in the Lord is because they are still attached to their mother's apron strings. Elisha was not like that. He burnt the bridges behind him and renounced his former life. This is the secret to living a fulfilled life.

> **2 Kings 2:11-15**
> ***"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him."***

There comes a time when a serious minded believer receives the mantle of power which represents the anointing of God. When the mantle came upon Elisha, he received the anointing of power.

If you carry the things of yesterday on your shoulder, there will be no double portion. Paul said, "Forgetting those things that are behind and looking forward." One-way to fall very quickly is to be looking at the back. Anybody who looks

back still finds the old life exciting. Some people say, If God does not answer me on time, I will go back into the world. The devil does not waste time finishing the account of such people so that they will not have the opportunity to run back to the Lord.

POWER FOR EXPLOITS

The Bible did not call us to come and live a quiet life. The apostles did not sit in one place. They were busy causing trouble for the enemy. They were acting according to the word of Jesus that says, "If you are driven away from one city**,** go to another". That is what the Bible says. But if you are afraid, nothing will happen.

When you receive genuine power, you cannot sit down; it is impossible. Somebody said that he received the Holy Spirit but, now he is moving about like an old vehicle, as if the Holy Spirit has become old inside him. No, something is wrong somewhere. The moment you get it, you cannot do without talking about Jesus, or without praying. It is going to be impossible.

You will not see your tomorrow as long as you live in your yesterday. You should not allow one mistake that you made ten years ago to be ruling your life now. If you continue that way, forget the anointing because you are a yesterday person. Recognise that Elisha had parents too, he had a job and labourers, but he burnt the bridge behind him. Likewise, God has called you from the world, so there must be a difference.

Believers do not go to worldly parties; they do not cook their food for them, and do not eat their meat. We are supposed to be strange to them. Many believers do not want to look strange, and the Bible says, we are peculiar. They should look at you and see a difference. It is time for us to be making impact.

THE DIFFERENCE

There must be a clear demarcation between the people of the Word and the people of the world. God's children must be God's children. It is clear. The situation these days where it is difficult to differentiate from people going to disco party is not what the Bible says. It says, "Be ye separate" Let them know

you for what you are. Declare your stand, make it plain.

Some people say, "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's". This is an excuse for them to commit sin. There is no Caesar in this matter at all. What God is saying is that there must be a clear demarcation. People of the world may look at you and say you are looking dull. It is better to look dull and make heaven than to have the brightness of the world with crocodiles walking about in your legs and for you to end in hell fire.

There must be a difference. You do not honour every invitation, because you are separate. For example, nobody sends me an invitation card to come to parties any more. They ought to give that kind of testimony about you.

In 2 Kings 2, when Elijah was going away, there were many sons of the prophets. But surprisingly, Elisha was still the only person following Elijah, and there were many obstacles, so that he would not be able to receive a double portion. But God helped Elisha and God shall help you today, in Jesus' name.

> ***"And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal" 2 Kings 2:1***

THE PLACE OF GILGAL

Gilgal was where Israel first encountered hindrance, on their way to the Promised Land. Gilgal is a place of religious activities with no power. If God takes you to Gilgal, He wants to know whether you will stay there. The Bible says, "Avoid all those who have the form of godliness, but deny the power thereof". There are still many people in Gilgal. They are only engaged in religious activities with no power. It is practising empty religion and church politics. Verse 2 says;

And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel (that was obstacle No 1, it says, stay in Gilgal). And Elisha said unto him**,** As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.

2 Kings 2:3-4
"And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here; I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho".

He was again asked to stay at Bethel, but he said, "No, I am not staying"

YOUR BETHEL

Abraham was at Bethel, Jacob was at Bethel, and Saul lost all that he had at Bethel. Another Bethel that the Bible calls "the house of God" was later converted to a place of idolatry by Jeroboam. Bethel could be called a place of major decisions. It is a place where you wrestle with God; it is a place where you yield yourself and die to your own desires. It is a place of complete consecration. After you have taken the decision to stop your powerless Christianity, the next thing that happens is that you must consecrate yourself. It is a shame to see that most of the powerful sisters around now are old women. Why? What happened to those who are within the ages sixteen and forty? They would say, "I want to go and see mama so and so to pray for me. I want to go and see mama so and so to pray for me. I wonder when they will begin to pray for themselves and others. When will they grow above that stage? It is a shame. Instead for some people to settle down and see that they consecrate their lives enough, they are busy discussing fashion. They refuse to see the design of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is saying day and night, "Get out of this weakness and receive power". The Bible says, "When the son of man shall come, will he find faith in the earth? It is only you that can answer that question.

The most popular gift that people exercise in the church today is prophecy. The reason the other gifts are not common is that they require more consecration, you need to be holy.

PRAYING FOR DIVINE SURPRISE

GOD'S VERDICT

Some years ago, a man went to England for medical treatment. He was diagnosed to have cancer and the doctor told him that there was no hope, and that he would die in two months. The man was not born again and he broke down and wept. The doctor said there was nothing that could be done, that the man should go and write his will and prepare to die. The man paid his bill of £3,000, and came back to Nigeria to prepare for death.

One day, someone brought him to MFM and he heard a sermon which changed his life. He also heard that God has the final say on any situation, and knows more than the most intelligent professor of Medicine. It then occurred to this man that God could do something about his health. He prayed fervently and started to declare that, "I shall not die, but live to testify to the glory of God." (Ps. 118:17)

He went home with a ray of hope, and his life changed for the best. He lived six months without any incidence. Then a year later, he went on a summer holiday and decided to pay a visit to his doctor in England. When he entered the clinic, the doctor almost fainted, thinking it was a ghost that he saw. Beloved, the enemy does not have the final say on your situation!

One of the weapons that God uses for His children is surprise. He is an expert at springing surprises for His people; although nothing surprises Him and nothing shocks Him. God does not usually give warning signals to people before performing His work. Whatsoever happens, God never comes late.

Today, do not tell Him how great your problem is, but tell your problem how great your God is. Do not bother about the size of your "Goliath", but declare that since the Goliath is so big, he becomes an easy target for you to hit. You have to become what God wants you to become, whether the devil likes it or not.

THE MANIFESTATION

What am I trying to put across? Your breakthrough does not start on the day it manifests. It starts the day the Lord pronounces it. The Bible says:

> **Isaiah 40:5.**
> ***"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.***

Once the mouth of the Lord has spoken, it will surely manifest. Do not accept what the devil is imposing on you, do not accept what a medical report says about your condition as being final. God has the final say on your life and situation.

Reverse the incantations of the enemy upon your life in the name of Jesus. It is too late to think about yesterday because it is gone forever. You have to ask and believe God for today. However, God can walk back yesteryears and put right anything that the enemy made to go wrong. When you are climbing a mountain with God on your side, you cannot fall. If you are already on the ground, you cannot fall. You may say that you have been praying for a long time but do not give up. Do not doubt God; keep on trusting and fighting. You must fight, even if you are not willing to. It could be the day you stop fighting that the Lord will start fighting for you; If you stop, you start losing.

> **Numbers 12:l-4**
> ***"And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye there unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out."***

GOD WILL ARISE

Miriam and Aaron were supposed to be the closest people to Moses, but they rose against him. Suddenly, the Lord arose on his behalf, and Moses had to beg God on their behalf. We serve a God of suddenlies. Perhaps you have been harassed and pushed about by internal and external enemies. God will suddenly arise on your behalf and fight for you.

> **Malachi 3:1**
> ***"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."***

The apostles were dejected when Jesus left them, but something happened and they became bold.

> **Acts 2:2**
> ***"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."***

When God appeared to them, things began to change. If this revelation is clear in your spirit, you will expect God to appear suddenly in your situation, and the enemy will be put to flight, in the name of Jesus.

God is an expert at giving quick and unexpected solutions. When the God of suddenlies begins to operate, it will shock you, it will surprise your friends and it will confuse and amaze your enemies.

There was a man who was handicapped and went about on a wheel chair. One day, he went to a crusade and the Lord healed him. The following day, he was in his garden cutting grass, and neighbours saw him. They were amazed and started asking questions. Then he told them how the Lord did it. God will appear suddenly in your own situation today, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

1. O God, arise suddenly for my help, in the name of Jesus.
2. O God, let your miracle hand be stretched out upon my life, in Jesus name.

3. O God arise, scatter every conspiracy against my life, in the name of Jesus.

SECTION 5

PRAYERS TO DEAL WITH SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS

Introduction

Spiritual problems manifest in various ways ranging from spiritual insanity to the caging of a person's spirit. For some, it could be spiritual dryness which can turn the person's life upside down.

This book deals extensively with the issue of spiritual problems and how to avoid or overcome them.

Of all problems, spiritual problems are the most difficult to deal with. Most people pray aggressively when they are dealing with problems emanating from the camp of the enemy, but the same people will pray like gentlemen when the issue at stake is their spiritual lives. You must learn how to deal with these and other spiritual problems.

The following are the symptoms of spiritual insanity

1. **Self-centeredness:** The Bible says, "Let no one think more highly of himself than he ought to think." When somebody is excessively self-centered, has an exaggerated opinion about himself and is always protecting his own interest, there will be problems. That is why you find that there are only few effective ministers around. Those who want to minister must do so with compassion. But when somebody is doing God's work for selfish reasons; he is self-centered and cannot be successful. If you are the kind of person who cannot do something for somebody free of charge and you say that God is calling you, you are not serious. It must be satan that is calling you. The Bible says, "Freely are you given; freely give." Anywhere you go and somebody charges you money for prayer, you must be careful. Whatever gift such a minister may have does not come from the Lord.
2. **Sexual disorder:** Sexual immorality and perversion is madness.
3. **Compulsive behavioural patterns:** Compulsion to steal, to tell lies or to live in superstition is madness.
4. **Excessive daydreaming:** Some people just daydream and do not take any action. They would Say, "I can see myself in Singapore and from there to Czechoslovakia etc, yet they do nothing about it..

You come from work, go to play table tennis, after that you watch television, after that, you eat and sleep and when you wake up at night, instead of praying, you will take valium so that you can sleep again. You are not taking any action towards fulfilling your divine destiny. There are many people who daydream. Household enemies have finished their agenda. They have to stand up and start fighting.

5. **Inferiority complex:** Some people are excessively shy and because of that, they have a lot of unconfessed sins in their lives. Sometimes they become very lonely and do not talk to anybody. They do not greet other people. It is a terrible madness of the heart.

6. **Anxiety:** The Bible says, "Be careful for nothing" but you are always worried and anxious, it is madness. Your heart is not stable because of anxiety, it is madness. It is madness because the Bible says that you cannot by your power help yourself. Jesus says, "Take no thought about tomorrow for tomorrow will sort itself out." He also says, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Therefore, don't carry the problem of today into tomorrow. Yesterday is already gone, what you have now is your future.

7. **Repeated terrible dreams:** Having bad dreams repeatedly for a long time is madness. Sometimes you wake up and cannot sleep anymore because you are afraid of what will happen in your dream. This is a sign that there is a stronghold of the enemy in your heart. Something within you needs redemption and you need to tackle it. When you have repeated terrible dreams leading to sleeplessness, it means that madness has set in and you really need to address it. A certain woman told me that one day, as she was sleeping, she noticed that there was a man between her and her husband and she tapped her husband at the other end and asked him if he could see the man and he said no. She was touching the person and the person was smiling but her husband could not see the person. It showed that something in the woman needed redemption.

8. **Fear:** If you have a deep-seated fear, there is madness in your heart. The Bible says that perfect love casts out fear. So if you want to be free from this kind of spiritual insanity, you must sit down and discover what your fears are. Find out where they are coming from, and why they have not disappeared then you will make a surprising discovery that will move your life forward. Cast out the demon of fear within you. A lot of people live in absolute fear and fear is the commonest demon in the whole world. If you investigate deeply, you will find that most of the people who die daily in the hospitals are killed by fear. Many people give up even before they die. So, check your heart if there is any fear there. Are you the kind of person who is afraid of darkness? Are you the kind of person who cannot sleep in

the house alone? Are you the kind of person who runs away from everything including rats, wall geckoes, lizards, etc. Check yourself very well and discover why the fear is still there to get information that will move your life forward.

9. **Depression or the spirit of heaviness:** I know many people who have cried for years but did not achieve anything. Crying does not change anything. If crying could solve any problem, the whole nation would be wailing and crying. When your spirit is low and your heart is down, you lose a lot of things. The enemy will move in and begin to work. If you begin to pray, the same enemy will protest and Say, "O Lord, you can't listen to this one because it is written, Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God and believe in me also. This one's heart is troubled."

10. **Another form of madness is not to be ready for heaven:** If you do not know where you are going when you die, then you are suffering from spiritual madness. We need to ask the Lord to deal with our internal madness .We need to ask Him to heal the madness in us.

11. **Compulsory eating or drinking:** It is not only fat people that eat too much. Some slim people do too because it is a spirit. Compulsory eating or drinking is gluttony. You have to be careful about how and where you eat because it is on the agenda of satan's children to use food against people. We know that everybody must eat and drink, but we must be careful and moderate about it.

12. **Keeping a list of those who offend you:** Keeping a diary of those who have offended you is a sign of madness.

13. **Difficulty in relating with others:** There are some people who cannot keep friends. They even fight their spouses. Everybody is against them and they are against everybody. Such people have become modern day Ishmael. Nobody likes them and they too do not like anybody. It is madness.

14. **Stupid violence:** Somebody who loses his temper and causes problems almost to the point of killing people is spiritually mad. The Bible calls

anger madness especially if it is unrighteous anger.

15. **Inability to manage resources:** Those who are bad managers of money and other useful resources are suffering from spiritual madness. They mismanage their worldly resources and do all kinds of terrible things with them. They lose any money you give to them. You start a business for them and they destroy it. It is because something is wrong inside their spirit. Mismanagement is a sign that something is wrong somewhere.

16. **Addiction:** Those who are drug and alcohol addicts have what we call spiritual insanity

HOW TO DEAL WITH SPIRITUAL INSANITY:

1. **Cultivate a teachable spirit:** There are sisters who are still struggling with their attachments, make-ups, etc and can quote all kinds of scriptures and show you all kinds of pictures to prove their point. Such people should cultivate a receptive attitude.

2. **Win the war of your mind:** If you lose the war of your mind, you will lose all the way.

3. **Wage war against the enemy of your mind:** Whatever captures your mind captures your destiny.

4. **Prepare to meet your God everyday:** Make it a daily affair. Failure to do these would make a person to go from insanity to hell fire.

Examine your heart to see if there is any madness in it. The prodigal son was a mad man. He left the place of prosperity and began to feed with swine. But one day his madness cleared and he came to himself. The day you realize that where you are now is not good, you would have solved a lot of problems. For you to move forward, you must consider your present condition.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Power of God, kill my internal Pharaoh, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every wicked power that killed my father, what are you waiting for, die, in Jesus' name.
3. Every wicked power working against my parents and is attacking my life, what are you waiting for, die, in Jesus' name.
4. Any sickness that killed my parents and is now trying to attack me, go back to where you came from, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every madness of the spirit, die, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every register of witchcraft that is containing my name, fire of the living God of Elijah, burn them to ashes, in Jesus' name.
7. Let the yoke of stubborn witchcraft be broken, in Jesus' name.
8. All my blessings remaining in this year, gather together now and locate me by fire, in the name of Jesus.
9. By the power that disgraced Goliath, by the power that put Haman to shame and by the power that sent worms upon Herod, let my stubborn enemy, die, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every power that has refused to let me go, be broken now, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every tragedy that is remaining this year shall not be my lot, in Jesus' name.
12. Every power sitting on the mat against me, what are you waiting for, die, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYERS TO SILENCE THE VOICE OF THE ENEMY

Pray for yourself before reading this section.

