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# **TUESDAY, 1ST AUGUST 2023**

# **TOPIC: YOUR PRAYER IS HEARD**

**TEXT: LUKE 1:13** 

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. KJV

I welcome you with joy to the eighth month of the year. It's my delight as I believe that the Lord who has been with you, will not leave nor forsake you. Happy new month, I wish you God's blessings.

This month is special to me and I trust the Lord to open our hearts to understand his intention and purposes for us, which are Yeah and Amen in Christ Jesus. Just as you have always do, ensure that your heart is ready to receive the revelation of God's words and be ready to act upon every knowledge received by the power of God's spirit that is in you.

I bring you good tidings, **God has heard your prayers**. How do I know this? The angel of the Lord, Gabriel, visited Zacharias when he was in the temple offering incense to God as his duty of priest was; he brought him the good news. The angel said; 'thy prayer is heard'; this declaration is in the past tense. Which means that it wasn't when the Angel Gabriel gave him this response that his prayer was answered. God had heard Zacharias' prayers before then.

The Angel Gabriel's declaration also reveal that Zacharias must have been praying for a long time. It is written that he and his wife are old and stricken in years. (Luke 1:7) Thus, Zacharias has been interceding for his wife barrenness since they realised the delay till they grew old. Their age was not specified but of course it must have been a long years.

But at the right time, the Lord sent his angel, the one who stays in his very presence, to bring the good news that he has heard his prayer since he had been praying but it wasn't just the right time to bring it to pass. This establish that when we pray as God's children and desire of the Lord a thing or the other, our God hears our prayer and in most cases he has answered. But because we haven't seen its physical fulfilment, we are tempted to believe that he hasn't. We want to see before believing. Can we learn from Zacharias encounter with the angel, and trust that God has heard our prayers. Let's move from the point of seeing to the point of believing. And give thanks to God for that which we ask, being persuaded that he has heard us.

Let's learn to see the reality of our desire even before they materialise. Again, I declare to you, God has answered your prayers. Just trust him to bring it to pass. Rejoice and be thankful to him. Hallelujah!

# PRAYER

Unto you that hears prayers will all flesh come. Lord as I begin this month, I thank you for every prayers that I have prayed in the past and will yet pray in the future, trusting that when I call, you answer and while I am yet speaking, you are by my side to do for me according to your will. I choose to rejoice and give you thanks by faith for answered prayers in Jesus' name. Amen

# WEDNESDAY, 2ND AUGUST 2023

#### **TOPIC: DO YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR PRAYERS?**

**TEXT: LUKE 1:18** 

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. KJV

The angel Gabriel declared the good news to Zacharias alongside other revelation about the child to be born which revealed the reason why the manifestation of his prayer, though haven been heard for a long while before then, came to pass at the time appointed by God.

One would expect Zacharias to receive the revelation and be glad. However, his response was discerned by the angel as unbelief. He referred to the impossibility in his flesh and that of his wife and the angel responded;

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, **because thou believest not my words**, which shall be fulfilled in their season Luke 1:19-20 KJV

It wasn't in God's plan that Zacharias should be made dumb, but it happened as a result of his unbelief. The angel expected him who has been praying and desiring a child from God to receive the goodnews without any strand of doubt. He caused him to be dumb because he didn't believe his word that the Lord will bring to pass.

I ask you again, do you believe in your prayers? Do you believe that God is hearing while you are praying or rather, God heard while you prayed?. Do you truly trust that your prayer is enough to bring to pass the desire that you expect or you are just praying as a means of tradition?

It is vivid that Zacharias, though, was praying but had given up on the answer to his prayer because of his age and that of his wife and also, as a result of the length of time that it took for the physical manifestation of the prayer. In his calculation, if God will give him a child, it should have happen before he grew old.

What are your calculation and permutation of God's mode to answer your prayer or bring it to pass as you expected? Do you realise that God isn't working within your time frame but his divine plan and purpose for your life. Will you stop using your human knowledge because the act of praying is supernatural. You will need to reason supernaturally in order to appreciate what the lord is doing in your life. So that when he manifest his goodness, you won't be cut unaware. God is faithful, you can bank on his words and learn to trust in your prayers.

