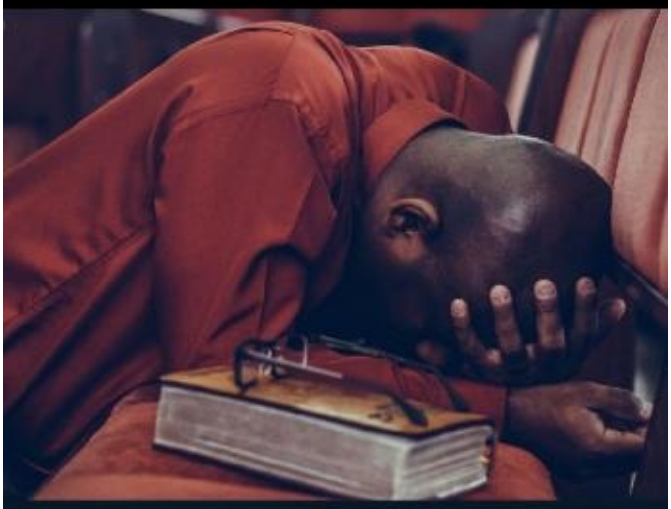


UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

ISAIAH MICHAEL WEALTH



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INRODUCTION

The understanding we possess about prayer can affect how we pray and ultimately determine the results we will get when we pray. This is why possessing the right and scriptural understanding of prayer is non-negotiable for any believer.

In this book, we will attempt to simplify and clarify the subject of prayer with the aim of creating understanding and dissolving the doubts many believers have when they pray.

Also, this book will give you the revelation of the multi-faceted chambers of God, giving your understanding on how to approach God in prayers, and get answers to prayers.

We will also enunciate the channel of prayer and the functions of the believer in the place of prayer.

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT IS PRAYER?

The subject of prayer is a very important one in the body of Christ and in the life of every believer. It is a key element in the spiritual growth of every believer and an important tool in expanding the frontiers of the kingdom of God and putting the devil in his place.

Prayer is more than just talking to God as popularly defined and taught. In it lies the weapon of the believer against the devil and his demons. Some persons see prayer as a religious rite - what you do religiously every morning and evening. This is not right! Prayer is not a religious rite, rather it is an opportunity to function with God and act with Him.

Armed with the right understanding of prayer, the believer is the most powerful being on the face of the earth- more powerful and more dangerous than the highly dreaded nuclear weapons of the world today, because the power that manifests or that is activated in the place of prayer is the power of God- the same power that created the whole world, man and all the wisdom of men. It is the greatest privilege man possesses.

There is no queue in Prayer



The believer does not have to wait in line to get to speak to God. By the sovereignty of God and the mystery of His Godliness, everyone can have access to God simultaneously. If a website can be so versatile that everyone can have access to it at the same time from different computers without some persons having to log out, how much more God. God is personal to everyone and is waiting even before we call.

Prayer is not just talking to God

Prayer is not just talking to God, because it also involves confronting Satan, obstacles and speaking to mountains. It is a right and privilege given to the believer.

What really is Prayer?

Prayer is the right and privilege given only to righteous men by God in discovering, creating, restoring and enforcing the will of God in and around us by the release of sufficient quantities of eternity through the Spirit. Let us break this down for better understanding.

Prayer as a right and a privilege - Prayer is a right and privilege given to believers by God. According to the English dictionary the word "right" means an "entitlement or freedom and a justified claim or the freedom to do something.

As believers, we have an entitlement and the freedom to come before God in prayer. According to Apostle Paul, we have been given unlimited access to come before God in prayer.

> ***"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"***
>
> ***Romans 5:12***

Prayer is a rare privilege given to a select few, those that have obtained salvation by faith in Christ Jesus .These do not need to beg or plead with God because He automatically pays attention to them at all times.

Prayer is not a begging scenario, rather it is the picture of a believer talking to God confidently and speaking from God as God. This is indeed a great calling.

Prayer, a business for righteous men - Prayer is a right or a privilege given only to righteous men by God- it is a business for only righteous men. A man who is not born again cannot function in prayer because his prayer is an abomination to God but the prayer of a righteous man is a delight to the Lord. There exists a limitation to the unrighteous in prayer.