1. My possession in the valley of witchcraft, jump out and locate me now, in the name of Jesus.
2. My dry bones, hear the word of the Lord, come alive in Jesus' name.
3. Powers putting dust on my glory, you are a liar, die, in the name of Jesus.

> **Psalm 55:3-6**
> ***"Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me. My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest."***

An entity is hereby identified. It is called the voice of the enemy.

I pray that any voice of the enemy blowing demonic sirens against you shall be silenced, in Jesus' name.

Words are powerful weapons. A lot of people have been captured through the voice of the enemy.

2 Kings 18:17-21 shows us a classical example:

> *"And the King of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachinish to King Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And when they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were came up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the , fuller's field And when they had called to the King there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the Scribe, and Joah the Son of Asaph the recorder and Rabshakeh said unto them, speak ye now to Hezekiah, thus said the great king, the king of Assyria, what*

confidence is this wherein you thou trusted? Thou sayest, (But they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for the wax Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? Now behold, thou trusted upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierced it: So is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him".

You can see the way the man was using the weapon of his words to discourage and destroy the people of Israel. He asked if they wanted to trust in Egypt. He said Egypt was like a small reed, something you lean upon and it will pierce your hand.

Verse 22-23
"But if ye say unto me, we trust in the Lord our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars, Hezekiah hath taken away? and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them".

He was gradually destroying the confidence of the people with his words, he said, "we shall give you horses to ride, let us see if you will have enough men to ride them."

Verse 31 "Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus said the King of Assyria, make an agreement with me"

Verse 34 "Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? Where are the gods of Separvaim, Hena and Ivah? Have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand?" He went on and on, speaking discouraging words. The devil is still using the same old tricks. Words are powerful. Words can bless. Words can kill. You can hear a story and it will make your heart sink. You can hear something and it will paralyse and drain the strength within you. An information can destabilise your heart and even if you want to pray, it will take you time to start off again. Words have power.

DEAL WITH THEIR WORDS

Before you deal with your enemies, deal with their words. Make their words powerless and render them useless. When you see thieves who write to their victims, they are practising psychological warfare. They use this to weaken the victims' defences. Words alone can paralyse the victims even before they start anything. Before a boxing or football match begins, those involved begin to talk? Boxers speak boastful words. They are using a power weapon. They want to inject fear into the hearts of people. They talk to weaken their opponents so that the opponent can lose the contest even before the commencement of a bout.

There is a particular enemy you must deal with. I call the enemy **"YOU CAN NEVER"** e.g You can never marry. You can never have money. I pray that every 'you can never' affliction assigned against you will die now, in Jesus' name. All the "evil pronouncement of "you can never succeed", "you can never do this", "you can never do that", etc shall be completely paralysed in your life, in Jesus' name. The enemy can say something to you through the press, radio, TV, medical reports etc. All he wants to do is to get those words across to you by all means.

The devil has no creative power but he can make you to succumb to a situation where his words overpower your life.

With all aggression, raise up your right hand and say, "Devil, you are a liar, you can not stop me, I crush your words with the word of God, I render your words powerless, I render your words harmless, I render your words null and void, in the name of Jesus, I declare loud and clear that I am a success, I am born to win; I am born to reign; I am born to de. I am born to shine. No curse can stop me. No curse in my family line can stop me; nothing in my generation can stop me, it does not matter who attempted and got to my stage and fell, if they fell I am going to get beyond where they got to, in the name of Jesus. By the power in the blood of Jesus, I bring down every wicked enemy speaking against me".

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every household enemy resisting my breakthroughs, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.

2. Every unfriendly friend delegated against my blessing, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every spirit of disobedience and rebellion in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every demon propagating satanic covenants in my life, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
5. Any organ of my body presently on any evil altar, be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
6. By the stripes of Jesus, I curse the root of every sickness in my life, in the name of Jesus.
7. I destroy every anchor of any bondage in my life, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every spirit of hardship in my life, loose your hold, in the name of Jesus.
9. Every problem that defies solution in my life, blood of Jesus, destroy it, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every power resisting the power of God in my life, I attack you with the thunder fire of God, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every mountain of stubborn problems in my life, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
12. Every invisible hand working evil in my life, wither, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYERS TO COUNTER NEGATIVE PROPHECY

1 Samuel 17: 41 says,
"And the Philistine came and drew near unto David; and the man that barn the shield went before him."

Goliath challenged the people of Israel twice daily for forty days. He came eighty times saying, "Bring a man to come and fight me. Bring your champion. If I defeat him, you become our slaves, but if he defeats me, we become your slaves." God was watching him all these eighty times as if He did not hear what he was saying. Goliath had the armies of Israel beaten hands down. We know the true soldiers when giants come to battle. But David was not impressed with Goliath at all. He said, "Who is this man? How can this fellow defy the armies of God?" By the eighty-first time that Goliath came, David was ready for him.

Without a Goliath, there will be no David. It was Goliath that really produced David. When David dealt with Goliath, he became somebody to be reckoned with.

1 Samuel 17:41-43 says,
"And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bares the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog that thou comest to me with staves? And the philistine cursed David by his gods."

Why did he do that? He did it in order to defeat David.

Goliath called for demonic assistance.

Verse 44 says,
"And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air; and to the beasts of the field."

The destructive prophecy made against David started here.

Verse 45:
"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."

COUNTER PROPHECY

In the foregoing, David started his counter prophecy. So when somebody pronounces a vindictive prophecy against you, what you need do is to utter a counter prophecy. When two prophecies confront each other, the one that is backed by the power of God will defeat the one backed by evil powers. David continued his prophecy against Goliath: Verses 46-47 "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee: and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands". This is a counter prophecy. Fortunately, Goliath had a very big head, so the stones of David had no problem locating it. Immediately Goliath was brought down, the armies of the Philistines fled. That is always the pattern; immediately the strongman in charge of your case is brought down, all the small demons supporting him will scatter.

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

Prophecy is history in advance. It is foretelling or predicting. There are good and evil prophecies. There are harmless prophecies and there are harmful prophecies. Just as we have good prayers, we also have satanic prayers. There are verbal prophecies, mental prophecies, silent prophecies and loud prophecies. There are good wishes, that is, somebody can wish you well and there are evil wishes. Silent evil prophecies are a real problem because the perpetrator is unknown. He or she is silently prophesying against another person while smiling.

WHAT CONSTITUTES EVIL AND DESTRUCTIVE

PROPHECIES?

1. **Horizontal curses:** These are curses between men. They are destructive prophecies issued against people by another person.

2. **Clinical prophecy:** There are satanic clinical prophecies issued by doctors upon people's lives. I want you to know that a doctor can see what the devil wants him to see. A doctor can tell a person that he has a condition which the person does not have. Immediately the person begins to think about it, he will begin to have it. I read a story of someone that went for a laboratory test and was mistakenly given a medical result of someone else. The result stated that he had HIV while his own result that was devoid of HIV was given to another person. The man with the HIV positive result called the whole family, told them what happened, and assured them that he was net going to die alone. He woke up that night and poisoned the food meant for the family. He killed himself and everybody, only for the laboratory attendant to rush to his house the following day to say that they were sorry for giving him the wrong result.

3. **Incantations.**

4. **Spell:** Someone upon whom a spell has been cast will do the wrong things.

5. **Hypnotism:** It is the weapon commonly used by kidnappers whereby they prophesy to people in order to make them to become moronic and open to manipulations.

6. **Evil wishes.**

7. **Satanic prayers:** So many people are praying satanic prayers now. Some wicked debtors pray satanic prayers against their creditors. A fornicator did not pray to the Lord to deliver her from the spirit of fornication, but when she got pregnant, she laid her hand on her stomach and prayed that the pregnancy should be aborted. What she needed to do was to command fornication to get out of her life instead of saying a satanic prayer.

8. Consultation with satanic prophets: Any rich person who uses his money to sponsor an evil prophet who tells him that God says he will sponsor his church building and send his children to school is putting his money under a curse. Don't use your money to sponsor rebellion, because it will put your wealth under a curse. Do not think that it is everyone that comes to church that wants to go to heaven. Some people are in church only to buy and sell. They believe there is market where there is a multitude of people. Some people come to look for beautiful ladies who will submit to them because they are tired of the ladies of the world. Some come to steal from people, just like the Bible says that the house of God is like a net thrown into the sea. The net will catch various kinds of fishes and it is the duty of the word of God to bring out the good ones among them. Some people are not interested in prayers and sermons. They only wait for the service to close and begin to announce what they have to sell. It is not everyone that comes to church that wants to go to heaven. There are agents of darkness as well as witches in all the churches. Some hang their powers outside before they come in, and retrieve them on their way out. Some people come to church service to spot those who they believe have problems, and lure them to satanic places where they siphon their money and virtues. Be very careful where you go for solution. Consulting satanic prophets brings destructive prophecy upon your life.

9. Self-imposed curses: When you curse yourself, you are issuing an evil prophecy against your own life. When you make statements such as "My headache, my migraine, my chest pain, my poor leg etc, you pronounce evil against yourself. This is a package of the enemy. When you say something is yours, spiritually, it becomes yours.

10. Fortune telling.

11. Astrology.

12. Horoscope.

13. Any means apart from the Holy Ghost to know the future is filled with evil, and the enemy can manipulate it.

14. **Silent evil wishes backed up by evil spiritual powers:** There are people who can stand on the highway and all they need to do for an accident to happen is to wish that it happens and before you know it, it is done. You may find this hard to believe, but it is true.

15. **Envious expectation:** These are people who are envious of others and are waiting for the day they will fall. They are envious of your marriage and waiting for the day your husband will kick you out.

16. **Inner murdering spirit:** The Bible calls anyone that hates his brother a murderer. Some people are armed robbers on the inside. They wield spiritual cutlasses to cut. The only problem is that they cannot do the cutting physically. They have an inner murdering spirit.

17. **Satanic letters:** There are people who write satanic letters and circulate them and tell others to circulate the same letters to ten or twenty persons, and if they don't, something bad will happen. If you make the mistake of circulating them as they said, you sign their evil package.

18. **Praise name.**

19. **The prayer of a sinner on your behalf.**

20. **Mimicking evil songs:** There are many evil songs around now. You should not sing these songs with the worldly people, as they can get you into trouble.

21. **Witchcraft decisions.**

22. **Direct satanic prophecy.**

WHY ARE THESE PROPHECIES DANGEROUS?

They are dangerous because words have destructive powers. Words can travel from generation to generation. An evil prophecy has the power to redirect your

destiny. It has potent controlling powers to manipulate a person's life. These evil prophecies have what is called a shadowing power. This is the reason David did not keep quiet when Goliath spoke. He replied immediately and said, "I come against you, in the name of the Lord of hosts. Today, you too will die."

Sometime ago, a sister came to me crying. She followed her friend to see a certain prophet who told her that she would die. I told her to go back and tell the prophet that her pastor said it was he, the prophet, who would die and not her. She was hesitant but I persuaded her and she did it. Within seven days, that prophet was dead. If she had accepted the evil prophecy, she would have died. Some people have received evil prophecies when they were ignorant of these things. Some have allowed witches to lay hands on their heads during their engagement or marriage ceremonies. Many babies have been cuddled by the hands of people possessed with marine powers on the day of their dedication and destructive propheaes were issued upon their lives. Normally when a person surrenders his life to Jesus, receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit and begins to grow in his walk with the Lord, some things will disappear from his life without his praying particularly about those things. Therefore it is very important to get serious with the Lord.

WHY DESTRUCTIVE PROPHECIES FLOURISH IN THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS

Hebrews 5:12-14 explains why destructive prophecies flourish in the lives of Christians. It says, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil". The prosperity of destructive prophecies is due to the fact that many church goers. babies. Kidnappers are able to slap born-again Christians and they will become confused because they are spiritual babies. Many who claim that they are growing are not really growing, they are just getting fat. There is no change in the quality of their holiness, prayers and Bible reading. They remain in the same level for years. Lack of spiritual growth opens up people's lives to attacks.

HOW TO DEAL WITH DESTRUCTIVE PROPHECIES

1. Repent of any known sin and stop issuing curses on yourself.
2. Constantly charge yourself with the fire of God. Sit for thirty minutes and say this prayer point: "I charge my body with the fire of God, in Jesus' name."
3. Bind every evil word targeted against you.
4. Reverse evil prophecies.
5. Command the stubborn destructive prophecies to backfire against the sender.
6. Destroy their effects and consequences.
7. Barricade your life from further attacks. I want you to know that there are powers and personalities that are not happy as you move about doing your daily spiritual exercises. That is what is known as the battles of life. All playful curses that your parents, friends and others are issuing against you are destructive prophecies and you must deal with them. However, if you have not surrendered your life to Christ, you will not be able to deal thoroughly with destructive prophecies. To destroy them totally, you need to give your life to Christ. If you are ready to do so, make the following confessions: "Lord Jesus, I come before you today. I surrender my life to you. I know that I am a sinner. Forgive me and wash me with your precious blood. Take absolute control of my life. Thank you Lord Jesus, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Beloved, please take the prayer points below aggressively because the issue at hand is a very serious one.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every hanging power waiting to attack my blessings, destroy your owners, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every hanging power in my house contrary to my destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every incantation issued against my career, backfire, in the name of Jesus.
4. Thou curse of Goliath of my father's house, die, in the name of Jesus.

5. Thou curse of Goliath of my mother's house, die, in the name of Jesus.
6. Thou curse of limitations in my father's house, die, in the name of Jesus.
7. Thou curse of limitations in my mother's house, die, in the name of Jesus.
8. Thou power of destructive prophecy, die, in the name of Jesus.
9. My life, become too hot for witchcraft powers, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every witchcraft power assigned against me, go back to your sender, in the name of Jesus.
11. O ground, become burning fire to every stubborn witchcraft power, in the name of Jesus.
12. Every witchcraft Pharaoh pursuing my destiny, what are you waiting for, die, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYERS CONVERT FAILURE TO SUCCESS

I plead with you to submit your heart and your entire being to the control of the Holy Spirit as you read these pages. The word "failure" may no longer sound strange to you. Perhaps you have failed at least once or twice in a particular endeavour in the past and you now know that failure is the inability to achieve something one set out to achieve. What may bother you at this juncture is what certificate has to do with failure. We shall analyze this with close reference to the Bible. Readers of the Bible will recognize that the failure of man started right from the Garden of Eden.

Adam could rightly be considered a failure. He disappointed God and lost the glory that God gave to him. He allowed himself to be deceived and so he fell. If Adam had not fallen, man would have lived forever and all the troubles and tribulations we now experience would not exist. Perhaps there would not have been any necessity for prayer. But then Adam fell and lost both glory and Paradise. He was therefore chased out of the beautiful garden. In addition, God put an angel to prevent Adam from finding his way back into the garden.

Adam failed and received a technical knockout from the devil. It then became necessary for the second Adam to come and resume the fight that the first Adam left unfinished. The second Adam was Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came in the flesh. Immediately, Jesus died and resurrected, every failure of man had no reason to continue. But in spite of all these, we have a lot of people who are going about with certificates of failure. What are the certificates of failure?

1. **Lack of Salvation.**

When somebody is not born again, he has already secured the greatest certificate of failure. He may go to church, he may have a Christian name, he may even be confirmed and all kinds of religious things may be happening to him, but if he is not born again, and has not experienced what is known as salvation, he has the greatest certificate of failure anyone could think of. Sometimes, when people come to request for prayers concerning their troubled lives, the first question I usually ask them is whether they are born again. If they say they are not born again, my usual response to them is the Bible quotation which says, *"Say ye unto the righteous, it shall be well with him, for he shall inherit the fruits of his labour, but say ye unto the wicked, it shall be ill with him." God is continually angry with the wicked everyday".* As long as a person is born again, it shall be well with him or her. However, the opposite is the result for whoever is not born again. The bible says that it shall be ill with the wicked and the person will get confused everyday because he has rejected the greatest miracle that God has for his life. I once asked someone who came to visit me whether or not he had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. He said that he had received, that it cost him fifty kobo! I wondered what that meant! When I asked him further, I found out that he was talking about was his baptismal card, which cost him fifty kobo. He did not know what salvation was, even as a regular visitor to the church!