# PRAYER

My Lord and my God, empty me of every form of doubt even as I pray. Help my faith to believe totally in the power of supplication, petition and intercession. Let me not be an hindrance to my expectation as I pray. Help me Lord to trust that you hear and answer prayers.

# THURSDAY, 3RD AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: WHAT DID YOU SEE?** 

**TEXT: LUKE 1:22** 

And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. KJV

Zecharias stayed in the inner court longer than expected. The people who were waiting outside, praying, were worried. When he came out and was unable to speak, they perceived that he had seen a vision. How did they know? The people must have been acquainted with the reality that when there is an unusual occurrence with the priest who went into the presence of God in the most holy place, the hand of God must have been involved. It wouldn't be as a result of his sin but most likely an encounter that depicts a significant event.

Zacharias saw the angel Gabriel, who gave him the answer to his prayers and was dumb because of his unbelief. But the point is, he had the foremost encounter or revelation about his life which will bring an everlasting joy, not just to himself but also to the people. Can I ask you, what did you see or what have you seen?

Most of us, have seen visions which are pointers to our prayers been answered. The Lord has showed us glimpse of what he will do or has done. Did you take note of your visions? Do you believe in what you saw? Do you even take your time to remember and interpret them accurately, so that you can be in tune with what the Lord is doing in your life presently?

What Zacharias saw caused his mouth to be shut. In the real sense, his physical mouth need not to be shut, he was to receive the vision and praise God for the manifestation, while he keep it from the hears of everyone except revealing to his wife secretly till the manifestation comes. Whatever the Lord has shown you, is not to be spread abroad. Learn to keep your mouth shut!

Don't spread around God's answer to your prayers, let it manifest before you begin to spread the good news. Keep your mouth closed. Be conscious of the visions you saw and keep it to your heart, while you continue to appreciate and give thanks to the name of the Lord. Your ability to be silent shows that you trust God who reveals the secret to you or gave you a direction to your desire through his vision. It is for your consumption and that of your family if need be. You should be able to discern when to speak and when to be quiet. There is time for everything!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord. I do not trivialise what you showed me in the visions of the night or through the revelation of your words. I learn to receive them with accurate interpretation and keep my mouth shut as I await the manifestation of that which I have seen in your appointed time for my life in Jesus' name. Amen

# FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST 2023

#### **TOPIC: YOUR REPROACH IS TAKEN AWAY**

**TEXT: LUKE 1:25** 

Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. KJV

Afterwards, Zacharias went home with his wife Elizabeth. God perfected his words, and she became pregnant. She couldn't contain what has happened but hid herself for five months. However, she didn't regret being pregnant. From her words, we can conclude that she was grateful for the miracle God did for her family. She said;

Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. Luke 1:25 KJV

She called it the Lord's dealings in her life and most importantly, the revelation that God took away her reproach among men. She recognised and understood that her pregnancy was significant and God has done a marvelous thing in her life.

I declare unto you, God will take away your reproach among men. Whatever that stand as a limitation in your life will become a thing of the past in Jesus' name. However, do you understand what the Lord is doing in your life? Do you know that he is at work and has not gone on a holiday for a seconds because of you and many others whose prayer he has heard?

Will you be like Elizabeth in action, who received the blessing of answered prayer with voice of thanksgiving and gladness? She discerned that this is God at work. Can you perceive that too about your situation that though it has not manifested, but God is at work in my life and I refuse to despair. Rather, I am persuaded that he has heard my prayer. Hallelujah!

Elizabeth hid herself for five months. I guess she wanted to be certain if this is a dream or reality. She also kept her mouth shut even from Mary, who was her cousin. She stayed indoors and preserved the blessing God did on her behalf. Can I say to you that, even when the promise of God has come to pass in your life, you should learn to be patient and receive further direction from God before you speak to anyone about it. Can you hid that blessing till it mature and it's edible enough for all eyes to see? God will have you to cultivate a life of discretion and silence. Be a hidden person. Hide under God's manifest grace. Stay there till he tells you to make known his miracle and faithfulness in your life.