> ***"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight."***
>
> ***Proverbs 15:8***

The word "*sacrifice*" in the scripture above can also be translated as "*prayer*" by swap comparison and the "*wicked*" refers to anyone who has rejected Jesus and has not received His salvation. This man's prayer is an abomination, meaning that he does not have the right to pray. This lim-

itation is destroyed at salvation by the impartation of the free gift of righteousness.

God delights in the prayer of the righteous and His ears are open unto them.

> ***The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.***
>
> ***Psalms 34:15***

The word *"cry"* here refers to a child's cry or affectionate call to the parents not just tears. This outward cry is an expression of an inward affection.

There is no time the believer prays that God does not hear- God's ears are always opened to his prayer.

But this is not so for the unbeliever. However, by applying for salvation, he could also have righteousness imparted into his spirit and then begin to function in prayer. He can apply by praying the prayer of salvation in Romans chapter 10 verse 9, so that he can receive the nature of righteousness that will enable him function in prayer as a priest.

> ***That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***
>
> ***Romans 10:9-10***

(We would discuss this limitation after we have sufficiently understood who a righteous man is).

But on the other hand, the prayer of the righteous man is acceptable to God hence it produces much power that in turn produces tremendous results.

> ***"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."***
>
> ***James 5:16 (KJV)***

Other translations of the verse above put it this way -

> ***"....the effective prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much.."***
>
> ***(LEB)***
>
> ***....for great is the efficacy of the prayer a righteous man prays....***
>
> ***(MURDOCK)***

The amplified version translates it beautifully -

> ***Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to aspiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available dynamic in its working].***
>
> ***James 5:16***



The scriptures above emphasize the significance of righteousness in the process of prayer. Hence, it is of great importance that we study and understand righteousness and how it facilitates prayer.

Some believers may get troubled when they hear of the necessity of righteousness in prayer because they do not understand the subject. This may not only stop them from praying, but can also hinder their prayers when they eventually do pray.

It is also important to notice that the scriptures' do not say "the effectual fervent prayer of a holy man", NO! Rather it says "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man" signifying a great difference between holiness and righteousness.

The scriptures below admonish us to be holy as God is Holy-

> ***Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.***
>
> ***Leviticus 20:7***
>
> ***For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.***

Leviticus 11:44

> ***Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.***

Leviticus 19:2

> ***But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

1 Peter 1:15

But it never instructs us to be righteous because righteousness is not something that we can achieve, rather it is a gift given to us at the point of salvation.

> ***For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.***

Romans 5:17

What really is Righteousness?

Righteousness is the justification of a man's soul that gives him the authority to speak to God and from God as God with the necessary obedience and compliance. It is the nature of justification that makes it right for a man to speak with God and speak from God as though God were speaking and get the necessary compliance and obedience as God.

Righteousness is not a Deed

Righteousness is not a deed. It has nothing to do with what you did, rather it is a nature. Just like a man cannot be more man or less man, if he is a

man, he is a man. Likewise, you cannot be more righteous or less righteous. If you have willfully accepted Jesus as Lord and the price He paid on the cross for your sins, then you are righteous. You manifest pride when you refuse to accept this truth.

Pride is exalting your opinion above the opinion of God. A man, who calls himself a sinner when God has justified him, is a proud man just as much as a man who calls himself righteous when God does not view him as such. Remember, God resists the proud.

> ***Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble***
>
> ***1 Peter 5:5***

Righteousness is not Holiness

The effect of the nature of righteousness is holiness. Only those who have the nature of righteousness can ever become holy. It is not possible to be holy through the practice of religion or religious rites.

Righteousness is a nature that is imparted into the spirit of a believer at the point of salvation while holiness is the effect of that nature. You cannot be holy if you are not righteous because holiness is the good we do from our righteous nature. That



is why good works can never make a man holy no matter how much of it he does, as holiness is not works in isolation but both the nature and the works it produces. That makes the works apart from the nature good but imperfect.

To fully understand righteousness we will go back to the book of beginnings and study the life of Adam.

Righteousness is a Nature

When God created Adam, He created him in His likeness and in His image, giving him His life and nature of righteousness. Man was created in the same level with God.