This is why many people who go to church will advance from the church straight to hell fire. We must go back to the foundation, because the issue of salvation is very basic. It is not enough for you to sit and convince yourself that you are saved when you are not. Everything in your Christian life builds up from the God-given salvation. If I ask you whether you are married, the answer I expect from you is either a yes or no. It is the same thing with salvation; there is no sitting on the fence on issues concerning salvation. It is for the purpose of salvation that Jesus came to the world.

1 Tim. 1:15
"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

Again, Matthew 1:21
And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Acts 4:12 tells us in clear terms:
"Neither is there salvation in my other: for then is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved".

So Jesus is not only the basis of our salvation, he is also our Saviour. Salvation is deliverance from the guilt and penalties of sin. It is also put in place for you to enjoy the unchanging favour of God forever through Jesus Christ, who gave his all at the cross of Calvary. The prison warden in Acts 16 had to sincerely ask Paul and Silas to teach him how he could get his own salvation. He reasoned that it was the salvation the duo (Paul and Silas) had that gave them spiritual freedom. Although they were in physical bondage, they were nonetheless liberated in the spirit. This is the foundation. A man is lost without a Saviour. Salvation is therefore your passport to heaven. Without that passport, you are going nowhere. If you are reading this book and you are not born again, you already have a certificate of failure. Turn to God today in repentance. God wants you to be saved. Please know that salvation is not by works. This is made clear in the Bible.

Ephesians. *2:*8-9
"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

It follows therefore that no church activity can save you. The Bible says that Christians shall be known by their fruits. Thus, when somebody who calls himself a Christian is exhibiting fruits that are not Christ-like, one can then confirm that such a person is not a Christian. The Bible tells us that "whosoever is in Christ has become a new creature and old things are passed away; behold all things are now new". It is very certain that many church goers these days are not born again. Many just do what their minds tell them to do. Indeed, many find it hard to live above sin. The message that men of God have been preaching to them for many years has not changed them. It is not surprising therefore that brotherly love is dying out, and people no longer trust each other. Tribalism is fast creeping into the house of God and gossip and backbiting have taken over in many places. But for those who are truly saved, they will always receive whatever they want from the Lord. They will always seek first the kingdom of God and all other things shall be added unto them.

Psalm 37:25
"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Salvation is therefore the most important thing that you can receive. A permanent feature that is always present in those who are saved is the joy of salvation. So, if you see someone who is always feeling sad as if the whole world is going to collapse on his head, it is unlikely that the person is saved. Those who are saved are people who will always speak to sinners about Christ. They will also speak to God everyday in payer. Many people are wearing the garment of religion. I pray that such people will not die before repentance. God expects every Christian to sow the seed of salvation and not religion. Those who Wear the garment of religion are not necessarily interested in salvation. Rather, they want people to identify them with church titles and positions. That is religion and not salvation. God did not call anybody to religion. God expects you to sow good seeds. What seed are you sowing in your family? Does your family still come together for morning and evening devotions? If you do not do this, you are putting your family on the express path of destruction. It is not surprising at all that many housemaids have taken over the spiritual control of many Christian families. Many children have been bewitched because of the inability on the part of parents to sow the seed of God in their lives. This again explains the reason why demonic housemaids find it easier to sow evil seeds in the lives of children without the good seed of God.

Parents who neglect the spiritual growth or well being of their children will certainly receive the wrath of God. What seed are you sowing as a Christian? You must be able to sow seeds of honesty, loyalty, dedication and integrity. Sometime ago, a group of Christian students from the University of Lagos invited me to speak to them on a particular topic. I would have honoured the invitation, but I did not honour it for an important reason: the envelope which contained the letter had NEPA inscription on it. I wondered when NEPA became a Christian body. The envelope was NEPA's property. So whoever used it to send a letter to me stole it. It was evident that there was no salvation in the life of whosoever did that. Believers cannot be doing things like that and expect to get to heaven.

REAL SALVATION

There is no salvation in a believer who gets to office at 9.00 am, but writes 7.05 a.m in the attendance register. A believer who does that is not only making a wrong choice but also sowing an evil seed. Do they know you as a Christian where you are, or do they recognize you as a hypocrite who goes to church to give a false impression to other people? Let us look at an interesting man called Lot in the Bible, who made a lot of wrong choices, let us see what befell him.

> **Genesis 13:10-12**
> ***And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.***

Lot was nobody until he followed Abraham. It was then that God blessed him because he was following God's elect. Unfortunately for Lot, he did not know how to manage the blessings he received through Abraham. However, at a point, covetousness took over his life. When Abraham called him to choose an area first where he would want to stay, the greed in him influenced his choice. He could not even ask Abraham to choose before him. It was not surprising that Lot eventually chose a portion in Sodom and Gomorrah. His wrong choice was based on covetousness. He chose to put his tent toward Sodom and live near the place of sin. But when Sodom was in trouble with God and God was going to destroy the place, Lot again made another wrong choice.

> **Genesis 19:1**
> ***And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;***

THE GATE OF SODOM

What was Lot doing at the gate of Sodom? He was a member of the town's council. He had gained worldly influence in Sodom. Again, Genesis 19:16 tells us what the angels of God did when Lot was reluctant to depart from Sodom.

Genesis 19:16
And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

Lot had to be dragged out. He loved Sodom and the things that God hated. He loved the things that God was set to destroy. Lot chose to be weak, and because of his weakness, he had a lot of problems. When some people wanted to come into his house to rape his visitors, he was willing to offer his two daughters to them for sin. When he told his sons-in-law that God was going to destroy Sodom, the Bible says in verse 14, that he seemed to them as someone who was mocking.

That is to say, they took it as a joke. They felt he was not serious. As if that was not enough, Lot again chose to disobey the angels sent to him. When the angels told him to run out of Sodom, lot gave an unexpected reply. Verse 17 and 18 of the same chapter read thus.

Genesis 19:17-18
And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

THE VALLEY SYNDROME

He preferred the valley to the mountain. Eventually, he got drunk and put his two daughters in the family way. Wrong choices eventually gave Lot an evil certificate. Today, we also have a lot of people who don't have the certificate of salvation. We have considered the first certificate as the certificate of failure.

2. The love of money, love for the opposite sex and pride. This is why witchcraft powers operate freely in people's lives. Many young lives have been ruined by immorality. It is a great certificate of failure. When that certificate is in a person's hand, then one has to really pray and seek for their deliverance.

Unholy association with the opposite sex is an evidence of being a student in the school of failure. This also has caused the failure of many men in the Bible.

> **1 Cor. 6:15-18**
> ***Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one, flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

A man who joined himself as one flesh to a harlot about twenty years ago may be having problems now. That was where the problems of Samson started. He was a powerful person whose birth was prophesied by an angel. His birth was a miracle even as his life was a miracle. But he fell when Delilah came against him. Many people who are having problems now can trace their problems to the evil certificate they once collected at a certain time in their lives. That is number one certificate in the trinity. There is inordinate affection for money. It is difficult to love both money and God at the same time. You may have the ability to work for two masters, but you must still serve only one of them. Therefore, your attitude towards money is very important. When you have money of affliction in your hands, such money will chase away good money from you. It will also destroy the life of the children you are using the money to train. This is why the Bible talks about restitution. So if you took someone's money in a way that is not scriptural, the Bible says you must restore what you have violently or deceitfully taken away.

> **Leviticus 6:1-4**
> ***And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or***

the lost thing which he found.

So, if you had defrauded anybody in the past or you had deceitfully kept somebody's money, the Bible says you must make restitution by returning it. When you attach unnecessary importance to money, it is an evidence of enrollment in the school of failure. Repent today.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Lord, give unto me the key to good success, so that anywhere I go, the doors of good success will be opened unto me, in the name of Jesus.
2. Lord, establish me as a holy person unto you, in Jesus' name.
3. Lord, let the anointing to excel in my spiritual and physical life fall on me, in the name of Jesus.
4. I declare with my mouth that nothing shall be impossible for me, in the name of Jesus.
5. I reject the anointing of non-achievement in my handiwork, in the name of Jesus.
6. Lord, let your favour and that of men encompass me this year, in the name of Jesus.
7. Holy Spirit, control my ability to frame my words, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let scorpions be rendered harmless in every area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let serpents be rendered harmless in every area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
10. Let the camp of the enemy be put in disarray, in Jesus' name.
11. Let all my Herods receive spiritual decay, in the name of Jesus.
12. Let evil worms in all areas of my life die, in the name of Jesus.
13. Let all handwritings against me be paralysed, in Jesus' name.
14. All those circulating my name for evil, be disgraced, in Jesus' name.
15. Let evil friends make mistakes that would expose them, in the name of Jesus.
16. Let the strongmen from both sides of my family destroy themselves, in the name of Jesus.

17. Let not my peace depart from me, O Lord, in Jesus' name.

STRANGE PRAYERS TO DISGRACE STRANGE ENEMIES

Psalm 56:49
In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul. Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God. Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

One man stood out in the Bible for praying strange prayers because he had strange enemies. This is David, who was referred to as the "apple of God's eye".

Psalm 35:l-28
Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler; and stand up for mine help. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation. Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them. For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they

have digged for my soul. Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall. And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation. All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him? False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother. But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not: With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth. Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions. I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people. Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause. For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land. Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it. This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me. Stir up thyself and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord. Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me. Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up. Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me. Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

THE MEANING

When we say strange what do we mean?

We mean something that is unfamiliar. Something that is abnormal, irregular, or very odd. Something that is uncommon. Something that is weird, foreign, different from the normal. Something that is obscure in meaning, very bizarre and unconventional. It is from the word 'strange' that we have the word stranger.

> **Psalm 109:6-18**
> ***Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office. Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places. Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour. Let them be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth. Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart. As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him: As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.***

PUSHED TO THE WALL

Here, we see some of the most terrible prayers in the Bible. When a man is pushed to the wall, then he must pray the most terrible prayer. Again, it was the Psalmist that prayed them. David the man after God's own heart, the man whose hands were trained in warfare and his mouth was trained in battle. At this point, I want you to close your eyes and decree that the above Scripture will be fulfilled in the life of your enemies in the name of Jesus.

The Bible talks about different kinds of strange things. The Bible talks about strange nation, strange incense and strange fire. Strange gods, strange crimes, strange vanities, strange punishment, strange vines and strange flesh.

> **Psalm 144:7**
> ***Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children;***

Here, the Psalmist was praying that God should deliver him from strange children. Children who are witches are much more wicked and terrible than the adults. They operate without mercy.

STRANGE PRAYERS

The Bible talks about strange speech, strange woman, strange work, strange men, strange doctrine, strange country. The Bible talks about different kinds of strange things. But when you are confronted with strange enemies, you need a strange approach to dismantle them. You need strange prayers to deal with strange enemies. Because if you don't deal with them, they will deal with you.

A newly-wedded couple hired a househelp and this househelp was with them for ten years. They had three children and the househelp was very hard working all the while she was with them. But after sometime the couple noticed that every other month, they would fall sick until they are admitted in the hospital. After sometime, the woman started coming for prayer meetings and got a copy of one of our books and began to pray from that book.

STRANGE OPERATIONS

The topic she was praying that day is called, "Know the secret". It was indeed a strange prayer. She got home and began to pray that she wanted to know the secret behind the constant sicknesses. She prayed consistently for seven days and on the seventh day, an angel stood by her bedside and said, "Daughter wake up, it is the to know the secret". As she stood up, she began to hear movements around the kitchen area and she peeped through the key-hole. She saw her hardworking and nice housegirl outside. She brought out a pot of okro soup from the fridge and pepper soup and began to urinate into them.

The woman wanted to scream but the spirit of God told her to keep quiet. She then took the pot of soup to a place at the back and invited certain spirits from the north, south, east and west. The woman could not believe her eyes. She did not see anything coming but she heard the house help saying "You are welcome", and she took the food back again into the fridge. It was then madam screamed and the house girl confessed that she was on assignment not to kill them, but to waste their money and ensure that they became poor until their wealth was wiped out.

DIVINE ANGER

There was the case of a lady who got pregnant and any time the pregnancy was about seven and half months, her stomach would become flat by 2.00 am in the morning there will be no movement and no baby. By 4.00 am, the stomach would become normal again and the baby would be back. This woman got scared and ran to explain the situation to her mother. The mother went to a man of God who advised her that she should not sleep in her house for a night. By 12.00 midnight, she should run to her mother's house and they start some prayers. This was exactly what she did.

By 2.00 am when the stomach was flat again, they started praying. They were praying the aggressive prayer of the Psalmist. By 4.00 am the pregnancy did not return. It remained flat. In the morning, the mother escorted her to her husband's house to pack her things because she no longer understood the marriage again. But by the time they got there, her mother-in-law, a sixty-year-old woman was there, pregnant. She was the one removing the baby to witchcraft meeting and bringing the baby back.

The prayer stopped that activity and the pregnancy remained in her stomach. Unfortunately, before anybody could say Jesus is Lord, the people in the street had started beating up the sixty-year-old woman and they killed her there.

I have seen so many things in my life. If I begin to tell you some of them, you will not believe me. If you are a man of God and you are interested in deliverance, aggressive prayers, etc, you are going to see a lot of strange things and also have a lot of strange enemies.

PRAYER RAIN

I met a man in Europe who was forty years old at that time. He had his first marriage at the age of twenty-two. By the time he was forty, he had divorced seven times. I started praying for the man . and the prescription was that he should take anointing oil and be anointing himself seven times for seven days and he was to pray the aggressive prayer of the Psalmist from the prayer rain. He didn't know that at a stage his hair had been taken away and they had used it to manipulate his glory and to control his life.

In case you don't know, occult people use human hair gathered from the dustbin or from barbers and use it for business success charm for other people.

Because of this kind of thing, you will also discover that the Lord had to do strange works.

> **Isaiah 28:21-22**
> ***For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act. Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.***

If there are strange enemies thank God, we have a God who can carry out strange acts to counter their strange and evil acts.

THE MANIFESTATION

There are certain characteristics of strange enemies.

1. Perplexing manifestations
2. Medical frustration
3. Resistance to normal prayers
4. Problems that defy medical diagnosis or treatment
5. Becoming a constant customer of witch doctors or satanic prophets

6. Suicidal tendencies.
7. Wrong counsel or wrong advice.
8. Scaring away of ministers.

However, thank God Jesus our Lord and Saviour also does strange things. In some places in the Bible, He will touch the blind and they will see. In some other places, He will spit on sand and put it in their eyes. Sometimes, he would just speak the word. Good readers of the Bible will see the strange way God gives a prescription to eliminate Israel's enemies in Egypt. God's strange prescription does not sometimes make sense to the logic of man. Spiritual logic is foolishness to the carnal mind. Today, we need to understand this principle that when you have a strange enemy, you also need strange prayers to stop them.

THE PRINCIPLES

What are the principles of these strange prayers?

1. Make God your friend. When God is your friend, He can tell you secrets.
2. Pray enquiry prayers
3. Pray explosive prayers
4. Attack their power base
5. Pray to crush their protection
6. Pray to cut-off their unity. Pray that any enemy united against you shall be disgraced in the name of Jesus.
7. Pray to melt away their support.
8. Pray to silence their voices.
9. Pray to sack their priest.
10. Pray to break down their altars.

PRAYER POINTS

Declare this loud "Strange children assigned to demote me, scatter in the name of Jesus."

Declare this loud, "Every enemy assigned to drain my pocket, your time is up, die, in the name of Jesus."