# **PRAYER**

In the name of Jesus, Lord, I ask that you give unto me the spirit to discern the right time to speak. Give unto me the ability to have self-control and hold my tongue with utmost discretion. Help me Lord, to hear from you before spreading the news of your goodness too soon before the right time. Keep me safe under your grace in Jesus' name. Amen

# **SATURDAY, 5TH AUGUST 2023**

#### **TOPIC: SUBMITTING TO GOD'S WILL**

**TEXT: LUKE 1:38** 

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. KJV

I agree that most times, it can be very difficult to act on God's word or submit to his will. But I found out from Mary's response to the same Angel Gabriel who visited Zecharias six months ago, and now appeared to her with God's will from his mouth, that it is easier to submit to God's will when you know who you are before the Lord.

Let's read Mary's response in the Amplified version; 'Then Mary said, **Behold, I am the servant of the Lord**; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel left her' Luke 1:38 AMP

Mary understood her place and position before God. She said I am the Lord servant, let him do to me according to his plans. Servant here does not mean a slave or a baseless person. It means I am all yours Lord, you can send me. My life is hang on your personality, without you I am nothing. Who am I to refuse your will? I am your vessel prepared for every good works, let your word come to pass as you have purposed in my life. (These words are the content of Mary's declaration).

She sees herself as God's servant (like our pastors, teachers, leaders and so on). The angel, didn't discern any form of unbelief or doubt in her. He left after she responded in total submission to the will of God. How have you been struggling with God's will in your life? Do you pattern your life every day in the light of God's word?

You might have not had an Angel visit you before but God's word, written in your Bible, is your whole duty. How much of it do you submit to? There is an immeasurable favour of God upon our lives, when we lift the truth of God's word beyond and above our life. Mary had every reason to speak against what the Lord want to use her life for as at then. But she accepted and flow into God's plan.

It didn't happen suddenly, she must have been a woman who has a living relationship with the God of Israel. She understood the angel's declaration. When he told her that it is the power of the highest that will cause her to be pregnant, Mary got the picture. Do you understand that your God, is all powerful and capable of doing the impossible? If you know him so well, it will be easy for you to submit to his will. I charge you this day, make a commitment to know God more than how you know him before. Go deeper, move higher and seek the Lord your God.

# **PRAYER**

Lord, pour upon me the grace to seek you with the whole of my heart. Cause me to search for you with all my heart, for he who seek you early, will find you. Open my heart to the knowledge of my identity in Christ. Give me the understanding of your will for my life in Jesus' name. Amen

# **SUNDAY, 6TH AUGUST 2023**

#### TOPIC: HE DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

**TEXT: LUKE 1:37** 

For with God nothing shall be impossible. KJV

While the angel, Gabriel, spoke with Mary, he mentioned all that the Lord did with Elizabeth and wrap it up in the revelation that God does the impossible. He established that when God stepped into a situation, regardless of the physical properties or realities, such cannot withstand his purpose and plans, rather it will bow to it.

Therefore, while Zacharias and Elizabeth expected God to have answered them earlier, he was only following his purpose to prove to the world that he is a God that doesn't work with physical realities or limitations. He only respond to the call of his purpose and plan. John the Baptist couldn't have been given birth to earlier except when Jesus birth was at hand. How we struggle in prayer against what the Lord had perfected to come to pass in his own time for our lives.

Most times, while we are anxious and disturbed, God who has heard our prayer, wish we could understood what he is doing or has done and get us to the place where we will trust in his impossible nature and live our life filled with joy.

Let me tell you this; Do not tie your joy to the fulfillment of things on earth. Regardless of what your expectations are, don't put your joy in bondage till they are fulfilled. It's not the will of God. By his divine wisdom, the word of God teach us to cast away anxiety, doubt, fear and worry.

Philippians 4:6-7 says; don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. NLT

You are free to tell God all your desires but don't stop there, give him thanks, knowing that he has heard you. When you are persuaded this way, God's peace will make your heart his abode. Not until you have peace over any situation, you are yet to fully trust God for it. You are still struggling with trusting God over it. Don't just pray. While you pray fervently, get to the point where you release the burden over to the Lord and give thanks. Receive God's peace and rejoice.