> ***So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***
>
> ***Genesis 1:27***

> ***And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***
>
> ***Genesis 2:7***

Adam was created in the same level with God so he could have fellowship with God- he could have a relationship with Him. By virtue of this nature of righteousness, he could speak from God as God. We can see an example of this when he named the animals because whatever he called them that became their names.

> ***And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.***
>
> ***Genesis 2:19***

There was no resistance to Adam and there was compliance and obedience as though God was speaking- This is authority. By this same nature of righteousness and justification, he also named woman.

> ***And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman.***
>
> ***Genesis 2:22-23***

But when Adam sinned by committing treason in obeying Satan, he lost the nature of righteousness. He could no longer speak to God without a sense of guilt and inferiority. So when God came to fellowship him in the Garden of Eden, he hid himself.

> ***And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the***

LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself

Genesis 3:8-10

Adam lost the nature of righteousness and put on the nature of sin and this nature of sin passed upon all men and all men were concluded under sin irrespective of their works. (Our sin today is not an original sin therefore cannot affect our righteousness. This we would see more clearly as we study)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Romans 5:12-14

After the fall of man and the loss of righteousness, God gave Moses the law but no matter how much man tried, he could not obey all the law. If man could not obey all the law and the law could not make man perfect, why did God give Man the law? God gave Moses the law to conclude all men under sin and thus reveal all men as guilty and in need of a saviour.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:23

Now we know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:19

In Romans chapter three, Apostle Paul begins an interesting argument about the futility of the law and the glory of righteousness. But he speaks as the law in verse 10-

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 3:10-18

He emphasized the state of man under the law, how that no man could be righteous under it. Although these scriptures may have been misunderstood and erroneously taught as meaning that no man is and will ever be righteous, this is not so. The Apostle Paul was making reference to the law and how no man could ever be right

eous under it no matter how much he tried. We can prove this in the next verses.

> ***Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***
>
> ***Romans 3:19-20***

The law showed man the things he had to do to be righteous in his fallen state so that he would value his new state when he received salvation. The Law of Moses included the Ten Commandments and its ordinances as seen in Exodus through to Deuteronomy and they are numbered at about six hundred and thirteen laws (613), and in breaking one of the laws, you had violated all.

> ***For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.***
>
> ***James 2:10***

This explains why no matter how much the children of Israel tried to obey the law they could never fulfil all the law. They were trying to produce holiness or the works of righteousness out of the nature of sin, which is impossible!

Even today, we should not expect unbelievers to change out of their wicked ways just by an act of their will because they lack the nature of righteousness. They cannot produce holiness which is the outward working of the inward nature of righteousness which is obtained at salvation by

putting faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and personal Saviour.



It is so sad that today people are still trying to obtain righteousness by trying to observe the law or trying to do good works. If the children of Israel could not obtain righteousness by works, neither can you.

But Apostle Paul introduces a new concept in verse 21- the righteousness of God without the law.

> ***But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;***
>
> ***Romans 3:21***

How Righteousness comes

The righteousness of God without the law does not come by works or by obedience to the law. It comes by the faith of Jesus Christ.

> ***Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:***
>
> ***Romans 3:22***



The only criteria for receiving the righteous nature of God is believing in Jesus and accepting Him by faith. The scripture above also says that this righteousness is given "*unto all and upon all them that believe*". When you believe and accept Jesus, you are given the nature of righteousness. It is placed upon you and stamped in your spirit.

By this law, anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour is righteous. I did not say he is holy! I said that he is righteous! By believing in Christ Jesus, he is justified freely by grace. To be justified is to be acquitted and declared not guilty.

> ***Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:***
>
> ***Romans 3:24***

He is not only justified, acquitted and declared not guilty of sin, he receives this justification freely. It is not because of what he has done, or will ever do but because he believes in Jesus. This Righteousness is by the redemption in Christ Jesus. Not only is he redeemed from his sins, he is also instantly imparted with the righteousness of God.

