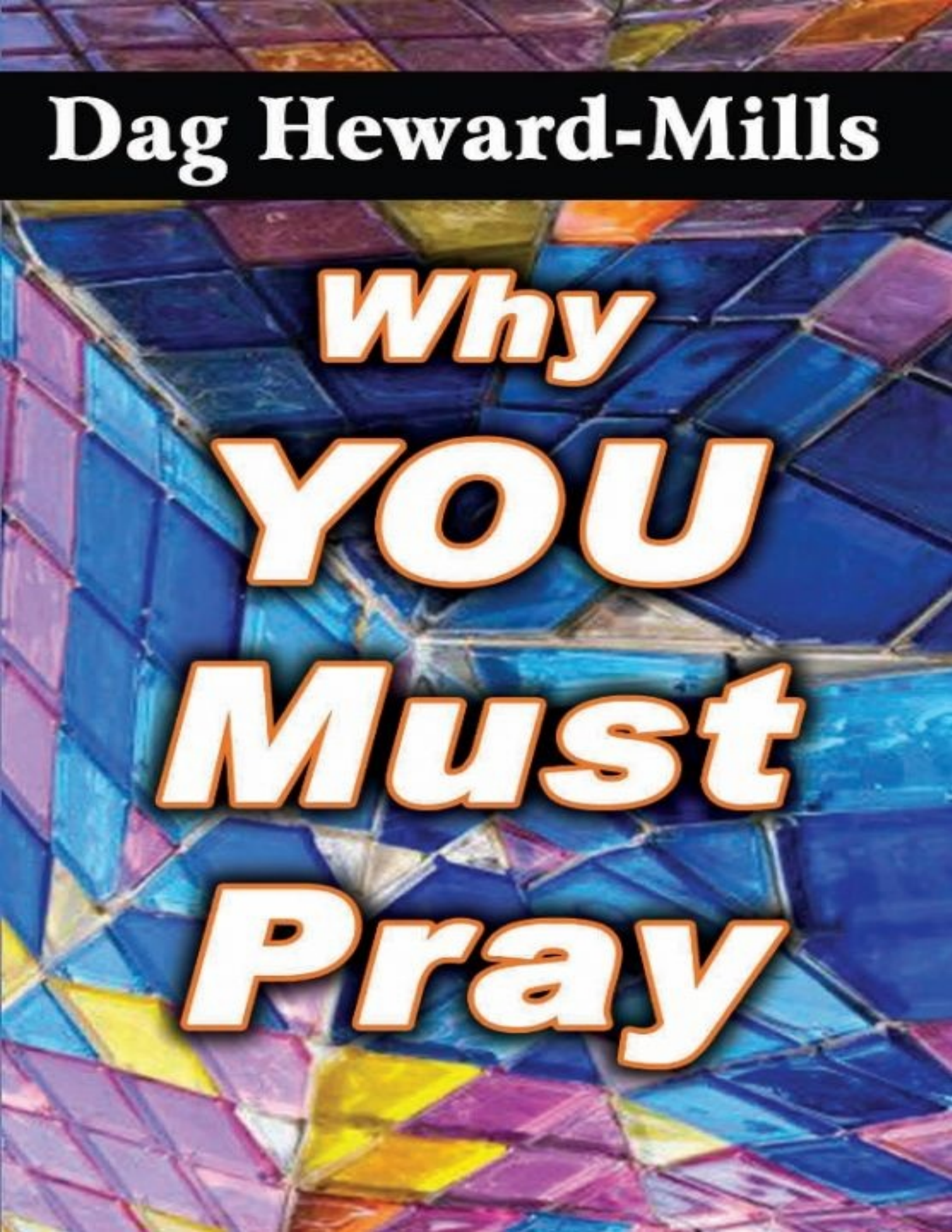

Dag Heward-Mills
Why
YOU
Must
Pray

Why you Must Pray

by Dag Heward-Mills

* * * * *

Copyright 2008 Dag Heward-Mills

Published by Dag Heward-Mills on Smashwords.