Power inviting stronger demons against me, your time is up, die, in the name of Jesus.

I pray that any power that wants to disgrace you shall be openly disgraced, in the name of Jesus.

Declare this raising up your right hand, "Every demonic agenda against my head backfire, in the name of Jesus.

1. All the camps of my enemies, receive confusion, in the name of Jesus
2. Lord, empower my life with your authority over every demonic force that set themselves against my life, in the name of Jesus.
3. Lord, let all the impossible begin to become possible for me in every department of my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord, take me from where I am to where You want me to be, in the name of Jesus.
5. Lord, make a way for me where there is no way, in the name of Jesus.
6. Lord, grant me the power to be fulfilled, successful and prosperous in life, in the name of Jesus.
7. Lord, break me up in every department of my life, in the name of Jesus.
8. Lord, make me to breakthrough into dumbfounding miracles in all areas of my life, in the name of Jesus.
9. Lord, make me to break out of every obstacle on my way to progress in life, in the name of Jesus.
10. Lord, establish me in truth, godliness and faithfulness, in the name of Jesus.
11. Lord, add flavour to my work, in the name of Jesus.
12. Lord, add increase to my work, in the name of Jesus.
13. Lord, add profitability to my work, in the name of Jesus.
14. Lord, promote and preserve my life, in the name of Jesus.

STRANGE PRAYERS FOR STRANGE PROBLEMS

Problems that are strange require strange prayer methods. You can not afford to joke with an enemy who has gone nuclear. You can not be merciful with a merciless enemy. You can not be methodical with an enemy who is completely lawless. It is violence for violence and fire for fire!

Spiritual warfare is a strange subject. It is a rare field. There are lots of strange weapons in the armoury of the Almighty. These weapons have been given to us to enable us experience victory in the battles of life. The enemy we are contending with is wicked to the core. He uses deadly weapons. For example, people can be summoned spiritually from their places of birth and killed or made mad.

There are wicked remote-control powers that have perpetrated wickedness. Evil powers can lay charms or voodoo on the pathway of their victims only for such charms to induce instant death or paralysis. It is possible for evil powers to suspend their powers in the air. These demonic feats show us that members of the dark kingdom make use of terrible weapons.

THE FIRST SINNER

In the beginning, there was no war or rebellion, everything was in perfect harmony. It was a wonderful world. It was at that the that God created Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden. Adam was to keep the place and live there with its splendour. But something happened, and Adam lost his God-given benefits.

In the beginning, no one opposed God and no contrary voice or opinion was uttered against Him. However, something disastrous happened and the first sinner emerged. Let us trace the history of satan.

> **Ezekiel 28:13-19**
> ***"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was***

prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more".

This is the story of the emergence of Lucifer as the first sinner. His sin was rebellion. The above verses establish the fact that he had many privileges. For example, the last sentence in verse 16 says: "*O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire"* The last sentence in verse 14 says, *"Thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire"* Not all angels could do that. The stones of fire refer to the holy ground upon which the throne of God was founded. Not all angels could walk upon these stones. This is the history of the first sinner and unfortunately, all his children are still like him today.

THE FIRST SIN

Now that we have identified the first sinner, what then is the first sin? It is found in Isaiah Chapter 14:13 which says

Isaiah 14:13
For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

Beloved, God has a design to open your eyes to some fundamental truths in the Bible. If you had ever sought to know the weapons to use in defeating your physical and spiritual enemies completely, then the answers are here for you. If you have never used the effective weapon of stones of fire before, now is the time to do it. In this chapter, we shall examine the origin of the stones of fire, the qualifications a Christian must have to use them and finally identify those who deserve the onslaught of the stones of fire.

THE ENEMY'S DEVICES

Since we are not ignorant of the devices of the enemy, we must also learn to make use of the weapons of combating the forces of darkness. One of the tough weapons given to members of the Lord's army is what we shall examine in this chapter. It will give us the opportunity to order evil arrows to go back to their sender.

This is one area where a lot of people have failed. They refuse to submit to the lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first thing the enemy does is to identify our weak points and use them to fight against us. As much as possible, they will struggle to know those areas in a Christian's life that are still under their control and just one area under their control is enough to make Christians lose the warfare. This is the secret behind spiritual failure. Any uncommitted area is normally energized by pride.

Let this be clear to you today that satan hates God and hates all those who bring glory to God. He hates them with perfect hatred. If you are serving God, then know sincerely that the enemy hates you. In every battle we find ourselves, there are two opposing groups. While the fallen angels, satanic agents, ungodly elements are on one side of the battle, the living God, the holy angels and the redeemed are on the other side. When we are victorious, we have defeated satan and his evil group.

HOLY ANGER

In all satan's attempts to attack us, he is only trying to destroy the church of God whether we like it or not, human beings are the instruments that satan uses to attack God. When we fail to be what God wants us to be, we are simply allowing

satan to throw a blow at God. During his earthly ministry, Jesus got angry and violently defended the work and kingdom of God on many occasions.

> **Mark 11:15-18**
> ***And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should curry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.***

Jesus Christ was quite angry and unhappy about the corrupt and fraudulent practices in the house of God. So, he went there and violently defended the glory of God. This is what we are also called to do. We are called to do battle for God always. However, if you do not know the battle that I am talking about, it means that for a long time, you have deserted the battlefield. Please understand very well that Christianity is not bread and butter. Any minister that tells you that Christianity is easy is teaching you what is contrary to the word of God.

> **The Bible says 2 Timothy 2:34**
> ***Thou therefore endure HARDNESS, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.***

We are expected to suffer hardship. We are expected to cut off ourselves from worldly affairs. We are to do what has been ordered by our Commander-in-Chief who is the Lord Jesus Christ. When you are in this kind of warfare, you have to plan your strategies well enough.

> **Luke 14:31-32**
> ***Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to***

meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

THE TERMS OF THE BATTLE

That is the principle. No king goes to war, unless he understands the terms of the battle and the powers of the enemy. He has to understand what is at stake, his strength and resources. Likewise, as Christians, we must evaluate our lives and see how well we are doing in the race or in the warfare.

However, whatsoever weapon the Bible has given us, we need obedience to make them work. Obedience to the word of God is very important if we are to confront and subdue the kingdom of darkness effectively. Our victory is connected to obedience because we have an enemy who is very cunning and who operates tactically. He has many tactics for catching people to ensure that they lose their battles continually.

DANGER IS HERE

For example, the devil uses the weapon of temptation in order to make his attacks successful. Many people would not have been where they are now, if they had resisted the temptation that came their way at one time or the other. The devil removes the sources of strength from people and then begins to attack them. If Samson had been careful, he would have known that trouble was around the corner when Delilah was relentlessly asking him the source of his uncommon power. If Bible study is getting difficult for you to do, your prayer life is gradually collapsing and your zeal for witnessing for Christ has disappeared altogether, then know for sure that the enemy is trying to remove the source of your strength. Danger is near. You must arise and start fighting.

THE ENEMY'S TOOL

Samson was fighting until his enemy shaved his hair. Please pray this prayer with all aggression "The head of my Samson will not be shaven, in Jesus' name" Our enemies like to strike while we are alone. The devil caught Eve while she was walking alone in the garden. David was walking alone on the roof of the

house when the devil caught him. So do not be a lone ranger. This is why we encourage people to have prayer partners and to fellowship with fellow Christians.

Again, never remain idle because an idle hand is a tool of the enemy. Whenever you are not in the Company of God, the enemy will strike. The devil likes to isolate Christians from one another and then attack them individually. This has spelt the doom of many Christians who keep to themselves always. Christianity is not a religion where people mind their business. If it was, Jesus would not have died for you and I. In addition, the devil makes people unteachable, they feel they know better than everybody.

Many Christians jostle for church positions. Many got their posts in the church because of wealth. It is certain now that Church posts will land a lot of people in hell-fire. Infact, many would have gotten to heaven without difficulty if they had not accepted church posts.

FAKE CONFIDENCE

Furthermore, the enemy injects fake confidence into people. This makes them believe that they can never fall. So they move very close to sin and feel free committing it. That is why the bible says, *"He that thinketh he standeth let him take heed, lest he fall"* Apostle Paul also warned against self-confidence. That is why he said: *We have no confidence in the flesh"* It is the device of the enemy for people to have confidence in the flesh.

Again, the devil removes people from God's favour and gets them trapped by luring them into sin. Our enemies are desperate and persistent fighters. They do not go on holidays, neither do they sleep. You therefore have to be watchful always. Apart from that, the enemy sends confusion into people's hearts. Jesus, knowing this said, *"Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God and believe also in me"* The devil knows that once he succeeds in getting your heart confused, you will lose the battle. He will then bring fear, doubt and discouragement into your heart. *So* if you are like that and you are reading this book, I wish to remind you that as Jesus is still on the throne, there is no reason for you to be fearful or tearful.

FAKE EXPERIENCES

Another thing that the devil does is to make use of human agents with concealed identities to achieve his purposes. Also, the devil has his doctrines that he propagates. This is the reason many strange things are now creeping into the house of God and the meaning of "born again" has been completely bastardized and corrupted. Many so-called born again have the impression that they could remain as they were in the world, provided they add Jesus to all they do.

Many so-called born again Christians reject proper baptism, all because that they had been baptized as small kids. They have forgotten that a baby does not know anything about salvation. Anybody who is to be baptized must understand what salvation is and must therefore take a concrete decision that he wants to forsake the life of sin.

In many places too where the baptism of the Holy Ghost has been antagonized and bastardized, many evil things are happening.

In such places, you see pastors being addressed as "His Excellency", "His Holiness", "Senior Apostle" etc. All these things are open bastardisation of the word of God. Let this point be made clear, that any minister who knows and accepts money from any sinner for whatever purpose is also a sinner. For this, it is wrong for the churches of God to organize bazaars and harvests and print envelopes for donations, which according to them, "will be thankfully received". Who is thankfully receiving the donations of sinners? Is it God or themselves?

SPIRITUAL FIRING SQUAD

Your sitting down in an evil church is an invitation to spiritual firing squad. Many Christians now sit in churches where the things of the Bible have been corrupted. The caps on the head of the so-called bishops and spiritual leaders and the terrible long crosses on their necks are parts of the corruption the Bible is talking about. No wonder the Bible says that at the end of the day, corruption will stand in the holy place of God. It confirms the abomination Daniel was talking about.

Please note this fact, that satan has power over all the evil people on earth,

because they are his children. He owns them and they do his will. He blinds, traps and deceives them. No matter how nice a person is, as long as he is not born again, he is a child of the devil. He is possessed and he is doing the will of the devil. An Ethiopian who bleached her skin and painted her lips would still remain an Ethiopian.

The devil has some powers to afflict God's people. He can tempt them like he tempted David. He can afflict them like he afflicted Job. He can oppose them like he opposed Zachariah. He can decide to sift them like wheat like he wanted to do Peter. He can fool them like Paul said in the bible that satan sometimes appears like the angel of light to deceive people. But glory be to God because Christ has triumphed over the devil. Also, notice that the devil is an excellent administrator. He is an expert.

> **1 John 5:19**
> ***And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.***

It is now time for us Christians to begin to throw the stones of fire. I guess you will want to do it with all your strength.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I refuse to allow my angel of blessings to depart, in Jesus' name.
2. I paralyse all aggression addressed to my star, in Jesus' name.
3. Let God arise in His anger and fight my war for me, in Jesus' name.
4. I neutralise all problems originating from the mistakes of my parents, in the name of Jesus.
5. I neutralise all problems originating from my past mistakes, in the name of Jesus.
6. Lord, bring honey out of the rock for me this month, in the name of Jesus.
7. Lord, open all the good doors of my life that household wickedness have shut, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let all anti-breakthrough designs against my life be shattered to irreparable pieces, in the name of Jesus.

9. I paralyse all satanic antagonism against my destiny right from the womb, in the name of Jesus.
10. I trample upon every enemy of my advancement and I unseat all evil powers sitting on my promotions, in the name of Jesus.
11. Lord, enlarge my coast beyond my wildest dreams, in the name of Jesus.
12. I claim back all my goods presently residing in wrong hands, in the name of Jesus.

WARFARE PRAYER TO PROTECT YOUR DESTINY

The major destroyer of destiny is the devil. But he is limited; he is not omnipotent. He is not omnipresent. The Bible says: *"Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour.* The devil has to walk about to see whom he may devour. He is not everywhere at the same time. He has a network of accredited agents who work for him.

Ex 1:15-20

And the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah. And he said, when ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew woman, and see them upon stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the man children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, why have ye done this thing, and have saved the man children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women: for they are lively, and delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

Here, Pharaoh looked for contractors but failed. I decree that any power seeking evil contractors against you shall be destroyed, in Jesus' name.

Numbers 22:1-6

And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this Company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. He

sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

HIRED TO CURSE

In the scripture above, we see a classic example of a satanic contractor. Balaam was hired to curse the children of Israel. His own curses were very potent. In those days, the enemy saw that he was about to be defeated and he had to look for a dark contractor to use. So he hired Balaam. He feared the enemy and said, these people will lick us up like water. Let us deal with them now." They could not cope by their power, so they hired a dark contractor to curse them.

SATANIC INTERMEDIARIES

Everywhere there are human beings, the devil is also there with his agents. They are called dark contractors, satanic intermediaries or demonic go-betweens that stand in the gap for satan. Men consult evil contractors for several reasons. They go to them to secure power to enable them to win battles, to exercise evil powers over their neighbours or to bring evil upon their enemies, or to have the upper hand in a polygamous set-up.

A contractor is somebody who enters into an agreement to carry out a definite work. The devil often awards contracts to his agents to destroy, and the major thing they destroy is people's destinies. He gives them contract to demote, defile, pollute, distract and destroy. Whether you like it or not and whether you believe it or not, there are individuals who have entered into a legal agreement with the devil to destroy and they are eager to fulfil their contract. They are always excited to do evil works for the enemy. Dark powers must be stopped and crushed before they execute their contracts. Sometimes we start attacking too late after they have succeeded. The painful truth is that majority of those who are buried in the cemetery did not end up there at the time they did. Many also did

not want to die at the time they died.

THE MODERN-DAY TRAGEDY

It is a present-day tragedy that if you go to the cemetery and make enquires of the ages of corpses being brought there for burial, out of 10 people, you will hardly find two or three old people. Most victims are people cut off in their prime.

Sometime ago, I was driving along a cemetery in Lagos Nigeria when I spotted an old pastor friend of mine at the gate. I said, "What are you doing here?" He said he was among a group who came to bury somebody. I said, "How old?" He said "26". "What killed her?" He said, "Typhoid fever". The enemy is an expert at cutting people off in their prime. Once he reads your destiny and sees that it is a colourful one, he immediately employs contractors against you, and if you do not know how to fight, they will deal with you and finish you off.

They have dealt with many people and they are still dealing with many people now. As you study the Scriptures, you will find many of these contractors in the word of God. Delilah was a contractor. The lords of the Philistines hired her to catch Samson.

> **Judges 16:5-6**
> ***And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him and see where in his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee everyone of us eleven hundred pieces of silver". And Delilah said to Samson, tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.***

This is a strange story. It is an open attack. If as a pastor, your wife comes home and say, "Tell me how I can bind you and afflict you", You will probably say; "Send this woman for deliverance." But here, Delilah told Samson, "Tell me your secret, we want to bind you, we want to afflict you and Samson fell into the trap of the dark contractors!

HIRED TO AFFLICT

The word Balaam means "devourer". He was supposed to carry out an evil agenda. His task was to curse the children of Israel and dry them up. But when he was asked to do the evil work, God took steps to arrest him. If his words would have carried no power, God would not have taken it seriously. But God knew that once he spoke, there would be trouble.

Every power hired to curse you shall fall, in the name of Jesus.