> ***To declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.***
>
> ***Romans 3:25***

Apostle Paul concludes it this way-

> ***Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.***
>
> ***Romans 3:28***

Did you just see that! This Revelation is what the devil does not want the church to know or understand. It is the lack of understanding that makes us want to do good deeds or carry out other spiritual activities of purification before we pray, seek God or move in His power. We want to obtain righteousness when we are already righteous.

Sometimes, we think we need to feel righteous or righteousness before we pray. We may want to feel good and excited before we pray. Righteousness is not a feeling, it is a nature. Get it! You are man not because of what you do or do not do. In the same way, you are righteous by nature not because of what you do or do not do. If you have received Jesus into your life, Righteousness is already yours. Glory to God!

However, you need to yield to the righteousness in you to manifest the fruits of righteousness.

The Fruits of Righteousness

Holiness is yielding to the righteous nature that is already in you. Apostle Paul instructs to do this in the scripture below-

> ***for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.***
>
> ***Romans 6:19***

Did you notice "righteousness unto holiness"

This is why God can demand holiness from us His children. We possess the nature of righteousness that can produce holiness. God's holiness proceeds from His righteousness and our holiness should proceed from our righteousness also. A calling to righteousness is a calling to holiness. Halleluyah!

The people of this world cannot exhibit holiness because they are by nature the children of sin, wrath and destruction.

> ***Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.***
>
> ***Ephesians 2:2-3***

Notice the phrase "*by nature*" It is therefore not an effort thing as much as it is a nature or a life that we yield to. This is why the unrighteous cannot function in prayer as a priest as they are alienated from this life.

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Ephesians 2:12

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 6:9-10

Their righteousness is like the righteousness of the Pharisees- self-righteousness; and it is a filthy rag before God.

...and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 64:6

But we have been justified, sanctified and separated to God by the blood of the lamb.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1Corinthians 6:11

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ

Ephesians 2:13

Our righteousness is hinged on the sacrifice of Christ and unless you can undo the righteousness of Christ, you cannot undo our righteousness as it is His sacrifice that gave us His righteousness. Jesus did no wrong to warrant His death- He was righteous. The bible says that no guile was found in him.

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

1Peter 2:22

Yet He died the death in our place. In His death, He took our sin and His righteousness was given to us freely. A pure exchange!

Isaiah makes it clear-

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:3-5

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became

poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Corinthians 8:9

Jesus took our sins, sorrows, and grief and gave us His righteousness and by His sacrifice on the cross, we have been made nigh to God.

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

Therefore, as righteous children of God, we have access into God's presence. This cannot be reversed except the death of Christ can be. Our licence into the presence of God is sealed by Christ's death, burial and resurrection. We can pray anytime and anywhere and expect results because we stand in His righteousness which is efficacious before the father.

We do not have to beg because His righteousness reaches into heaven and avails for us.

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

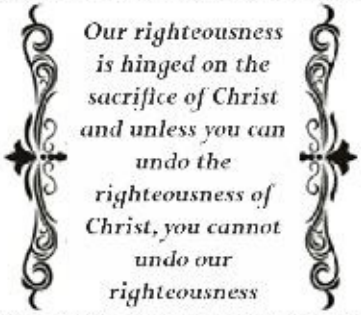
Psalms 37:25

Righteous men speak from God

With our nature of righteousness, we can sit with God and speak with God without guilt, doubt or inferiority. The beauty of prayer is that it gives us attention with God to speak to God and to hear from God.

The power of prayer is that when we have spoken to God and have heard from Him, then we make declarations that can get compliance as though God Himself were speaking into the sit-

uation. This is why prayer is not finished until you have received or heard a word from God. It is not a one sided communication.



The circle of prayer is only complete when you hear from God and speak from Him. It is talking or speaking from God in righteousness that initiates change and completes the circle of prayer. When Prophet Ezekiel was transported in the spirit to a valley of dry bones, he did not get compliance from the dry bones by speaking his own words. He prophesied as he was commanded by God.

> ***So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.***
>
> ***Ezekiel 37:7-9***

This righteousness gives us the authority of God against death, disease, sickness, obstacles, and expect them to comply because God is speaking. If you do not accept the truth that you are righteous, you can never be effective in prayer because the accuser of the brethren Satan is always standing to accuse you and weaken your conscience thereby making your faith ineffective. Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God.