E mail Dag Heward-Mills
info@daghewardmillsbooks.org
evangelist@daghewardmills.org
Find out more about Dag Heward-Mills at:
http://www.daghewardmills.org
http://www.daghewardmills.org/healingjesuscrusade/
http://www.daghewardmills.org/lci/

Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible

Smashwords Edition, License Notes

Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible Smashwords Edition, License Notes This ebook is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This ebook may not be re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each recipient. If you're reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use only, then please return to Smashwords.com and purchase your own copy. Thank you for respecting the hard work of this author.

* * * * *

Contents

[Chapter 1 Five Reasons Why Every Minister Should Pray]

[Chapter 2 - The Praying Minister Is an Effective Minister]

Chapter 1

Five Reasons Why Every Minister Should Pray

Prayer is the foundation for every real ministry. Prayer is actually *the ministry*. Anyone who discovers this reality will have a great and fruitful ministry. Let me give you five reasons why every minister should pray.

1. Pray because prayer is a great act of faith.

Prayer is one of the greatest acts of faith. I never used to think so! I always used to think that praying was different from exercising faith. **But now I realise that prayer demonstrates and releases faith.**

The reason for this is simple; whenever you pray, you are declaring that you do not have faith in the arm of flesh. Have you not noticed that every time you begin to pray, one hundred different "things to do" come to your mind?

Something tells you to make a call. Something says to you, "Get up and go." Something tells you to organise that meeting so that you have good success. When you decide to pray, you are saying that prayer will have a greater effect than all those physical things you have to do. In other words, you are saying that God's direct intervention is the most important thing for your ministry. That is faith in the arm of God.

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? I tell you that he will

avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, SHALL HE FIND FAITH on the earth?

Luke 18:1-8

After this great lesson on prayer, Jesus asked an important question. Will I find faith on earth?

He was asking, "Will I find people on earth who pray?" In other words, Jesus wondered whether He would find this expression of faith (prayer) when He returned to the earth.

Prayer Is an Expression of Faith

Do you want to be a great man of faith? A man of faith is a man of great exploits. Become a great man of faith by becoming a man of prayer. Prayer is one of the greatest expressions of faith in God.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

As you can see, you cannot please God without faith. That means you cannot please God in the ministry without prayer.

You do not please God by being an administrator, accountant or computer wizard. You please God by praying and demonstrating faith in Him.

2. Pray because prayer makes you into a man of authority.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them AS ONE HAVING AUTHORITY, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:28,29

You will notice that Jesus was a man of authority. Authority can be explained as that *"not-easily-defined, invisible, magnetic aura that surrounds a man of God."* Authority emanates from your closeness to God.

The closer you are to a person, the more confidently you speak about him. You will have more authority when you speak of him.

For instance, when a great man dies, his death may not be announced immediately. There are different reasons for this.

For instance, one of the heads of state of Nigeria, General Aguiyi-Ironsi, was assassinated on the 28th July 1966, but it was not announced until 14th January 1967. However, if you were close to the family you would have been able to speak authoritatively about whether he was dead or alive. If you said that the person was dead, people would believe you because of your closeness.

The closer you are, the more authority you have. The more you pray the closer you are to God. If you are close to God it means you have more authority with God and with man. As you pray, people will not be able to explain that invisible magnetic aura that surrounds you. You will have a following without even understanding why people follow you! You will have a crowd without being able to explain why!

Your teaching will have more power! Your instructions will be obeyed! All these are the results of ministerial prayer that make you into a man of authority.

How Jesus Became a Man of Authority

Jesus was not introduced to this world by anyone. He was not appointed as a teacher by anyone. In fact, His background was questioned and many had reservations about his parentage. But Jesus knew the secret of having authority with man. He went into the wilderness and waited on God.

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Luke 4:14

The word *power* is translated from the Greek word *dunamis*. Dunamis means "miraculous power, ability, abundance, strength, violence, mighty wonderful work and enabling power." Jesus had become a man of authority! He had new strength, abundance and power. This new invisible

magnetic aura around Jesus was derived from prayer. The response to His first sermon in Nazareth was amazing.