Judas too was a contractor of sorts. He took money to betray Jesus and we know the result. Elymas the Sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation), is also a satanic contractor, as he sought to turn away the deputy from the faith.

> **Acts 13:6-7**
> ***And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-Jesus. Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man, who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.***

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him and said:

> **Acts 13:10-12**
> ***And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and darkness; and he went about seeking some one to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.***

ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE

These are days when real men and real women are needed. These are days when

kindergarten Christianity will find it very difficult to survive. These are days when the enemy has changed his gear to the highest. These are days when members of the dark world are doing more and more research to destroy people. These are days when men and women are going deeper and deeper into the occult in order to attack one another. These are days of massive recruitment of young people into all kinds of terrible associations. These are days you never can be sure of the god whom your colleagues in the office are serving. These are days when academic knowledge cannot prevent people from going to the camp of the devil for help. These are days when highly educated people are also highly fetish and diabolical. These are days when the rate at which people seek money and seek to capture other people's destiny is so terrible that they can do anything. These are days when the enemy is operating the largest scanning machine available to detect who to steal from.

These are days when men would put fetish charms under their clothes and also have a weapon in their hands. These are days when men are writing letters to strange places to recieve magical powers. These are days when a man and a woman can end up getting married to their foremost enemies. These are days when someone looks at a promotion list and uses occultic power to remove another person's name from it.

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTIANITY

Kindergarten Christianity will not survive and ice-cream prayers will not help. Many of us prayed ice-cream prayers before and it did not get us anywhere. All those prayers you prayed in the past and the enemy was just laughing at you must be discarded. Although you were saying amen at the end, it had no effect on the enemy. The problem with many Christians is that they do not know who the enemy is. They don't know how to identify him or where to find him. Sometimes, they discover him but they do not know how to respond to him. They do not know his strategies or how he would attack. Once under attack, they are at a loss as regards how to fight back.

The purpose of this chapter is to warm you about the epidemic of dark contractors all over the place. These dark contractors are highly loaded with satanic powers.

WEIRD EXPERIENCES

I have seen many things as a minister. I have seen people vomiting terrible things. I have seen people vomiting snails, snakes, calabashes, pins, pots, cowries, rings, lizards, hair, live birds and small coffins. Those people have their powers inside their bowels. When they speak against your life and you do not know what to do, you might carry a heavy load.

In Paris, France, sometime ago, we went to pray with a woman. Immediately we entered the house, it was as if a dark shadow fell on all of us. We tried to pray but it was as if the heaven was brass. We could not pray. I said, "Madam, we are not going to pray, there are satanic materials in this house, bring them out." She said, "If I bring them out, what weapons will I use to defend myself?" I said, "Bring them out." She brought out the material and I asked, "What do you do with this?" She said: "When I want to destroy somebody, I will bite it and go and look for the person's trouble. Anything the person says to me will happen to him." She was loaded with satanic powers. There are people who go about with satanic powers inside their bowels. The enemy employs them to do evil things. If you do not stop them, they will pollute and defile you. They will divert your destiny or cause you to be demoted. If they speak evil things into your life and you are not careful, it may begin to take root.

MARITAL CONTRACTORS

Dark contractors are sent to destroy marriages and pollute people's blood. Their major agenda is to waste people. When they get to a place they exalt the inferior and pull down the superior. Some of them take strange postures when they sleep. Some sleep with their eyes wide open and some sleep with legs on the wall. Some sleep in such a way that if you change their position they will be in trouble.

A man who had just been promoted was brought for deliverance. A dark contractor was hired against him. The evil contractor instructed them to put something under his seat at work and bring the thing back. After this, he tied it to a cotton thread and put it in a river. Whenever the cotton began to swell because of water level, the man will begin to swell like a balloon. Whenever the water recedes from the cotton wool, the man will begin to come down to normal. After sometime, he will swell up again. Something was put in the river to represent

him and it was used to manipulate and torment his life. Dark contractors are wicked!

VIOLENT PRAYERS

Pray violently that anything representing you in the river should catch fire. You can see the terrible nature and wickedness of these powers. These contractors control and direct demons. When Paul came across such a contractor, he did not pat him at the back and try to convert him. No, he did not begin to sing praise and worship. He did not turn the other cheek. He quickly identified the enemy and dealt with him squarely. He exercised the power and authority delegated to him by the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "Thou shall be blind. Thank God he added, "for a season", if not, the man would have been blind forever.

Yes, Jesus said, love your enemies and do good to those who despitefully use you. Sometimes we read our bibles upside down. The kind of enemy you can love is the enemy that does not know what he is doing. Jesus looked at some people when He was on the cross and said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". But when an enemy knows what he is doing and has actively taken steps to destroy you, you should use your most potent weapon against him. If he succeeds in destroying you and later gets born again, you would have died cheap.

STOP THEM!

You have to use your most potent weapons to stop them. Paul commanded blindness on a man and said the man should be blind. He is the same fellow, who wrote: *"Though I speak with the tangues of men and of angels, and I have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, though I have all faith so I could move mountains, and I have not charity I am nothing., though* I *have bestowed my body to be burnt, or my goods to feed the poor and I have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."* The same person who wrote this wonderful love chapter was the person who commanded blindness on someone. The enemy knew what he was doing. He was disturbing the work of God.

SPIT FIRE!

Today, we may have to spit more fire than in the days of Paul. There is an intensive satanic revival surrounding us. There are many people who have been completely destroyed by satanic contractors. Some are under contract to destroy children, marriages, and see that some people do not last. It is a tragedy if you just fold your hands and say, "Someday God will deliver me." The Bible say, "Shake thyself and set thyself free, thou daughter of Zion." There are evil contractors around us who are carrying out satanic evil agenda.

Many years back, I spoke to one executive lady to give her life to Christ. She did not listen. She enjoyed dancing in her traditional church on Sundays. I told her that things were not that simple. She did not listen until she was dealt with. The next time I saw her was when I went to preach to somebody at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) in Lagos. I saw somebody saying, "Doctor, here I am in a low voice. When I went closer, I discovered that she was now a ghost of her formal self. The dark contractors had dealt with her.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THESE POWERS?

1. **Cut them off from their sources of power:** This strategy never fails. Whatever and whoever the contractors are, there is a place they draw their powers from. They may be getting their power from the sun, the moon, the stars, the wind or from water. You have to command their wickedness to be shaken off from where it is planted. Once you cut them off, they will have no power to afflict your life anymore.
2. **Return the weapons back to them:** The church is at war. Curses and weapons are in the armoury of the enemy. Children of God should not just sit down lying low. Jesus turned and said to Peter, *"Get thee behind me satan,"* because He knew it was not Peter speaking. When Goliath cursed David in the name of his god, David did not begin praise and worship there and say, "I love you Goliath with the love of the Lord." No, he reacted straight away. He said *"I come against you in the name of the God of Isreal whom you have defied. Today, I will kill you, cut off your head and feed it to the birds of the air."* Those were not very kind words at all.

Elijah came across king Ahab who said: "Have you found me oh my enemy; you

troubler of Israel, you and your father's house." This was an aggressive answer! This is not the time to pray some gentle prayers saying to your problem. Jesus said, "Get out of him and enter no more" This means go back to where you are coming from. You need to do that aggressively.

I remember the testimony of a woman who was at home eating pounded yam with vegetable soup. All of a sudden, she saw a big frog on the pounded yam and quickly slammed the plate of soup on the pounded yam and pressed it hard so that the frog got smashed. Ordinarily that action could have killed the frog, but when she opened the food there was no frog again. Instead the hand she used to press the frog and one of her legs became paralysed. However, she was brought to church where she prayed a back-to-the-sender prayer and she was healed. Immediately she got home, her elder sister was her first visitor. She said, "Ha, ha, are you all right now? What did you use?" What happened was that the frog she pressed down on the pounded yam actually entered her body. It now went back to her sister. That was why she came to check what had happened. The sister said tersely, "You are the owner of your frog. You have taken it back" The woman in turn became paralysed immediately.

If some people are busy flinging arrows at the children of God, the only way to stop them is to make them have a taste of what they are doing.

3. **Bring the judgment of God against them:** The Bible has pronounced severe judgment against those troubling God's people. Make sure this judgment come to pass.
4. **Bind all their pronouncements so that they will not work against your life:** Those who have organised themselves to disorgainise you shall be disorganized in Jesus' name.

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent taketh it by force. Many of the things we regard as ordinary or mere coincidences are not. They have been cleverly planned in the spirit realm.

Satanic contractors who have swallowed a snail can speak sluggishness into your business. They can speak destruction and stagnancy into what you are doing. It

is therefore a tragedy if the contractors are after you, but you do not even know. You must quit the pathway of ignorance. You must confront dark contractors and revoke their contract papers today. If you have not surrendered your life to Jesus, do so now by saying this prayer: "Father, in the name of Jesus, I come before you. Lord Jesus, come into my life and take control of my life, in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Confess your sins and those of your ancestors, especially those sins linked to evil powers.
2. Cover yourself with the blood of Jesus.
3. I release myself from any inherited bondage, in Jesus' name.
4. Lord, send Your axe of fire to the foundation of my life and destroy every evil plantation, in the name of Jesus.
5. Let the blood of Jesus flush out from my system every inherited satanic deposit, in the name of Jesus.
6. I release myself from the grip of any problems transferred into my life from the womb, in the name of Jesus.
7. Let the blood of Jesus and the fire of the Holy Ghost cleanse every organ in my body, in the name of Jesus.
8. By the blood of Jesus, I make my breakthroughs untouchable for any evil powers, in the name of Jesus.
9. Any powers working against my treasures, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every warfare against my breakthroughs in the heavenlies, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
11. Let every cycle of problems in my life die, in the name of Jesus.
12. Thank God for making provision for deliverance from any form of bondage.
13. Every Balaam hired to curse you shall fall down and die, in Jesus' name.
14. Every power placing witchcraft legs on the wall against your life shall be destroyed, in Jesus' name.

SECTION 6

THE POWER OF MILITANT PRAYERS

Introduction

Life is a battle and the world is a battlefield. For you to succeed in life, you must enrol in the school of spiritual warfare. Failure in this school means failure in life.

This book will take you through the school of spiritual warfare and train you in the art of militant prayers. It will equip you to confront and conquer every foe.

Mark 9:17-29:

"And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by

prayer and fasting."

Life is a battle and the world is a battlefield. Those who want to succeed in life must enrol in the school of spiritual warfare. Prayer is a singular weapon which you can make use of to win the battles of life.

There are situations in life that human intelligence and talents cannot handle. University professors, successful businessmen and women often come across situations that completely baffle them. In my ministerial travels around the world, I have come across weird situations: I have come across someone who has a combination of both male and female organs; I have seen important people in the society who are impotent; I have come across a woman with a talking pregnancy, I have seen a woman with an overdue pregnancy; I have seen celebrities who can boast of truckloads of charms yet they are swimming in the ocean of troubles. Indeed, we live in a weird world! The truth is that, survival is impossible without prayer.

There are two realms in which we live:

1. The Physical realm.
2. The Spiritual realm.

There is no denying the fact that the spiritual realm rules the physical realm. It is not possible to graduate in the school of life without passing a compulsory course in the school of prayer. If you fail to gain mastery in the school of prayer, you have failed the most vital school. One of the most amazing revelations is that we spend over 90% of our time in the physical realm and 10% in the spiritual realm.

Think about if you were given a key that opens all doors, what would you do with that key? Prayer is that key that opens all doors, it is the one key that will work for you, the other keys are ineffective. It is a key that will open the door of sound health, prosperity, success, promotion, marital bliss, etc, when human beings deny you access.

Prayer is the key to the realm of victory when you are fighting the battles of life. Prayer is the only key that can bring peace to a broken home. Prayer is the only key that will open gates to usher you into a realm of unprecedented breakthroughs. Prayer is the key that will open a divine store-room where everything you need will be available to you.

If prayer is so vital, then why do people not get enrolled in the school of prayer? It is because the devil is fighting against their prayer. If there is one thing the devil is fighting most in your life, it is your prayer life. One thing the devil cannot stomach is a believer's prayer altar. Whatever takes away your prayer altar has taken away your most potent weapon of fighting the devil.

REASONS WHY THE DEVIL HATES PRAYER

1. **The devil cannot pray:** Remember the fact that satan fell from a great height and lost several privileges, therefore he cannot pray. So, each prayer effort made by a believer is a thorn in his flesh.

2. **Prayer inflicts serious injuries on him:** Prayer is a blow which makes the believer to bruise the head of the serpent. The more you pray, the more damage you infliction the enemy.

   Genesis 3:15
   "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

3. **The devil does not want you to pray because it is only at the altar of prayer that his defeat is sure:** Prayer places the enemy under defeat.

   Romans 16:20
   "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

4. The devil knows that prayer will take you to a realm where you will abide in Christ far above all principality and power: The moment you become too

hot for the devil to handle, the more you will be able to soar like an eagle to a realm where no evil can befall you.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every yoke, working against my spiritual growth, be broken, in Jesus name.
2. I shall not be a misfired arrow in the hands of my maker, in the name of Jesus.
3. O God of Elijah, arise and give unto me my mantle of fire, in the name of Jesus.
4. Holy Ghost fire, destroy all works of darkness in my life, in Jesus' name.
5. Every witchcraft power, drinking the blood of my spiritual life, die, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER FOR SEVENFOLD PROPHETIC BLESSING

2 Kings 5:1-10

"Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little maid from the land of Israel, and she waited on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the maiden from the land of Israel." And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." And when the king of Israel read the letter, he rent his clothes and said, "Am I Gad, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you rent your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordn seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

Naaman had wonderful qualifications and powerful credentials, but there was a BUT in his life- Naaman was a leper! This is a story we all know and it has a lot of information and lessons for us today.

1. **The first lesson or information you can pick from the story is that before that time, Elisha had never healed a leper in Israel:** Naaman's healing was his first experience. He healed a total stranger of leprosy. God has a

way of picking people out for blessings. The Bible tells us that Jesus was at the pool of Bethesda and saw people with problems, but He walked up to, and touched only one person. The Bible says there were so many people with problems waiting for the water to be troubled, but it was just one man that Jesus picked and touched. That is why the Lord will locate you for special breakthrough. The Bible also says: "There were many lepers in Israel but Elisha was not sent to them but just one man called Naaman."

2. **The problems of life do not respect anybody:** The problems of life are completely crude; They have no respect for any man. Problems of life are terribly rude, they are not gentle at all. Naaman was a great man, but he was a burden to himself. No wonder there is a saying that "The rich also cry." When the problems of life come your way, your popularity will become irrelevant because you will need a higher power to survive.

3. The third lesson is that everyone has a 'But', but the severity of the 'but' varies. A man of God said the devil began to throw stones at man in the Garden of Eden. He throws stones at everybody, but the stones hit each one of us at different spots.

4. **The fourth lesson is that the little girl that was abducted from Israel did not forget her God:** She was captured as a slave, but she did not forget her God. When many of us experience little problems, we forget God completely and go back to the devil. Anytime you go to darkness to fight darkness, you are deceiving yourself. The only thing that can overcome darkness is light.

A man came to see me many years ago. He said that as at July to December of that year, he made nothing less than 26 million naira, but as he was talking with me, he was left with only ₦6,000 naira. He noticed that money kept on disappearing, so he wanted me to pray for him. As I closed my eyes to start praying, the Lord told me to tell him to go and bring his Charms. The man laughed so much until he fell off his seat and I wondered why he was laughing. He then told me that if he were to bring the charms, he would need a truck. So I told him to go and bring the most powerful of them. He drove off and came back two hours later with a bottle of witchcraft brew and in it was a viper. He said he used to drink the water whenever he wanted to go for contracts. Anytime he took

the water, he would get any contract that he wanted; but by the time the money came, the viper would swallow the money. Anytime you abandon light for darkness, you will surely have trouble.