> ***But without faith it is impossible to please him.***
>
> ***Hebrews 11:6***

It is only this kind of righteousness that can make your faith consistent because it does not hinge itself on what you can or cannot do. Rather, it rests on Christ finished work which remains the same yesterday, today and forever. Your faith also becomes the same yesterday, today and forever making you a continuous master of life, of the devil and of sin.

> ***For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.***
>
> ***Romans 6:14***

Such faith does not fail and would always prevail in the place of prayer regardless of our shortcomings. Glory to God forever!

What great revelation! I would to God that every member of the body of Christ would get this understanding. It would catapult the body of Christ into greater realms of effectivity and power in the place of prayer.

CHAPTER TWO

Functions In Prayer

In the previous chapter, we defined Prayer as the right and the privilege given only to righteous men by God in discovering, creating, restoring and enforcing the will of God in and around us, by the release of sufficient quantities of eternity through the spirit. This means that in prayer we can discover, create, restore and enforce the will of God in our lives and around us - our families, our environment and even our nation. These are the functions of every believer in prayer.

Discovering

Prayer does not begin without the act of discovery. To discover is to find out information that was previously unknown, it is to find out something after a search, to notice, to ascertain and to discern. In discovering prayer, we try to ascertain the specific will of God about a situation, desire or need. We ask for a specific *Rhema* about that issue. The *rhema* is the specific word of God

to you about a particular situation. It is different from the *logos*, which is the general will of God specified in His word. The *rhema* proceeds out of the *logos* of God's word.

For example, it is revealed in the *logos* of God's word that we are only to marry fellow believers and not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

> ***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?***
>
> ***2Corinthians 6:14***

The general will of God is clear on this matter but as believers, we need to discover the *rhema* - the specific word of God about the believer God wants us to marry because not every believer can accommodate and complement our destiny in God.



In other words, I know I ought to marry a believer but which? This form of prayer goes with meditation of the word, searches in our spirit, listening and questioning. This is why in the discovery prayer, we apply meditative praying - a deep longing for answers that is quiet, eager and continuous.

Also, you might have a calling in ministry. It is not enough to know you are called but to whom and where are you called? This may account for why some ministers are frustrated today because they know they are called, they heard from God but they did not wait long enough in meditative prayer to discover the direction and location of their calling.

Every great minister today has a *rhema* about his calling. The apostle Paul also had a *logos* or a generic word from God about his calling. We see this in the verses below.

> ***And I said, who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.***
>
> ***Act 26:15 -20***

But he had to consistently seek God in prayers to discover a *rhema* about every phase of his ministry and in some cases the Holy Ghost forbade him from preaching in particular places.

> ***Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Gala-***

tia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Acts 16:6



The general will of God permits us to preach the Gospel everywhere (Matthew 24:14) but Paul was forbidden to preach in Asia by the Holy Spirit. It therefore becomes an eye opener that the purpose of *logos* is to lead us to *rhema*.

You may have received a word from God years ago about your calling or your destiny but what is God saying today about your ministry, your life and your destiny? You cannot live a consistently victorious Christian life based on the generic word of God. You need to discover God's present mind in the place of prayer.

His word says you are healed from that disease you may be dealing with but has this become *rhema* to you? The *Logos* is the announcement of the word but it is the *rhema* of God's word that commands the commitment of God and activates His power for things for which you are al ready entitled. This is only possible in the prayer of discovery. After discovering the will of God, we may now create, restore or enforce that will as the case may be.

Creating

In prayers, we can create the will of God. To create is to make something, it is to bring something in to existence, to give rise to something or to make something happen. A lot of believers today have great heart desires that they wish they could create or bring into existence, this does not have to remain a wish. In prayers, we can function to create them and bring them into manifestation in the physical realm. But you cannot succeed in creating if your desire is not consistent with the *logos* of God's word. For any matter or subject to qualify for prayers, it must be consistent with the *logos* of God's word.

The '*Logos*' is the written word of God. It is the general will of God about every issue or subject as written in the bible. The *logos* of the word of God shows us God's general idea about all issues with regards to Man, the devil, our relationship with Him and our relationship with other men. It sets a boundary within which all prayers must be made.