Why do you have to act this way? The answer is established in God's power. He can do the impossible. Therefore, there is nothing too hard in your life that he can't fix. Learn to lift your burden to the Lord and leave it at his feet, while you go ahead, singing and praising him. Hallelujah!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord because you are faithful and there is no impossibility with you. I cast my cares upon you for you care for me. I choose to leave all my worries at your feet and take up joy, gladness and your overwhelming peace in Jesus' name. Amen

# **MONDAY, 7TH AUGUST 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE PRAYER OF THE SAINT

**TEXT: DANIEL 2:16** 

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. KJV

The term Saint carries the same meaning and introduction both in the old and new testament. It simply means "that which is holy, sacred and consecrated to God" However, Saint is best described with the word holy. Thus, we can safely rewrite today's topic as **the prayer of the holy (ones).** The holy ones are those separated unto the only living God in the world. You will agree with me that we have many persons separated to the worship of the Lord Jehovah in the Old Testament as even in the New Testament.

Daniel was faced with death, not of himself alone but of his friends with the men who do not even believe in God. The magicians, sorcerers, astrologers and Chaldeans, whom the King, Nebuchadnezzar called to interpret his dream. As a result of their inability to do this, the King gave a commandment to have all wise men killed. This news came to Daniel, and he demanded from Arioch, the captain of the King's guard to know the reason for the sudden extinction. He explained to him and Daniel make a decision. Let's read;

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. Daniel 2:16 KJV

He asked for time from the King in order to give answer to his demand. We weren't given the account of how long he requested for but it is obvious that it was for a while, maybe few days like a week or two. From Daniel's action, we can learn two major things. First; Daniel's boldness to approach the king in wisdom; second; his conviction and assurance that when he prayed, there is a God that will answer.

You are not different from Daniel. Just as I established in the beginning that the saints of God cut across the Bible. Thus, if Daniel in the Old Testament can be faced with such intimidating and life threatening challenge, you are not indifferent, such can happen to you. Therefore, it is important that we learn how to react to situation and challenges in the same manner that Daniel did. He didn't bow to what is happening around him in the natural, he took the step to seek time and went to pray.

I agree that prayer isn't an easy task but it surely not sustained by physical strength. It takes a man helped by God to stay in the place of prayer to seek for an answer. And if Daniel can do this, you can. Prayer require time therefore, don't quit too soon. Continue instant in praying!

# **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, thank you for the privilege to pray, thank you because you have asked that I come boldly to the throne of grace, therefore, every form of fear and timidity in my life that wages war against my strength in prayer be destroyed by the power of the Holy Ghost. I receive the capacity to seek answers in the place of prayer till you give a response in Jesus' name. Amen

# **TUESDAY, 8TH AUGUST 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE COMMUNITY OF SAINTS

TEXT: DANIEL 2:17

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: .KJV

Daniel recognised that he is not alone. Not just spiritually but physically. Yes, he took the lead to speak with the King but he acknowledged the position of his three friends. While he was bold to ask for a time from the King, he went home and relate all that happened to his friends and revealed what should be done to them. Please read;

'that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon'. Daniel 2:18 KJV

He told his friends to join him in praying, to desire mercies from God, who reveals secret. Therefore, Daniel and his friends prayed for the length of time that it took the Lord to reveal the secret to him in a dream.

Your weakness and disposition to prayer might just be as a result of the company that you keep. Daniel was not just a saint, who understood the God that he serve and knew his ability, if he can take out time to seek him in prayer. He had community of friends, who were also saints, just as he is and believe in the power of prayer. Together, they lifted up their desire to the Lord.

Are you a saint in the community of non-saints? Are you a saint, who doesn't know his capacity and ability? Don't be an ignorant saint or a foolish one, who walks alone. Don't do life alone and be casual about your relationships. Get yourself friends, who believe in what you believe in and when you are faced with challenges, can join forces with you in prayer.

For some, they are in the community of saints that are weak as they are. Though, all of them are saints but lacks power and relationship with God. If at any time you realised that in your life there is practically no one that you can seek God together with, then you are living a careless and dangerous life. The change must start from you first. Begin to make amends in your relationship with God. Have a change of attitude, renew your mind with God's word and begin to pray.