5. **The fifth lesson is that spiritual power cannot be equated with kingly authority:** A king over human beings is not necessarily a king over demons. The devil has no regards for academic qualifications. Your qualifications cannot remove a kilogram or ounce of problem. Stop trusting in darkness, put your trust in the Almighty God!

6. **You cannot buy things from God:** God is not a businessman who sells for profit.

7. **You cannot teach God how to work:** God has His own ways and He will use His own methods. His methods are completely beyond our understanding, He said: *"As the heavens are far from the earth, so are My thoughts farther from your own thoughts."*

8. **Your life can be the opposite of your good name:** Naaman means "pleasant to look upon", but his condition was the exact opposite of his name. Maybe your parents gave you a good name out of love, but you have found out that the good name they gave you is the opposite of the life you are living.

9. **The place of breakthrough is decided by God:** God told Naaman to go to Jordan but he said he wanted to go to Arbana and Pharpha, two Syrian rivers in Damascus.

10. **There is an appointed place for all miracles and breakthroughs.**

11. **When you are in a place of appointment, serious breakthroughs will manifest in your life.**

12. **Another lesson is that we see 'the law of multiple ministration or constant pounding of heaven':** There is often a need for repeated and sustained ministration on the same problem. Naaman was asked to dip

himself in the river seven times. Elijah prayed seven times for rain. There are miracles that will only respond to several ministrations. Elijah prayed for the dead boy three times. It is not just a ritual, it is the mystery of constant ministration. Joshua led the people of Israel round Jericho seven times and after the seventh time, they shouted and the wall of Jericho fell down. Jesus touched the blind man two times before he could see clearly.

13. **Miracle supersedes logic.**

14. **God has His own agenda.**

There are sevenfold prophetic blessings that the Lord has commanded into your life:

1. **Uncommon favour.**
2. **Unmatchable increase.**
3. **Illogical miracles:** I remember a woman who had cancer of the womb. Her womb was removed and she vowed never to marry, until a brother dragged her to the altar. It was the pregnancy and the fact that the woman delivered her baby safely that made the surgeon who removed her womb to become born- again. He was completely dumbfounded because he was the one who performed the surgery and removed the woman's womb.
4. **Dumbfounding breakthroughs.**
5. **Wonderful elevations.**
6. **High-voltage deliverance.**
7. **Spiritual revival.**

When you come for these blessings from God, there are only two hindrances:

1. **Unbelief.**
2. **Sin.**

If you believe and have faith in God, you will receive your blessings without any hindrance, but when you doubt God, you are on your own.

A lot of people need to repent completely so that their breakthroughs can manifest. Some people need to drop anger; others need to drop fornication; a lot of people need to control the way they talk; while others need to repent from the kind of hatred they have for the others.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Any power assigned to trouble my destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Unbroken curses, battling my promotion, you are liars, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Any power delaying my success, die by fire, in the name of Jesus.
4. Power of reproach, die, in the name of Jesus.
5. Fire of affliction, go back to your sender, in the name of Jesus.

VICTORY THROUGH PROPHETIC PRAYING

Eccl 3:1-15

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

Our God is a God of purpose. He created the earth and the heaven for a purpose.

He has a purpose for all things that he created, and times are attached to these purposes.

God says in Ex 9:16, that he raised up Pharaoh for two purposes.

> **Exo 9:16**
> ***And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power, and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.***

God raised up Pharaoh for the purpose of:

- Showing in him His power.
- That His name may be declared through all the earth.

WHAT IS PURPOSE

Our God is a God of purpose. But, what is purpose?

1. Purpose is the object toward which one strives.
2. Purpose is the object for which something exists.
3. Purpose is the goal, aim or intention of something.
4. Purpose is a result that is intended or desired.
5. Purpose is resolution.
6. Purpose is a valuable thing desired.

> **2 Chro 28:8-11**
> ***And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria. But a prophet of the LORD was these, whose name was Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because the LORD God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain***

them in a rage that reacheth up unto heaven. And now ye purpose to keep under the children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you: but are there not with you, even with you, sins against the LORD your God? Now hear me therefore, and deliver the captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren: for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you.

What is time? Time is the period or moment, in which something happens.

As you read this book, I can tell you through the word of God, that He has a purpose for you.

Jer 29:11
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

God will give to you your desired end. But when God's purpose is in collision with man's purpose, there will be problems, there will be crises and conflicts.

Isaiah 14:24-28
The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden.

THE MYSTERY OF EVENTS

Please take note of these statements:

1. There are certain secrets (divine or carnal) revealed to certain people at

certain periods for certain reasons or purposes.

2. There are certain events that occurred at certain times because of certain people for certain reasons, or purposes.
3. There are certain circumstances that are in place for certain people at certain times for certain reasons or purposes.
4. There are certain people that meet at certain times or periods for certain reasons or purposes.

The Bible talks of a particular day in the Book of Job 1:6, 13; 2:1

> **Job 1:6**
> ***Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.***
>
> **Job 1:13**
> ***And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:***
>
> **Job 2:1**
> ***Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.***

1. There was a day when Saul of Tarsus had a divine encounter with Christ on the way to Damascus

Act 9:1-8
And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou

persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

2. There was a day of Pentecost -

> **Acts 2:1-4**
> ***And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

3. The Glory of Jesus manifested on a particular day -

> **John 2:11**
> ***This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.***

All these events occurred because God purposed them in heaven and had times attached to them. There were no crises in the mentioned events, because there was harmony between the purpose of God and the purpose of man. By this I mean, man cooperated with the purpose of God.

In 2nd Chronicles 28: 8-15, The children of Israel purposed to keep the children of Judah in slavery when they were carried as captives to Samaria. But that purpose was in collision with the purpose of God. God used prophet Oded to warn the people of Israel of the consequence of enslaving their fellow Jews. Crises was averted here, because certain elders of the children of Israel prevailed on the military wing of the people of Israel not to do so.

God in His mercy will speak to man through prophets and other men of God to warn them, in order to avoid crisis. God also will speak to man through dreams. Why will God speak to man through dreams?

> **Job 33:17**
> ***That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.***

GOD'S PURPOSE

When there is crisis, we seek for solution. There is only one solution, and that is to yield to the purpose of God. The Bible says in Isa 45:9, *"Woe unto him that strives with his Maker"!* It is not possible to strive with God. Anyone that strives with God is sure to lose in the end.

Now we shall examine a unique occasion when men yielded to the purpose of God and yet there was crisis.

> **Ezra 1:5**
> ***Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.***

God purposed to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem when the Jews in captivity were released to return back to Jerusalem. He stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, the king of Persia, to initiate the construction of the temple. One would like to generate two questions from the passage above.

Why did God stir up the spirit of Cyrus, the king of Persia, to make the proclamation and document the proclamation in writing?

A DIVINE STRATEGY

I will give an answer this way. I believe that God is proving His name, known as the God that knows the end from the beginning to us. He knows the end from the

beginning. He knew from the beginning that the adversaries would rise up against the rebuilding. He knew from the beginning that the adversaries would attempt to frustrate the efforts and purpose of the people involved in the rebuilding. He knew from the beginning that the construction would be delayed, until the reign of Darius, the king of Persia. He knew from the beginning that Darius, king of Persia, would request for the records of Cyrus, the king of Persia, for the rebuilding to be completed and, that was what happened.

> **Ezr 6:1-2**
> ***Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:***

Why was God able to use a heathen king to rebuild His temple? This was because he had the means to do so.

Hear what the Bible says in Pro 21:1

> **Pro 21:1**
> ***The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.***

God does whatever He wants with the hearts of men. God is in control of everything, anywhere and anytime.

> **Ezr 1:5**
> ***Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.***

> **Ezra 3:1-2**
> ***And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and***

his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

Ezr 3:10
And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

Ezr 3:11
And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

SATANIC HINDRANCE

The Jews in Judah and Jerusalem did what they should do spiritually, to ensure that the rebuilding of the temple encountered no delay or hindrance. But the events that followed showed this is not to be true, as the construction works were hindered and delayed.

Ezra 4:l-2
Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur; which brought us up hither.

The adversaries disguised as friends to infiltrate into the midst of the Jews of Judah and Jerusalem, to hinder the construction. But this did not happen as they were bluntly rejected. Still the adversaries used other means to weaken the hands of the people and troubled them.

Ezr 4:4-5
Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

One may ask whether the rebuilding was really the purpose of God as these adversaries prevailed for a time.

Ezr 4:23
Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.

Ezr 4:24
Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

THE MYSTERY OF EVIL POWERS

What God initiated was executed by force of arm and power. What kind of power? It could be the power of witchcraft, or power of familiar spirit, or the power of occult, or any other evil power. But the temple was rebuilt. How did this happen? Let us see:

Ezra 5:1-5
Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that w m in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them. At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this

wall? Then said we unto them after this manner, What am the names of the men that make this building? But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.

Two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, prayed prophetic prayers upon the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, and something happened. With the prophetic pronouncements by prophets Haggai and Zechariah upon the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem, two things happened.

Some men rose up to continue the construction of the temple. How did this happen? The prophetic prayers scattered the demonic powers of dejection, frustration, irritation and in-fighting among them. The prophetic prayers then brought back to them the spirit of cooperation with the prophets and prayer warriors, courage, determination, faith in God, perseverance, and boldness.

A DIVINE ORDER

The eyes of God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease. What does this imply? It implies that God set in motion a divine order (this includes angelic ministrations and assignments), to support the construction works, and not to be able to stop it. This spiritual backup happened as a result of prophetic prayers of Prophets Haggai and Zechariah. The eye of God was upon the elders of the Jews by the reason of the prophetic prayers.

There are lots of spiritual warfare lessons to learn in verse 3.

The Bible has it written like this: **"At the same time."** This implies that simultaneously, as some Jews rose up to continue the construction works, some adversaries also rose up to stop it. The rising up against was equal, or even, surpassed the enthusiasm of the Jews that continued the construction works. But because the spirit of boldness had possessed them, they stood their ground and were not moved at all. A writer once said, "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid"

The eye of the Lord was also upon them.

The adversaries reported the renewed efforts at completing the temple in Jerusalem to Darius, the king of Persia. The Jews referred the king to the proclamation and the documentation of the proclamation by Cyrus, the King of Persia. Darius the king of Persia found the records at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Medes, and gave a strong instruction to leave the Jews alone to finish the temple.

> **Ezra 6:6-8**
> ***Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence: Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place. Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.***

They must not be hindered. No power can nullify the purpose of God.

> **Ezra 6:13-15**
> ***Then Tatnai, governor on this side the rive, Shetharboznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily. And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.***

WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL LESSONS TO BE LEARNED HERE?

1) The purpose of God, and God-backed purpose of man cannot be nullified. The Bible says in Isa 14:24, The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, surely as I have thought, so shalt it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it

stand.

2) The purpose may be hindered, delayed, or frustrated for a period of time. But, when such happens, it is that the glory of God and His power might be seen and known. And, it is also that His patience, compassion and love might be appreciated.

3) God can use any means to achieve His purpose. He stirred up the spirit of a heathen king to initiate the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

4) The purpose of man without God's backing can be nullified, delayed, or frustrated by contrary powers.

THE POWER OF MILITANT PRAYERS

5) When someone is in partnership with God for the fulfilment of his divine destiny, every obstacle will be an opportunity for God to be glorified in his life.

6) Powers can be employed to frustrate your divine purpose. Such powers such as witchcraft, the occult, familiar spirits and demons cm be employed.

7) You have a role to play in the fulfilment of your divine purpose in life. Ezra 6:14

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every attempt being made by destiny killers against my destiny, be frustrated unto death, in the name of Jesus.
2. I command the fire of God to come upon destiny killers working against my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
3. I remove my destiny from the camp of destiny killers, in the name of Jesus.
4. I use the fire of God and the blood of Jesus to surround my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every power working against the fruitfulness of my destiny, be disgraced,

in the name of Jesus

6. I command my destiny to reject every bewitchment, in the name of Jesus.
7. I deliver my destiny from the grip of destiny killers, in Jesus' name.

PRAYING USING THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Rev 12:11
And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

I would like you to read this chapter with rapt attention, *so* that you can key into what God intends to do through this miracle power. It is a power topic that this is just a scratch on it.

The verse above is a very interesting part of the Bible; it gives us a potent weapon and it will be good if you memorise it and appropriate it to yourself. There is a weapon that has never lost its power, but people have not learnt to use it, it is highly effective. Even the enemy is afraid when you start to talk about it. That old serpent, the dragon, that the Bible talks about, saying: "Woe unto the earth and the sea..." There is a weapon, that can overcome it. There is nothing that God created that he cannot re-create; there is no enemy that God cannot defeat.

AN ENIGMA

A two-year-old girl learnt a particular song, and was always singing it: "There is power, there is power, there is power in the Blood of Jesus."

Her mother noticed that she never took ill. One day, the mother washed the girl's party clothes and hung them outside. There was a serious wind which blew her small pants to the compound next to theirs, and it landed in the sitting room of a neighbour who was a fetish priest. Immediately the pants landed, there was pandemonium in the room; everything turned upside down. Everything he knew how to do failed; nothing could avail for him. He did his consultation, and he found out that there was a strange object in the room. He tried to pick it up but fell. He started to rain incantations, offered sacrifice, poured libation, but he could not make a headway. He could not touch the pants, and everywhere was hot. Throughout that day, no client came for consultation. He battled throughout the night.

The following day, the wind blew again and this time, the girl saw her toy flying towards the man's sitting room. She followed it, and then saw her pants. She went straight towards it, and picked it up, singing her song: "There is power in the Blood of Jesus." The herbalist tried to stop her, thinking the 'strange' thing would harm her, but she picked up her pant casually from the centre of the room with oil and blood poured around it. The girl picked it up and left, still singing. That incident converted the witchdoctor. He surrendered his life to Christ, having seen that his power is not the absolute Power. He left his beggarly powers, and came to the Lord.

AN EXPLOSIVE POWER

There is a power that supersedes every other power. That power transforms simple things into powerful weapons. The awesomeness and mystery of the power in the blood of Jesus is not being preached in the church today. Many present day Christians do not know many things about victory in the battles of life. Learning to claim the power in the blood of Jesus is very important. It is a prayer that brings deliverance and protection.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I rebuke all deceiving spirits by the blood and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. I renounce every satanic claim of ownership to any department of my life, in the name of Jesus.
3. I release my foundations from the grip of household wickedness, in the name of Jesus.
4. I release my foundations from the grip of satanic manipulations, in the name of Jesus.
5. I release myself from any satanic brake applied to any department of my life, in the name of Jesus.
6. I break every foundational curse, in the name of Jesus.
7. Let the angel of the living God begin to roll away every evil stone blocking my pathway, in the name of Jesus.

DECODING THE PRAYERS

One major characteristic of the mountain of fire and miracles ministries is the kind of prayers that we pray. I sense in my spirit that there are so many people who come to the mountain of fire and miracles ministries, although they are members they don't even understand the prayers they pray. They do not understand the principles, the power and performance of those prayers. Most people too don't understand that there are some conditions that you need to fulfill if you want it to work like fire. These are things people don't know when we say this particular thing die. But to the glory of God those who are making fun of us that we are 'die, die' people the way they are praying their own now is more dangerous than ours because now they understand the power, the secret, the mystery behind those prayers. I want you to understand this very well.