For example a lady asking God for a life partner and asking for another woman's husband, is praying outside the will of God because God's word and His will is against all forms of covetousness. Therefore her prayer will not receive answers. It is of importance to note that in prayer we "create the will of God"

> ***And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***
>
> ***Luke 12:15***

> ***Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath***

said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.

Ephesians 5:3

A man who desires a job or a position in an office and prays that the person currently occupying that position should lose the job or even die is not praying in line with the word of God. His prayers negate the *logos* of God's word and contradicts the will of God concerning all men. God loves all men and does not want to see any suffer or die.

Therefore, in creating the will of God in our lives, we must take time to study the word of God written in the bible and find out God's will about our peculiar challenges and pray within the boundaries of His will so that we can get desired results.

Restoring

We live daily in a world where Satan is desperately trying to steal all that God has in store for us.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

Through prayers, we can restore all that Satan has stolen from us once we have discovered. To restore is to return something or somebody to a previously held position, rank or office. It is to

give back, repair or refurbish. It is also to return something to its proper place or owner.

Satan can change the will of God or distort His plans by the mistake of man or by the cooperation of man but through prayers we can restore, bring back or reinstate the will of God in and around us. But remember that you cannot restore until you discover God's will and realize that the difference between that discovered will and your reality is the ministry of the thief. This is what the bible calls "when a thief is caught"

> ***Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.***
>
> ***Proverbs 6: 30-31***

This again emphasizes the importance of the prayer of discovery and its place as the predecessor to the prayer of restoration, even though both can happen simultaneously in the Holy Ghost or in the Glory realm.

God desires to bring restoration into every area of our lives, He desires to restore the years of waste and mistakes.

> ***And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm,***
>
> ***Joel 2:25***

But we must cooperate with Him in the place of prayer. When the Amalekites attacked King David and his men in Ziklag, they took all their wives, sons and daughters captive. The bible says King David and all the people wept until they could weep no more.

> ***Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.***
>
> ***1Samuel 30:4***

Their crying and weeping though touching did not change the situation until David prayed.

> ***And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.***
>
> ***1Samuel 30:8***

When he had enquired of the Lord, he received a *rhema* that gave him the victory.

> ***And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.***
>
> ***1Samuel 30:17-18***

This is the true evidence of restoration; recovering all. No matter what you are going through today, how much time and resources you have lost or how much you feel you have gone out of the will of God for your life, God wants to restore all back to you and give you much more if only you will go to Him in prayer.

Enforcing

To enforce is to compel obedience to a law, regulation or to command. It means to make something compulsory, to impose something by

force, to insist on something or to give emphasis to something. In prayer, we can enforce and compel obedience to our wishes and desires. The devil will not just back down from his attempt to harass you or interfere in your life just because you said so, you must enforce your victory over him consistently and by the word of God. Like Jesus, you must speak to him "as it is written".

The devil is not a respecter of persons and He only bows to the word of God spoken consistently in understanding and in faith.
The devil did not leave Jesus alone just because He is the son of God. In fact, he tried to contest the authenticity of that claim even though he knew it as true.

> ***And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.***
>
> ***Matthew 4:3***

> ***And Jesus answered him with the word of God written in***
>
> ***Deuteronomy 8:3***

> ***But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.***
>
> ***Matthew 4:4***

And the devil did not stop there. He tempted him more

> ***Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a***

pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Matthew 4:5-9

Finally, Jesus rebuked him with the written word in Deuteronomy 6:13 and 10:20 and the devil left Him.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Matthew 4:11

In the same manner, the devil will not leave you alone just because you claim to be a Christian or born again or because you got a prophecy of what God is going to do or has done. He will come against you but like Jesus, you must be armed with the word of God ready to quench all his fiery darts.

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:

Ephesians 6:16

The apostle Paul admonishes us to resist the devil steadfastly and he will flee.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about,seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith,

1Peter 5:8-9

This is one of the most important aspects of prayer- enforcing the will of God! An in-depth understanding of God's word is necessary to effectively enforce the will of God in and around us.