Recognise that you are not alone, find yourself a partner in your church. Someone you know can at least pray more than you do and will be willing to embrace you. Establish a community of prayer for yourself. Redeem the time, for the days are evil.

#### PRAYER

Lord, deliver me from every form of spiritual foolishness, ignorance, slumberness and sluggishness. Wake me up from my sleep Lord. Revive me with your fire and power from within. Send me help speedily. Help me to surround myself with the right company, whose desire is unto you. Help me Lord, help me in Jesus' name. Amen

# WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2023

#### TOPIC: PRAYER IS ANSWERED IN GOD'S MERCY

TEXT: DANIEL 2:18

that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. KJV

Daniel had the exact understanding of what sustains and ensures that a man receives answer when he prays. It is an established truth that God hears prayer. Psalms 65:2 says; 'O thou that hearest prayers, unto thee will all flesh come'. Therefore, God hears our prayer even has we also find out with Zacharias, whom the angel visited with response to his petition established that his prayer was heard.

Furthermore, God gave the promise that he won't just hear our prayers, he will also answer. Jeremiah 33:3 says; 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not' also Jeremiah 29:12 says: 'Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.'

However, from Daniel's statement to seek the face of God inorder for the dream of the King to be revealed to them, shows that God who hears prayers and gave the promise to answer prayers does this by his mercy. Daniel understood that it is only by God's mercies that he will grant them what they require of him not because of whatever they do or had done.

And since it is by God's mercy that prayers are answered therefore, it makes it a beautiful and faithful act of God's love. Because God is plenteous in mercy. Which means that he shows mercy irrespective of identity, race, tribe or favoritism. And his mercy rules over condemnation and judgement.

Psalms 86:15 says: 'But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Also Exodus 34:6 says; 'And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,'

Therefore, God's mercy is his nature. It is the truth that make him God over all things and causes all things to be under his feet. Daniel understood this truth and went in to pray alongside his friends, standing upon the mercies of God that cannot be changed. This understanding will help you to lift the focus off your weaknesses or strength when you pray. It will keep your heart focused on God's truth to hear and answer prayer because he is merciful and gracious.

Stand on this understanding, that prayer is anchored by God's mercy. Hallelujah!

#### PRAYER

Lord, God, Almighty; I worship you because you are gracious, full of compassion, plenteous in mercy and truth. There is no lie or darkness in you. What you say, you will do. You do not change with time or season therefore, I believe in the power of praying because of your mercy in Jesus' name. Amen

# THURSDAY, 10TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: GOD REVEALS SECRET** 

TEXT: DANIEL 2:19

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. KJV

Daniel with his friends approached God with the understanding that he is merciful and will grant them grace by revealing the dream of the king to them with the interpretation. Thus, their petition wasn't witheld. The secret was revealed to Daniel in the dream. God answered their prayers.

However, there is no details of how many times they prayed or how long they prayed. You will agree with me that this wouldn't have been a casual, mindless and carefree prayer. It must have been a fervent and consistent prayer. Just as it is written in James 5:16b, it says;

'The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) is able to accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]. AMPV

Thus, Daniel and his friends were committed to this prayer in a consistence and persistence manner. It was heartfelt and thus, through God's promise, the secret was revealed. Not just the dream but with its interpretation. God has blessed Daniel with understanding in visions and dream in Daniel 1:17.

God reveals secret and diverse things to us when we ask in faith through prayer but how do you approach this kind of prayer to get results. Do you persist until you receive that which you seek for or you give up even before time? Do you pray earnestly with all your heart or your mind is wandering into millions of thoughts and thousands of miles while you are praying? It's time to change the terrain. Make the best out of this advantage and system of making things happen on earth, which God has bestowed upon you as his child.