There was a man who had a church in Benin an overseer of a church. He did not agree with all the prayers we pray in Mountain of Fire. He criticizes the prayers, he preaches against the prayers and he says all kinds of things against those prayers. He knows the prayers but he criticizes them and it continued like this until one day something happened that cured him forever. He was baptizing his church members in the flowing river, the river was not deep because it was just ankle level. He baptized the first person, he baptized the second person, he baptized the third person. The fourth person was one beautiful lady, very fair in complexion. So as he lowered the lady into the water and said I baptize you in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, something mysterious grabbed the lady from his hand and the lady vanished. He was confused. The people who were yet to be baptized who were on the queue on seeing that the last lady did not come out started to reverse. One of them was trying to call the police, as the man was confused in the water, he remembered the prayers of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles, then he started. He said, you

this lady wherever you have entered into in this water, come out by fire, in the name of Jesus. Any power in this water that has stolen this lady from my hand return her by fire. As he prayed aggressively for five minutes, the lady came out. The lady that came out said pastor, relax because I want to be a true Christian now, I just went to say bye bye to my mother in the water so don't be alarmed, I am here again. If you go to his church now when they start praying you would be afraid. He learnt that there is power, there is performance in those prayers.

Gone are the days when you begin to pray father, I come to thee, thy humble servant, that thou rescue me from the powers of the night in the name of the father in the name of the son, in the name of Holy Spirit. Amen. That prayer will work in the early fifties not now, because the bible says the devil has come against us in great wrath, in a great anger. Those prayers don't work now any longer. I want you to understand this very, very well. All the proverbial prayers too don't work anymore, the enemy has mastered all those things. So we need to know where we are, we need to understand the kind of prayers we pray, we need to know how to make the prayers work, we need to share the secrets behind those prayers, we need to know the power behind those prayers. I am going to take one prayer point today and analyze it for you. There are prayers and there are prayers in the bible. There are prayers in the bible that if you pray it once, it covers almost two thousand other prayers. It is one of those prayers we want to pick now and it is one of the most powerful prayers in the whole of the scriptures. A lot of people pray but they don't understand the forces behind it.

There is monumental ignorance in the body of Christ as far as spiritual warfare is concerned and this is not doing us any good at all.

Decoding Prayer 1

Psalm 68:1 says, Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered, let them also that hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away so drive them away, as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad, let them rejoice before God, yea let them exceedingly rejoice.

That joy *is* tied to the prayer on top. That's how King James Bible put it. The modern bible say's *arise o God and let your enemies be scattered.* It was from

this scripture that that old fashioned revival song of the early thirties was taken. A marching song of old, a song of old, a song that is offensive against the kingdom of darkness. We don't normally sing it too often these days, but when we got born again it was one of the popular songs we sing. Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered was a prayer that did not originate from the psalmist, in fact, the first man that prayed it was Moses. He spoke to God mouth by mouth. So for that kind of man to call a prayer point, it must be a serious matter indeed. No wonder the psalmist re-echoed that prayer of Moses. That prayer point was originally spoken by Moses in the wilderness during the wilderness journey. So the prayer is very deep.

Num. 10:34 says, And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And if came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. And when it rested, he said, return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel.

This is a prayer to arise, prayer to settle. It was from these words that the psalmist spoke 'let God arise and let his enemies be scattered'. Let his enemies be scattered. Let, means don't prevent him. Let means don't delay him from arising. Let, means don't put any obstacle before him. Let, means give him the opportunity. Let, means give him permission to rise, and what happens when God arises? The enemies scatter and the people rejoice.

Scatter, means that the enemies have to flee. They have to break up. God arising means that he would manifest his glory and presence in that environment. So this prayer is very serious. There are many prayers in the bible that are with arise. For example in Psalm 7 you have arise O Lord in thine anger. In Psalm 9 you have arise O Lord let not man prevail. In Psalm 17 you have arise O Lord, disappoint him and cast him down.

Anytime Moses says arise O Lord, the Levites, the priests, all of them will spring into action. Once they hear that language it is time to dismantle the tabernacle, to pack and move forward again and begin to follow the cloud that is leading them. The God that had arising was in that cloud before them and leading them. So the cry of let God arise is a cry of change, the cry let God arise is a cry of progress because anytime Moses said it, it was time to move forward.

The cry of let God arise is a cry of going from one level to another. The cry of let God arise is a cry of moving into a new territory. The cry of let God arise is a cry to move you to the next level in your divine agenda. The cry of let God arise is a cry for fresh move with God. The cry of let God arise is a cry of I am not ready to hold God down, I will not put limitations on God again, I want him to arise for my sake. The cry of let God arise is a cry that says I will not put limitation on the arising of God anymore, because as big as God is, as powerful as he is you can decide to limit his power in your life. If I ask you how big is your God? You say my God is bigger than the whole of the universe, that's how he would manifest his power in your life. If I say how big is your God and you say my God is like this microphone, that is how he would manifest himself in your life.

> ***Psalm 78:41 says, Yea they turned back and tempted God and limited the Holy one of Israel.***
>
> ***Mat. 13:58 says, and he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.***

The people in the place where Jesus was born did not believe, so because of their unbelief he could not do many mighty miracles there because they limited Jesus.

So the prayer of let God arise is a prayer that God should arise and let your victory manifest. Let God arise is a cry to lead the people of God into victory and prosperity but leaves the rebellious to starve in the desert. Let God arise is a cry of possibility of God. Let God arise is a cry to move into God's envelope of fire. Let God arise is a cry to arise above the minimum**.** Let God arise is a cry to arise above the wounds and scars of the past. Let God arise is a cry for you to move forward and possess your possession. Let God arise is a cry that Gods promises in your life must be fulfilled urgently. Let God arise is a cry to invite God for his spirit to move into your situation.

Listen, the great Apostle Babalola went to preach the gospel in a demonic town and he went to the king in the palace to ask for a land to build the church. The king who was also a demonic person who was not interested in the gospel; practically a demon in His own right, gave the man of God the first forbidden bush which nobody enters. Those who ventured to go in did not last twenty four hours before they died. That was the place the king gave to the man of God. The

man of God thanked the king profusely while the king was looking at him as a person who would die there. The man of God went out, took his prayer warriors and they went to this bush. When they got there, the man of God began to pray. Some of those who were there that day with cutlass to cut the bush are still alive. They told us what I am telling you now. As they got there, the man of God rang his bell and with a very loud voice he just said, O God arise and let your enemy in this bush scatter. That was all he said. They said they had people running**,** as they were running they were colliding on trees, they were rising and they were falling off. Some were jamming themselves into the trees but they said they never saw anybody but they heard the sound of the scattering. They said after some time there was a calm and he ordered them to begin to cut the bush. As they were cutting the bush, from the mountain they saw a mighty python crawling down. Those cutting the grass wanted to run away, but baba said stay there, continue to cut your grass. The serpent came majestically and went straight to the man of God. The man of God just said, let the fire of the God of Elijah fall upon this serpent, and it was as if electricity passed through the serpent, it just dried up.

When you pray let God arise, your situation would be rearranged. When you pray let God arise, it is then your Pharaoh would sink into the Red Sea. When you pray let God arise, it is then your stubborn pursuer will drown and the programme of the enemy for your life will be terminated. When you pray let God arise, it is then the evil name given to you by the enemy changes.

A woman came to our program with water of fire many, many years back, her first time at Prayer City. She took the water home, in the street, where the woman lived they gave her a name. Her name was mama of mad men or mother of lunatics because she had three sons and all three were mad. The woman who was well to do, just put the three of them in the boys quarters in chains because they were very violent. The first born was thirty years old, the second born was twenty something, the third one was twenty something years old, all of them mad. The woman went home with water of fire, she went to the boys quarters, went to the room of the first born sprinkled the water on Him**,** all of a sudden she noticed that the lion like look on the face change and the face calmed down, and for the first time in seventeen years the boy said mummy, give me more of that water. She gave him the whole bottle, he drank the whole bottle and now said mummy, what am I doing here? Who tied my hands? Why am I in this room? He broke down and cried, that was how the first son was healed. When she saw that

she got excited then the other bottle of water she brought she went and got a bucket of water, poured that one inside. She went to the second son and poured the whole bucket on him that one got healed too. He went to the third one and poured water on him, that one got healed too. That was how her three children were healed within ten minutes. That is what happens when God arises for your sake.

WHO ARE THE ENEMIES

In my own little research. I have grouped the enemies of man into one hundred and fifty categories if you don't face them they will face you. If you don't stop them they will stop you. If they do not scatter they will keep regathering to harm you.

1. Problem expanders. They make small problems big, something starts as a boil it becomes cancer.
2. Star Hijackers: They observe peoples star and hijack it.
3. Destiny Killer: A person who is supposed to be a mountain mover becomes somebody who lives in poverty for the whole of his or her life.
4. Money swallowers
5. Head manipulators
6. Progress arresters
7. Satanic ministers
8. Poverty activators
9. Coffin spirit
10. Vagabond spirit
11. Spirit of death
12. Strange money
13. Witchcraft attacks.
14. Satanic arrows
15. Desert Spirit
16. Evil mark on the head of people
17. Curses

18. Evil covenants that people enter into consciously or unconsciously.
19. Progress diverters
20. Evil reporters

These are the enemies that need to scatter and this is the mystery of this prayer. Let God Arise and Let His enemies be scattered and once you begin to pray that prayer what is attached to it is what I have told you.

Decoding Prayer II

We are decoding another prayer point and the prayer point we are taking now to explain is a prayer that can take care of two thousand prayer points.

The prayer is **"The enemy shall die in my place".** I want to try to explain why we pray prayers like that and the prayers having to do with back to the senders. A lot of people who are completely ignorant of spiritual warfare criticize prayers. But we do not argue with people. If you like pray it, if you don't like don't pray it. Anything you pray at the end of the day, God will decide which one he wants to answer. So if you like pray if you don't like don't pray. But for the prayer to be accurate it has to be specific. Somebody in the Bible prayed an unspecific prayer, Jesus had to make him to specify what he wanted. It was blind Bathemaus, he cried out, Jesus son of David have mercy on me, and then Jesus said bring him, to the shock of every one. The first question Jesus asked him was what do you want me to do for you? Why did he ask him that question? Because the man was asking for mercy and there are plenty of mercy you can show to a blind man. It is possible a blind man may not even want to be healed, it has happened before.

There was a crusade at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos. The final day of that crusade God was doing mighty things. A blind man was at the gate of Tafawa Balewa Square begging for money and an overzealous brother went by the gate. He saw the blind man and said Mr. Man, God is healing people inside this place. You are begging for money here. He laid hands on his head and said, receive your sight in the name of Jesus. The man's eyes opened, everybody was jumping up rejoicing for what God had done, but the blind man was crying. He said to the Brother, you see what you have done? Who asked you to open my eyes? Do you know how much money I make here?

So Jesus had to ask blind Bathemaus, what do you want me to do for you? That is, make your prayer specific. He now said, Lord that I may receive my sight, and he said thy faith has made thee whole.

Prayers have to be accurate and specific. The prayer the enemy shall die in my place is a prayer walking on two legs. Let me take the first leg then go to the second leg.

First leg is based on scripture which says in Job 4:8, ***"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity and sow wickedness reap the same".***

Psalm 54:5, ***He shall reward evil unto my enemies cut them off in thy truth.***

Prov. 26: 27, ***Whoso digeth a pit shall fall there in and he that rolleth a stone it will return upon him.***

Psalm 70:2-3, ***Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned backward and put to confusion that desire my hurt. Let them be turned backward, for a reward of their shame and say Aha, aha.***

Psalm 109: 17-20, ***As He loved cursing, so let it come unto him as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him. As he clothed himself with his garment so let it come into his bowels like water and like oil into his bones. Let this be the reward of my adversaries from the Lord and of them that speak evil against my soul.***

Psalm 35: 8, ***Let destruction come upon him at unawares and let his net that he hath hid catch himself unto that very destruction let him fall.***

Psalm 9: 15, ***The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.***

Nehemiah 4:4, ***Hear O our God for we are despised and turn their reproach upon their own head and give them for a prey in hand of captivity.***

Rev. 13: 10, ***He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity, he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword, here is the patience and the faith of the saints.***

So the first leg on which that prayer is standing is all these scriptures that I have read. God will not permit his children to suffer without vindication. He had said touch not my anointed and do my prophet no harm. The conviction is that he who sows the wind must reap the whirlwind. This is a curse and the effect is whatever the person does spiritually and physically, there is a curse, there is an effect. This is a principle of divine protection for God's children. We call it the law of boomerang. The boomerang is a weapon that they throw by hand and if it misses the target it comes back to the man who threw it. When you send arrows back to the sender you are not the originator of the arrow but you are merely sending it back to the originator. God chooses which prayer to answer. If God has to take that arrow and return it back to the sender then you are praying correct prayers. If you send a letter without an address the letter will be sent back to you the sender. The truth is that if we do not take our own sword and start fighting the enemy will deal with us, then after they have dealt with us, they will now repent and surrender their lives meanwhile, they have wasted the person. When arrows go back to the senders in my own experience as a minister, that has led to the conversion of the wicked people. They surrender their lives to God when they see that their weapons back fire. It has brought more converts than we preaching to them. When the arrows go back they wonder where is this power coming from? This kind of prayer could save your life one day so you need to understand this very, very well and you have to be serious about it.

A brother entered a bus, he did not know that he had entered the bus of eaters of flesh and drinkers of blood. He was in the car park when they were shouting all kinds of places. So he entered the bus, he sat at the back but the eaters of flesh were in that bus. His agenda was at a stage in the journey the vehicle would summersault everybody would die, blood would flow, he would collect the blood and take it to their blood bank and he would escape without any problem. That was his agenda. This (man) eater of flesh and drinker of blood had three cars, he had houses, yet because they wanted to drink blood he entered the vehicle. As the man entered and sat down, the Christian brother said, let us pray, and he prayed and said father I commit this vehicle into your Holy Hands, I soak the vehicle in the blood of Jesus in Jesus name. Amen. Both Christians in that vehicle and Muslims said, Amen. When the vehicle got to the designated spot

where it was supposed to turn upside down, to the surprise of the eater of flesh, it didn't tumble, he was shocked. He tried the incantation again, it didn't work. He was surprised, for seventeen years that was the first time that happened, that he was in the vehicle and it didn't crash as he planned.

So the bus got to where it was going and the passengers went down. But the brother still had to take a second bus to where he was going. He took the second bus again, fortunately or unfortunately the man entered that bus too. As the bus filled up and was about to move, the Christian brother prayed again as usual and soaked the vehicle in the blood of Jesus. Again**,** at the designated spot where his demons were waiting for him, where he should turn the vehicle upside down nothing happened. He was shocked. The brother still had to take the third bus, fortunately or unfortunately the man entered the bus again. As the bus filled up and the Christian brother wanted to pray, at that level the man turned against him and said excuse me, this is Nigeria, it is a circular nation, you cannot impose your religion on all of us here do you have to pray? If you want to pray, pray inside your heart. As he was shouting on the brother, before the brother could even open his mouth the people in the bus said this is very simple, let him pray his prayer then you pray your own. All of us will say Amen. They told the Christian brother to pray his prayer and the man prayed again. They got to the designated spot again no accident and that was the final bus stop. When the brother got down, this man began to follow him and say excuse me sir. The brother stopped and said, yes can I help you? The man said to him who are you? The Christian brother said I am brother Samuel. He now asked him, what kind of power do you have? I tried to crash the bus three time, It did not crash after your prayer. The brother now said, I am a believer in the blood of Jesus Christ. The brother was not even aware that anybody wanted to crash the bus, he was just praying his prayers. There the Christian brother began to minister to this evil man who now surrendered his life to Christ. But if he had wasted the life of everybody in that bus, that would have been the end of it. That is the first leg in which that prayer stands.