God has so much in store for us. The bible says He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness but we must stand up in authority and insist on them and we will see a great manifestation in our lives.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Peter1:3

In conclusion, through prayer, you can discover, create, restore, and enforce the will of God in your life, nation, environment and family. We are not helpless because through prayers, we can

effect the changes we desire in and around us. Glory to God!

CHAPTER THREE

Chambers In Prayer?

Possessing the right understanding of the diverse nature of God is very important in prayer and its processes, because there are different chambers or compartments in God. Our pictorial view or perception of God influences to a great measure how we relate with Him. Hence a balanced view of God, His nature and His chambers are important in our quest for efficacy and effectivity in prayers.

To fully understand God, His ways and wisdom is in part impossible because of the vastness and complexity of His wisdom, but His word reveals a great deal of His ways, His wisdom and His chambers.

LOVE

God is Love: Understanding God's chamber of Love is very important in relating with Him. The love of God for mankind is immeasurable. He displayed this love for man when He sent His son Jesus to die for the sins of a rebellious world.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

He showed us His love while we were yet sinners rejecting Him-

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

By this love, He has given us His nature and unlimited access to His power so that we can cause changes in life's situation as He would have.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

2 Peter 1:3

Sometimes we may measure the love of God for us by the experience we have had with loved ones, a parent or a spouse, and we think God will give up on us the way some of them did. We may also see God from the perspective of man who alternates and changes his opinion about us because of our problems and challenges. God's love for us supersedes the love of any man. His love is constant and He has our best at heart. Even when we make mistakes, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all our iniquities.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1John 2:1

As believer today, it is important for us to know this love, bask in it, enjoy it and maximise it like the Psalmist. King David had a deep understanding of the love of God for him and this is seen in his writings.

Because thy loving-kindnessis better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Psalms 63:3

Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Psalms17:7

For thy loving-kindness before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

Psalms26:3

How excellent is thy loving-kindness O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Psalms36:7

Yet the LORD will command his loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalms42:8

Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

Psalms 69:16

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies;

Psalms103:4

Hear my voice according unto thy loving - kindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.

Psalms119:149

Even after he sinned greatly by having sexual relations with Bathsheba and killing her husband in an attempt to cover it up, he reached out to God because of his unparalleled understanding of His Great love and mercy.

Today, you too can break out of that circle of guilt and shame the devil may have kept you in. Armed with this understanding of God's unending and unconditional love, you can still go back to your father like the prodigal son and expect Him to respond and give you the best out of life, no matter the mistake you have made.

The story of the prodigal son is a prototype of the relationship between God and the saved man. The prodigal son took all of his inheritance and wasted it, walking out of his father's love, provision and protection.

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.

Luke 15:11 -14

But when he came back to himself and returned to the father, the father received him with arms open wide, organising a special feast and celebration in his honour.

> ***And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.***
>
> ***Luke 15:20***

This is a show of the depth of God's love for us irrespective of our past and the difficulties we might be facing. God is our father and more that every father, He cares about us and will not discard us regardless of our mistakes. As we come to Him with this understanding in prayer, we can be sure to access His mercy and find help in times of need.

> ***Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.***
>
> ***Matthew 6:30-31***

We must however come to Him repentant from sins and ready to begin a new life. Each time we do, we can be assured that He is faithful and just to forgive us.

> ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***
>
> ***1John 1:9***

JUDGE

God is a Judge: Another important view of God we need to possess is His office or chamber as a judge. God is the Judge of the earth and stands in judgment of all men. It is important to understand the love of God but much more important to understand His nature and office as the Judge over all men whether black, white, Christian or Muslim. He is the judge of all. He is the judge of the earth and has to recompense every man according to his works, whether evil or good.

> ***The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.***
>
> ***Psalms 11:4***

> ***The LORD is King forever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.***
>
> ***Psalms 10:16***

He rules over the affairs of men recompensing every man according to his works.

> ***Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously***
>
> ***Psalms 96:10***

> ***The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.***

Psalms 2:2-4

It is important to understand the love of God but much more important to understand His nature and office as the Judge over all men

A judge is one who supervises court trials and pronounces sentences in accordance with the law, one who is an umpire in a legal case and eventually decides the outcome of the case according to already written regulation and statutes. As God, He judges all men by one standard-His word because He has exalted His word above His name- above His person.