Cultivate a different attitude to prayer. Make praying a habit. Seek God like that's the only thing you know how to do. Reason in line with God's promises that God can do the impossibility and can reveal what seems hidden and dark. When you are faced with a tussle, seek God. Before life hits hard on you, get yourself talking to your Father consistently and persistently. He honours our faith in him by his words. He is a merciful God!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord for it pays to seek you than gainsaying. It is wise to set my heart and call upon your name with expectation that you hear and answer prayers than to engage in doubt and fear. I receive and walk in grace to cultivate the attitudes of persistence and consistence in prayer. You require me to do this and I determine to put praying into practice in Jesus' name. Amen

# FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST 2023

TOPIC: THE ALL KNOWING GOD I

**TEXT: DANIEL 2:20** 

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: KJV

Daniel was full of gratitude towards God's ability and the outcome of their prayer. They trusted God to reveal the King's dream unto them with the interpretation, the Lord did this and they were glad. Taking cue from his expression of gratitude, it is evident that Daniel acknowledged God as the one who is full of wisdom and might. He is also able to bestow such wisdom to every of his child who sort him for such.

Isaiah 40:28-29 establish that no man can search out the understanding of God. When we trust in him by praying, he is able to express the depth of his understanding over any contrary situation in our lives and bring us to know that which is lacking in our own understanding. Daniel and his friends cannot by human instincts find out the King's dream and interpretation. Such understanding is beyond them. Only God is able to reveal the deep secret. Thus, being a prophet, Isaiah introduces God to us, he said;

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD , the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. KJV

There so much that we stand to benefit when we trust completely in the identity of God, our Father. Daniel along with his friends were well acquainted with the power of God. They knew that if they humble themselves and pray to seek God's mercy concerning the urgent situation, he will unveil the secret.

What do you know about your Father, God? Do you know that he sees in secret and nothing is hid from his eyes? Do you also know that his wisdom cannot be compared to any intellectual vastness and thus, his acts will most times put all cleverness and knowledge to nothing.

It is time to shut yourself in with the one who is able to increase your strength when you faint, the one who can give you wisdom when you found yourself on the edge of the cliff. The provision of his wisdom for you is available daily. Learn to ask him for wisdom, strength and might. He is the all-knowing God!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Father. I ask that you help me to seek you for wisdom, that I will not just rely on what I know or believe to be the way out in any situation alone. Help me to acknowledge and receive the superiority of your understanding in every facet of my life in Jesus' name. Amen

# **SATURDAY, 12TH AUGUST 2023**

TOPIC: THE ALL KNOWING GOD II

TEXT: DANIEL 2:21

and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: KJV

Daniel continued in his words of gratitude to acknowledge the depth of God's wisdom and might over all others. He established that in his wisdom is the disparity and difference in times and seasons. And also, his ability to put in place that which is necessary in his own time in accordance to his plans and purposes.

God doesn't change when you pray, rather, the changes occur in and with you. Your heart is affected and your faith is refined in his mightiness. Therefore when we pray and receive the manifestation of our desire, it is safe not to assume our prayers are the only force that bring about the response but to acknowledge that God has a plan and by our prayer, we were able to align with his plan and put ourselves in the position to receive the response, haven heard our cry.

The King, Nebuchadnezzar's dream was from God, to show him the mystery ahead of time. This was God's plan, however, it was also in his will that the King will need someone to remind him and interpret the dream inorder to exonerate and establish the awesome presence of his Spirit upon the life of Daniel and his friends. Thus, in the depth of his wisdom, he occasioned the situation that all the glory might be his and the astrologers and magician might submit to his lordship. What a great God full of wisdom and might!

Apostle Paul in his understanding of God's mystery of salvation towards the Jews, being the Father's elect from which his redemptive plan reach out to all the Gentile nations, declare that this mighty plan and act is a result of God's wisdom. He declare in Romans 11:33-36 saying;

'O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.'

No one counsels God, He is the one which his Spirit counsels men and give strength to the weak in spirit, soul and body. Prayer strengthens your heart before the Lord.

# **PRAYER**

Lord, I worship you for your manifold wisdom. Such, which is beyond words or description. I am glad that you have given me the privilege to receive from the depth of your wisdom by the power of your Spirit that is at work in me. Help me to ride upon the wings of your wisdom and might in Jesus' name. Amen

# **SUNDAY, 13TH AUGUST 2023**

TOPIC: THE ALL KNOWING GOD III

TEXT: DANIEL 2:22

he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. KJV

We are still gleaning on Daniel's declaration in establishing the depth of God's greatness and his gratitude towards him for revealing the King's dream and the interpretation thereof. He acknowledged that God reveals deep and secret things when we pray. He is able to do this because he knows what is in the darkness and light dwells with him. What an incredible God we have as our Father. Why won't you pray to such a God, who knows all things and there is nothing hidden before his face.