AND ALL BEAR HIM WITNESS AND WONDERED at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.

Luke 4:22

Jesus had equally great results in Capernaum. People were simply amazed with His preaching and ministry.

And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. AND THEY WERE ASTONISHED at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

Luke 4:31,32

Where do you think this authority and success came from? Where did all these crowds come from? Why were people suddenly listening to this thirty-year-old man? This is what I call the *"not-easily-defined, invisible, magnetic aura that surrounds a man of prayer."*

Perhaps you don't have anyone to introduce you in ministry. Like Jesus, you can become a man of authority and receive recognition.

3. Pray because prayer makes you a man of anointing.

When you are close to someone, something rubs off on you. Whenever you spend time in prayer, you are spending time talking to God.

The more you talk to someone, the closer you become to the person. The closer you are to someone, the more things rub off on you.

Do you want some of God's glory to be on you? Do you want the anointing to be on your life?

I wish I could offer you an easier way but only prayer will bring you close to God.

The example of Moses tells it all. Moses went into the mountain and stayed in the presence of the Lord for a long time.

And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24:18

You will notice that Moses was a man who spent long hours with the Lord. After being so long on the mountain, the glory of the Lord was evident on him.

Dear pastor, this is what will happen to you when you spend hours with the Lord. There will be glory on your life and ministry.

But if the ministration of death written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold THE FACE OF MOSES FOR THE GLORY of his countenance…

2 Corinthians 3:7

4. Pray because prayer binds demonic activities in your ministry.

Dear pastor friend, a church is not a secular organisation. You need to bind the devil for several important reasons:

a. You must bind his activity that causes divisions and disloyalty amongst leaders.

b. You must bind his influence that causes backsliding, immorality and sin in your members.

c. You must bind the demons that cause poverty, depression and oppression in your members.

d. You must bind the spirits that raise accusations and slander against the church.

Whether you like it or not, Satan assigns demons to attack and destroy the church. I suggest you read my book, *Leaders and Loyalty* to get a fuller revelation of the activity of demons against your ministry.

If you do not bind the devil he will bind you in your own church. You will be unable to minister. No one will receive from you and you will wonder what is going on.

The devil will scatter your congregation time and time again. There will be a complex network of stories, accusations, slander and discussions that constantly divide the church. Rise up today and bind Satan and demons in your church.

5. Pray because prayer creates and gives birth to new dimensions in ministry.

…for as soon as Zion travailed, SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER CHILDREN.

Isaiah 66:8

A very important revelation about prayer is the fact that prayer has a creative potential. If you are starting out in ministry, you will need to pray until something that doesn't exist comes into existence. Creating something is different from maintaining it.

Many people can maintain what has been created but it takes a man of prayer to create new things. If you are sent out to do a pioneering work, be a man of prayer. A man of prayer is a man who creates new spiritual dimensions. The Apostle Paul was a man of prayer. He said,

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU.

Galatians 4:19

Paul had to travail for Christ to be formed in these Christians. Paul did not try to do it by any other means. **Forming committees, organising meetings, having Bible studies and showing love does not create new dimensions.** I have been involved in establishing new churches, fellowships and ministries for many years.

From my experience I can give you a little suggestion. The first suggestion is, PRAY. The second suggestion is also to PRAY. And the third is to PRAY!

Chapter 2

The Praying Minister Is an Effective Minister

1. Pray because prayer is the first apostolic command to every minister.

The apostle Paul had a lot of good advice and teaching for his son Timothy. He was taught about every conceivable subject in the ministry. Paul taught him about Bible study, about training of pastors and even about how to handle rebels.

However, a good analysis of Paul's instructions to his son Timothy will reveal that the first command was to pray.