> ***I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name***
>
> ***Psalms 138:2***

As much as God loves us, He cannot help us outside the boundaries of His word. So when we come before God in prayer, especially when our request affects others, we must bring forth His word, bring forth our strong reasons and argue our case before His throne as a lawyer would before a judge.

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

Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, whilst ye searched out what to say.

Job 32:11

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:18

In His sovereignty, He has given us His spirit to reside in us, to teach us His word and His ways so that when we stand before His throne, we can argue with wisdom and skillfully. He is God yet by His spirit in us, He helps and intercedes for us to bring His will to bear in our lives.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 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.

1Corinthians 2:11-13

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be

uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26 -27

What a marvel!
Some believers know so much about God's love but do not understand His judgement so they are surprised when the Lord permits evil to happen because of transgression. Others are so focused on His judgement that they are not able to enjoy His love so they are stunned when they witness the depth of God's saving grace for those who transgress.

Finding this balance in the person of God is an essential key in walking with God and understanding His judgement and administration. This would enable us function effectively in the place of prayer.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE CHANNEL OF PRAYER

Prayer is more than a request or a communication. It is a request, the establishment of a channel and the receipt of an answer.

When we pray, we create a channel. A channel is a medium of communication or passage used to convey information or signal from one or several senders to one or several receivers. It is a two-way communication link that transmits information from one person to another. A prayer channel is therefore a spiritual communication link or gateway between the believer and God through which prayers ascend and answers are received.

Making a prayer Channel

When we pray according to the word of God, we are creating a channel. This channel is the link between the person praying and God. You cannot create a prayer channel without the word because the word is what commands the attention of God to respond to your request.

You must know the word of God and declare it in prayer to create this channel and it is from this same channel that you will receive from the Lord. When we pray like this, a channel is established in the realms of the spirit and God's peace comes into your heart as a protection over the channel.

> ***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.

Philippians 4:6-7



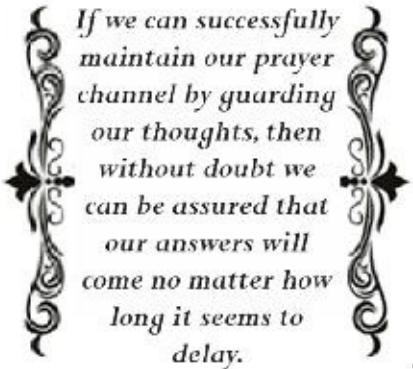
The presence of this peace is a sign that we have reached God in prayer. This does not mean however that we have the answer. This peace is God's guarantee to you that your request or prayer is being processed. But we need to maintain this prayer channel to be able receive the answer by maintaining the peace we received. This is the role we must play in the sequence of answered prayers.

Maintaining a Prayer Channel

Having created a channel, you need to maintain that channel because Satan will try to destroy it. This he would try to do by breaking the edge of your peace. He would try to enter through the gate of our thinking by bringing imaginations that contradict the word we have received. If he can successfully infiltrate your thoughts with wrong imaginations, he can steal your peace and if he can steal your peace, he then has destroyed your prayer channel.

This is why we must cast down the imaginations, reasoning, and theories that attack our thoughts.

> ***For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;***
>
> ***2 Corinthians 10:4-5***



Satan's weapons against us to destroy our prayer channel are not carnal. This means that they are not physical, or cannot be seen with the naked eyes. They are thoughts! And the scripture above instructs us to cast them down. This we can do by meditating and speaking the word of God as those thoughts come. We must gate our thoughts and protect our thinking by meditating on the word of God.

> ***Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever***

things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

We must think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report and on things that bring glory to God.

If we can successfully maintain our prayer channel by guarding our thoughts, then without doubt we can be assured that our answers will come no matter how long it seems to delay. The understanding of this mystery is an asset in the school of prayer.

In summary, when we come to God in prayer with His word and create a channel, He gives us His peace while He processes our request. That peace is the protection of our prayer channel, and as long as we maintain that peace by meditating on the word of God, speaking it and casting down imaginations, we will see a manifestation of the answers we have already received in the Spirit.

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