The second leg is in Prov. 11:8, ***The righteous is delivered out of trouble and the wicked cometh in his stead.*** That is the second leg in which that prayer is standing. The first leg is back to the sender. The second leg of that prayer is that the righteous is delivered from destruction, the righteous is delivered from tragedy, the wicked is used to replace him**.**

In Isaiah 43:4 the bible says, ***Since thou was precious in my sight, thou has been honourable and I have loved thee, therefore will I give men for thee and people for thy life.***

This is a very clear scripture. It is the law of substitution. The prayer is resting on two laws. The law of substitution, the law of boomerang. Sometimes when in Mountain of Fire, we say fall down and die people say what kind of prayer is this? It is because they do not understand the meaning of the word death. Death has several meanings. Death can mean to stop living**.** Death can mean to lose force. Death can mean to stop working. Death can mean to expire. Death can mean to pass away. Death can mean to collapse. Death can mean to seize. Death can mean to fade away. Death can mean to disappear. Death can mean to finish. So if you have a car now and you go to a mechanic and they tell you that the engine of the vehicle is dead, what he is telling you is that the engine is no longer functional.

Death can mean to eradicate. Death can mean termination of function. Death can mean to dissolve. Death can mean to come to an end. Death can mean to seize functioning. Death can mean that something is ending in failure.

God told Adam that the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the day thou eateth thereof thou shall die. Adam ate it, Eve ate it and after eaten it they still lived for nine hundred and thirty years. So the death God was talking about is different. He is talking about spiritual death. The bible says, he that gave himself to pleasure is dead while he is yet living. So by definition, death does not necessarily mean that life has passed away. It also means inability to perform functions. Of course, we know that spirits do not die, anybody who studies the bible knows that spirits do not die but when you stop the spirit from carrying out its functions, it is dead. The spirit may be alive in other people's body, but when it comes to your place the function is dead. We do not pray against human beings, if you pray against human beings it is witchcraft prayers. We pray against spirits, strongholds, evil powers, altars, evil gates and wickedness. For those who don't understand the meaning of the word die, that is what it means. Jesus prayed that kind of prayer stylishly but the demons begged him and said please don't send us to the abyss because once they get to that place they are bound forever for judgment, so that could be their death. I want you to understand that we are in a war, whether you believe or not, life is war and the

greatest tragedy is to be defeated from the cradle to the grave. I want you to know that the word let the sleeping dog lie is not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus actually went about waking up sleeping dogs and disgracing them.

In the battle of life, you either come out as a winner or you come out as a loser. So the law of substitution comes to play when tragedy, destruction, death is targeted against the righteous and God organizes a substitution. There are many examples in scripture. Haman died in the place of Mordecai, your enemy shall die in your place. Those who arranged for Daniel to be thrown into the lion's den were the ones eaten by the lions. Those who threw Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego into the fiery furnace died in their place. The Red Sea that was supposed to become a watery grave for the Israelites God used the Egyptians to replace them. The sword that Goliath carried against David was the same sword that cut off his own head.

I had a colleague, the wife is a very prayerful woman, she was coming from outside Lagos in a luxurious bus. When the bus was approaching Lagos, some people were saying, driver stop we want to ease ourselves, so people got down from the bus to ease themselves. Madam was sitting at the front behind the driver. By the time passengers were done easing themselves and entered into the vehicle, somebody had taken the lady's seat. So she said excuse me, this is my seat, you were sitting at the back, what are you doing here? The person said, madam, we are almost dose to Lagos, go and sit anywhere, I need to get down on time. As she wanted to cause trouble with him she heard the voice of the Holy Spirit say, daughter go and sit at the back and she went to the back and sat down. It wasn't five minutes when a trailer lost control and ran straight to that place where madam was sitting into this person who took her seat. Death is not the way to describe him, he perished because you could not even know whether he was human being or not. It was then madam understood Prov. 11:8.

It is this kind of prayer that works against the spirit of Haman who wanted all the Israelites to die but he died in their place. What is the spirit of Haman? It is the spirit of family destruction. The spirit of untimely death. The terminator spirit, the saddest spirit. The highly connected evil powers. Career killers. Destiny aborters, evil reporters. The demoting powers. The merciless destroyers. The grave digging powers. The children killers.

This kind of prayer allows you to take back your circumstances from the hand of the enemies. It allows you to revoke all the ground you have given to the enemy. It allows you to make claims on the victory Jesus won for you on Calvary. This is the meaning of the prayer, 'my enemies shall die in my place'.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Owners of evil load, I am not your candidate carry your load, in the name of Jesus.
2. O God arise and let my enemies be scattered, in the name of Jesus.
3. Power that hate my existence your time is up, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. My father gives me a miracle that would make me to forget my past struggle, in the name of Jesus.
5. Thou power of God bulldoze my way into breakthroughs, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every witchcraft projection into my dream life die in the name of Jesus.
7. Every power mocking God in my life die in the name of Jesus.
8. Powers challenging my destiny die in the name of Jesus.
9. My enemies shall die in my place, in the name of Jesus.
10. Any agent of death and hell planted in my body, die, in the name of Jesus.
11. Poison of darkness in my body backfire, in the name of Jesus.

SECTION 7

THE FORCES OF PRAYER

Introduction

God has planted something in you to make you great. He has deposited something in you that will place you at the threshold to discover and use those things. 'The Force of Prayer' will inject into your spirit the necessary level of faith and desperation that will deliver to you both expected and unexpected breakthroughs.

AGGRESSIVE PRAYERS: A NEW PATTERN

The first question that comes to one's mind is this: Can a man argue with the Almighty? Yes.

Exodus 32:7-15
"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written."

The children of Israel had gone worshipping idols immediately Moses went to the mountain. God told Moses to allow Him destroy them because they were ascribing the glory due to Him to idols. Moses said no and presented the arguments that you see above before the Lord. When he brought these arguments one step at a time, the Lord decided to have mercy on the Israelites.

PERSUASIVE PRAYING

Prayer can turn the hand of the Almighty from a course of action. That is why we keep saying that the awesomeness of the power of prayer is not clear to modern man.

Genesis 18:20-30
"And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:

Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

Abraham had made his calculations in the above passage that there was Lot, there was his wife and his daughters and he thought that by the time these people are added together, they would be up to ten. Unfortunately, God did not arrive at that figure in his search for righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah. So the place was destroyed. We can see the way Abraham organised his argument

systematically and logically.

STRONG REASONS

Apart from the awesomeness of prayer, another thing we need to know is that prayer must be organised. It is a credit to the patriarch because that time, they did not have access to the scriptures we have today, yet, they were organised in their prayer. If many of us stop wasting our time**,** being bitter and crying, and we just sit down, marshal our arguments and put them before God, we will be amazed at the results we will get. It is something we can even take a pen and begin to write, like a petition to the Lord. This principle is in the Bible.

> ***Isaiah 41:21***
> ***"Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob."***

In the above passage, we discover that we should bring to Him strong reasons why He has to do what He should do now. That is, like a lawyer, bring forth your strong reasons and arguments and present them before the Lord. What do we mean by argument?

An argument is a coherent series of statements, leading from a premise to a conclusion. An argument is not vain babbling. There is a the to pray in tongues and a time not to pray in tongues. There is a time you pray in the spirit, and there is a time you pray in your understanding. Unfortunately, what many of us call prayer is vain babbling. An argument begins with a premise. It starts with a thought and a goal. From that thought and goal you form series of coherent statements leading up to a conclusion.

PRAYER ARGUMENTS

An argument is not always about anger or throwing of stones in a bid to hurt somebody else. An argument does not have to be a disagreement. Arguments have to do with swaying other people's ideas to agreeing with your own. That is why one white man said, argument is foolishness, but discussion is wisdom.

God went into great troubles to free the children of Israel. He turned water to blood, He brought frogs, lices and flies. He sent diseases to cattles, sent boils, hails and fire, locust, darkness and the death of the first born. These severe judgements were brought against Egypt because the Egyptians did not want to let the people of God go. They did not want to lose their slaves.

Through deliverance from that bondage, God brought Israel to the Red Sea. When they got to the Red Sea, they looked behind them and saw the Egyptians pursuing them and they were afraid**.** They began to accuse Moses of bringing them there to die. Moses stretched forth his rod and they passed over unto the other side. For three million people to cross over, they needed to be lined up, one thousand deep by three thousand long. Pharaoh was so mad and dead in the spirit that he rushed into the waters. God took away their chariots wheels when the walls of water came in on the enemy. After God had done that, these same people now made a golden calf**,** and began to worship it and God was at that point ready to destroy them**.**

Moses began his argument. He had a goal for the argument. He had a burden and a passion. This is where the trouble lies, beloved. It is possible for you to argue with God and win that argument.

I pray, that every Pharaoh that does not want to let you go shall release you today, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Lord, show me dreams and visions that will advance my cause, in the name of Jesus.
2. Let all failures in the dream be converted to success, in name of Jesus.
3. I shall not die, but live to declare the works of God, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER: THE WINNING PRINCIPLES

There are important principles to follow when you pray. These prayer principles are both timeless and proven. Principles of effective prayers are so important that the disciples pleaded with the Lord to teach them.

Like 11:11.
"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?"

We need to be taught workable principles of prayer. One of these principles of prayer shall be expounded in this chapter.

The question is: How do you graduate to the level of prayer where you will argue with God in an organised manner and win?

Isaiah 41:8
"But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob who m I have chosen, the send of Abraham my friend."

1. You must make God your friend: If somebody is your friend, you will not be afraid of talking with him or her. You must be born again and you must be living a life that is satisfactory to God. You are as close to God as you want to be. This is a very important fact of which you need to take note. If you want to be closer to God, then work harder and consecrate yourself more.

2. Get to that level where God can depend on you: I pray that the Lord may be able to depend on you, in the name of Jesus. That was one of the secrets of Abraham.

Genesis 18:19
"For I knew him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham

that which he hath spoken of him."

In the above passage, God gave a testimony about Abraham. The question you need to ask yourself is, can God give this kind of testimony about me? God trusted Abraham. God depended on him and happy with him.

God could go ahead and commit Himself to Abraham. Abraham was the first among men to know that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed. You need to ask yourself: "Can God commit Himself to me?". The way you behave at your place of work, can he boldly say, "This is my child?" Can you boldly preach in your place of work, and somebody would not make jest of you because of your behaviour.

This is what happens sometimes when God looks around a particular place and cannot find someone to commit Himself to. He would then decide to destroy that place. God could commit Himself to Abraham, but not to many of us. This is a problem. When you are stealing the tithes that is due to Him, how would He commit Himself to you?

3. You must know the Bible: You must be biblically literate. You must read the Bible, understand the Bible, memorise the Bible, eat the Bible and even swallow the Bible. If you have been born again for about one or two years, and you do not know a minimum of fifty-two memory verses, then you are not studying the Bible very well. One great and rewarding thing you can do to your life is to study the word of God. If you are going to be arguing with the Almighty, you must know His words.

4. You must know His promises.

2 Corinthians 1:20
"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Whatever your argument, you can win it with the word of God when you remind Him of His promises. When you begin to remind God of His promises, He will concede the argument to you.

5. You must have a legal ground on which to stand: If your legal ground is not solid, the enemy will push you away.

6. You must have knowledge of the secrets of the Lord.

> **Genesis 18:17**
> ***"And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;"***

God did not want to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah without letting Abraham know about it first. This is a Biblical pattern. You find out that when God wants to do something terrible to people, He would first of all tell His people what He wants to do. The Bible says that the secrets of the Lord are with them that fear Him. The Bible says, surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals the secrets to His servants, the prophets. (Amos 3:7). It is comforting to know that God reveals His plans to those who seek him**.**

Sometime ago, somebody said that there are three kinds of people in the world. Those who make things happen. Those who see things happening. Those who just ask to know what happened. When you see and know what is going to take place, then you will know how to marshal your arguments. It is a disaster when somebody receives a secret from the Lord and yet, the same person stubbornly walks into the danger.

7. You must learn the principles of intercession.

> **Genesis 18:22**
> ***"And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD."***

God is looking for people who will stand before Him like Abraham. When you begin to intercede for others, and you also learn that principle, it also works for you in your life.

8. Pray persuasive prayer: You must understand God's character. If you want God not to do a particular thing, you need to know His character. Abraham knew

God's character. He knew that He will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. Moses too, knew the character of God. They both knew that God is a righteous judge.

9. You must understand God's abundant grace: It was that grace that made Abraham to negotiate for mercy. God gave him a very big discount for the number of righteous people. God gave him almost ninety nine percent discount. Abraham knew that God was a merciful and gracious God, and He began to ask.

10. You must know the limit of God's patience. When God went His way after speaking to Abraham, the people of Sodom had arrived at their limit. There comes a time when a man should withdraw from his steps. When you are hearing the voice of God, "Do not move, Do not move." When you go ahead at that time, and you exhaust the limit of God's patience, recovery becomes impossible.

11. You must be a man or woman of faith. Herein, lies a great problem in the house of God. The Bible says, without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is a state of the heart. Faith is a deposit in your spirit. Faith is seeing with the eyes of God. It is seeing what you have not yet achieved physically, but you are seeing it with the eyes of the spirit realm. Faith is a changing force. A thing may not move before, but when a man of faith moves it, it begins to move. Faith is determination.

Faith is whole-hearted certainty. Faith is an expectation, an unshakable confidence. Faith is radical readiness to obey God. Faith is to know that you know. Faith is holy stubbornness. When we say holy stubbornness, hat faith makes you to endure the most horrible suffering, without yielding to the desire of your enemy.

Faith never surrenders to the enemy. Faith is very stubborn. It is a very strong character. If you have the kind of faith you should have, the enemy cannot fight your faith into surrendering. Faith may die, but it will not surrender. That is why faith is a substance of greatness. It holds firmly to the vision of heaven. Faith is never disobedient to the heavenly vision. Faith runs, and it is never weary. Faith walks and it never faints. Faith prevails where human strength fails. It takes a woman or a man of faith to argue with the Almighty and win.

Hebrews 11:36-40
"And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:
God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

If we have faith as of old, we will see mountains move as they have never been moved before. But our attitude is that of quiet unbelief and clever doubt.

12. Persistence: Those who must argue with the Lord have to be in the school of persistent prayer. Persistence is a delight to the Almighty. He enjoys it. Persistent prayer shows that we believe God has the answers. Persistent prayer demonstrates our sincerity. God sometimes tests us to see how sincere we are in our requests. Persistence in prayer develops our faith. A man becomes physically strong by exercising his muscles. It is only through persistent prayer that our faith is strengthened and exercised. You should continue your prayer points until one of these three things happens.

a) God assures you that He has answered your prayer, and the answer is on the way.
b) You receive what you ask for there and then.
c) God reveals to you in a definite way that what you are asking for is not His will for you at that time.

13. You must pray systematically: The Bible says, line upon line, precept upon precept. You must be an organised prayer warrior because we are fighting an

organised enemy. To be quite honest with you, the kingdom of darkness is more organised than most churches. When you face an organised warfare with a disorganised prayer system, you will be defeated.

Learn how to argue with God and win today.

Prevailing prayer is the type of prayer that brings results. Students of the school of spiritual warfare must learn to pray and prevail. There is no denying the fact that God answers prayers. But what we need to know is how to pray effectively. God's ears are open to the prayers of the righteous. When we meet the conditions stipulated by God, we will obtain instant answers.

Prayer can be linked to arguing a case and winning in the courts of law. The Bible has called students in the school of prayer to the place of an advocate or a lawyer who pleads a case.

> **Isaiah 43:26**
> ***"Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified."***
>
> **Job 16:21**
> ***"O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!"***
>
> **Jeremiah 51:36**
> ***"Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry."***

PRAYER POINTS

1. My life, receive the touch of heaven, in the name of Jesus.
2. O God arise, and let all the enemies of truth in my life scatter, in Jesus' name.
3. My spirit man, receive the fire of God, in Jesus' name.
4. Every yoke of instability, break, in the name of Jesus.

5. I receive deliverance from the power of lying spirits, in Jesus' name.

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