I exhort therefore, that FIRST OF ALL supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

This Scripture is usually referred to when the church is being taught about praying for the government. I agree that this verse is teaching us to pray for our leaders. But I want to draw your attention to the fact that it was the first major instruction that Paul gave to Timothy. And it was an instruction to pray.

The first chapter of the first book of Timothy does not contain any major commands to Timothy. In this all-important letter, the apostle found it important first of all to tell Timothy to pray. A minister has many things to do, but *first of all* he must pray!

2. Pray because the Apostles refused to give up prayer when they were under pressure from administrative duties.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:2-4

When the early church grew, the apostles came under pressure to become administrators.

The mystery of ministry is this - when you pray you will give birth to many souls and much fruit. These new fruits will demand care and time from you. Their needs will overwhelm you. You will have a genuine burden to help them. As you become engaged in helping these ones, you will find less time to pray. As you pray less, your ministry will plateau or decline.

Your greatest duty therefore, is to be able to balance the need to look after the souls and the need to pray. I find myself struggling with this all the time.

Peter and the other apostles took the right decision and preserved their ministries. The baton has been handed over to us. Our greatest need is to spend hours in prayer. Let us not succumb to the pressure that wants us to neglect our great responsibility of intercession. If we neglect prayer, who will do it?

What is the difference between the living sections and the dead sections of the church today? It is prayer! The section that is alive is where the blood of Jesus is flowing and where people are being saved. Medically speaking, a person is alive when his heart beats and the blood flows through the body. A person is also declared to be alive when the doctor can hear air blowing through the lungs.

Spiritually speaking, when the blood of Jesus is flowing through the body and people are being saved, we can say that the church is alive. When the Holy Spirit is blowing through the body, we can also say that the church is alive.

There are many churches where nobody is ever saved or filled with the Spirit. These are the dead parts of the church. There have always been

dead parts of the church. Do you want your church to die? Do you want to be classified as a dead church? I hope not!

I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, AND ART DEAD.

Revelation 3:1

One of the hallmarks of what people call revival is prayer. Where do you hear shouting and prayer all night long? Where do you hear of long prayer meetings with people speaking in tongues? In such places you will see people being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit continually.

Do not take the subject of prayer lightly! Prayer is the lifeline to your ministry. That is why the apostles did not give up the ministry of prayer even when they were under pressure.

3. Pray because prayer was the greater part of Christ's ministry.

1 unit of preaching : 571.4 units of prayer

Think about it. Jesus preached and taught for three and a half years. Since then, He has been interceding for us. Three and a half years of teaching compared to two thousand years of prayer! This gives us a ratio of one unit of preaching for every five hundred and seventy-one units of prayer. That is an amazing ratio! **Most ministers have more than ten units of preaching to one unit of prayer!**

Perhaps you didn't know that Jesus is still carrying out His ministry towards us. The Bible teaches very clearly that Jesus is our shepherd and that He cares for us. Consider if you were a pastor caring for a congregation who had to travel abroad. Would your heart not be with the people you had left behind? Would you not pray for them? Would you not send messengers to them? Would you not send gifts to the congregation to help them along their way? This is exactly what is happening with Jesus. He keeps sending messages, gifts and blessings to us. Notice these revealing Scriptures.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION for them.

Hebrews 7:25

…**it is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, WHO ALSO MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US.**

Romans 8:34

Jesus is alive! He is able to save us to the uttermost. In other words, He is rescuing us from every extreme and distressing situation. We are being saved to the uttermost because of Jesus' prayer. Salvation is affecting every part of our lives because of Jesus' intercession.

Think about how your converts would be saved to the uttermost if you prayed like Jesus prayed.

Greatness in Ministry Depends on Intercessory Abilities

Even in the Old Testament, predictions were made about the great ministry of Jesus because He was going to be an intercessor. Intercession truly makes you into a great man of God.

I have rarely seen a great man of God who is not a man of prayer. The cycle is like this: *man of prayer means man of faith means great man of God.*

Therefore will I divide him A PORTION WITH THE GREAT, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bear the sin of many, and MADE INTERCESSION for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12

Do you want to be numbered among the great and strong in God's army? Move away from debates, arguments and endless discussions. Become an intercessor today.

4. Pray because prayer releases captives.

If your eyes were opened spiritually you would suddenly see millions of people in spiritual captivity. They are captive to demon powers that are loose on this earth.

…**to preach deliverance to the captives.**

Luke 4:18

In my opinion, the people experiencing the strongest oppression are the people who live in Europe.

Our duty as ministers is to weaken the grip of these demonic powers over the souls on this earth. At best, our spiritual warfare can dislodge, displace or temporarily relocate demonic forces so that God's kingdom can gain ascendancy for a season.

…**pulling down of strongholds.**

2 Corinthians 10:4

The demons in the madman of Gadara wanted to stay in the area and they got their way in the end. Jesus only relocated them within the Gadara community. The Bible teaches that the devil has a right to be around. There is no use in trying to cast the devil out of the earth. Satan has a lease period that he is exploiting to the fullest. He reminded Jesus that he had a lease and a right to be around and that it was not yet time for he and his demons to be put out of the earth.

…**Jesus, thou Son of God art thou come hither to torment us BEFORE THE TIME?**

Matthew 8:29

A time will come when Satan will be permanently removed from the earth. We will not have to do that job. It will be done by a mighty angel from Heaven. Our duty is just to weaken the stronghold so that some captives can escape.

We can weaken the stronghold of the devil by prayer.

This is why the devil said, "Have you come before the time?"

The devil can also read and write and he sees his future judgement in black and white. When this happens he will no longer have the power to deceive and to destroy the people on this earth. Read it for yourself.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and SHUT HIM UP,

and set a seal upon him, that he should DECEIVE THE NATIONS NO MORE, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season…

Revelation 20:1-3

One Thousand Years Later

…**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

Revelation 20:10

For now, the only thing we can do is to weaken the grip and hold of satanic power on the souls of men. When this grip is weakened, the captives will walk away in freedom. When you pray, the power of the devil to hold unbelievers is weakened.

Our greatest weapon is prayer. That is why nothing happens when there is no prayer. That is why a lot happens when people pray! That is why the devil is doing everything to prevent you from praying.

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS.

2 Corinthians 10:4

Because the devil knows that we have no weapons in the natural, he often tries to keep us operating in the natural realm.

What a mistake it is to function mainly in the natural, a realm where we are unarmed and “weaponless”!

May the Lord open your eyes to understand this revelation of prayer!

5. Pray because prayer availeth much.

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.

James 5:16

The Bible teaches that prayer has great effects. Almost every Christian knows this famous Scripture on the power of prayer.

The term "availeth much" is a little vague to us. Here are ten different definitions of this expression.

“To avail much” means:

a. To succeed

b. To prevail

c. To overcome

d. To be able to do something

e. To be strong against an opposing force

f. To be helpful

g. To make an impact

h. To strike an impression

i. To be effective

j. To accomplish much.

I also enjoy these translations of the Scripture, James 5:16.

Tremendous power is made available through a good man's earnest prayer.

James 5:16 (Philips Translation)

The prayer of a righteous man can bring powerful results.

James 5:16 (Olaf M Norlie Translation)

The prayer of a righteous man - makes tremendous power available - dynamic in its working.

James 5:16 (Amplified Translation)

An upright man's prayer, when it keeps at work is very powerful.

James 5:16 (Williams Translation)

God has called every minister to *interfere* with Satan's plans to destroy the church. We have to rise up and *intervene* as the hords of demons destroy young Christians. We must *interfere* with every demonic agenda to destroy the kingdom of God.

****

Other Best-Selling Books by Dag Heward-Mills:

Loyalty and Disloyalty

Leaders and Loyalty

Transform Your Pastoral Ministry

The Art of Leadership

Model Marriage

Church Planting

The Mega Church

Lay People and the Ministry

These titles are also available in Spanish and/or French. Information about other foreign translations of some of the titles above may be obtained by writing to our email address.