In relation to Daniel's expression, prophet Jeremiah declared in twenty third chapter and verse twenty and four saying; Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. KJV

No man can hide himself from God because, his eyes sees all things at the same time by his power, in that he fills the heaven and the earth. The writer of Hebrews corroborates this truth in the fourth chapter and verse thirteen, saying; Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: \*but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do\*. KJV

God reveal his secret to them that love and fear him. Thus it isn't far-fetched that when Daniel plug into God's presence by his mercies, he with his friends came back with answer through God's indefinite power. How much more do you stand in advantage as new creation in Christ Jesus. You are to go boldly before God's throne, regarding anything that seems confusing or you desire petition of God, with assurance that there is mercy and grace at his throne to receive you and also give response to your heartfelt need.

God has not change! What he has done in the past for men who trust and seek him, he will do for you, if you will wear the same shoes of faith and absolute reliance on God's power without wrath and doubt. He who seeks God's hands in his life must learn how to put all his eggs in one basket without fear.

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Father because there is absolutely nothing hidden before you. You see in darkness and light dwell with you. I ask that you switch on your light in my life, let nothing contrary to your will thrive in my heart. Switch the light on and dispel the craftiness of the enemy in Jesus' name. Amen

MOPELOLA OYENIRAN

# **MONDAY, 14TH AUGUST 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE ALL KNOWING GOD IV

**TEXT: PSALMS 139:12** 

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; But the night shineth as the day: The darkness and the light are both alike to thee. KJV

Before God, the dark is vivid as though it is the light. All things are naked and open to his eyes. He is not a man who sees darkness as darkness. Rather, darkness give way and open up to him because he is God Almighty, the maker and former of all things.

David, by his intimate relationship with God, wrote about the nakedness of all things before God even the life of every man. It's a very sweet and interesting Psalm. I imploy you to read from verse one through to the end at your convenience. However, let's read through each sentences diligently as I lead;

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, And art acquainted with all my ways. Psalm 139:1-3 KJV

For there is not a word in my tongue, But, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, And laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain unto it. Psalm 139:4-6 KJV

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Psalm 139:7-9 KJV

Even there shall thy hand lead me, And thy right hand shall hold me. 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. Psalm 139:10-12 KJV

Isn't all these beautiful? A good understanding of the above revelation will help you to rest solely in God's arms, knowing that he is more than able to take care of all that you can ask or think. You can't run from him and truly, there is joy in abiding in his presence. Ensure you read through till the end; however, I love verse 14; it says; I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvellous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well. KJV. Let your soul be saturated with this knowledge!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Father. For it is evil for a soul to be without the knowledge of your words and your immeasurable abilities. I ask that the description of your overwhelming power flood my heart like a river that overflow it bounds, let my heart know right well that your eyes sees all. Let this knowledge draw me to the place of prayer, where your ears are attentive to listen to my cry in Jesus' name. Amen

# **TUESDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2023**

**TOPIC: NOT A HYPOCRITE** 

**TEXT: MATHEW 6:5** 

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. KJV

The word of God established in clear terms certain attitudes, attributes and character that are poisonous to prayer. We must always be reminded that prayer is made unto God, who knows all things and weigh intentions aright. Therefore, the right template by which prayer must be made is the intention. Why are you praying? For what purpose?

Jesus corrected the disciple's mindset and thought pattern towards prayers which they have been used to over time via the Jewish religion and culture. His first approach was centered on the manner prayer was done. He said "Don't act like a hypocrite". The Greek meaning of the word hypocrite is the English word "dissembler" which means someone who wears a false appearance, who act as in a stage play to express what he isn't at the time. Thus, men can pray with the motive of acting out.

The intention might just be to appear before others as a praying person or then present a false identity as one who believes in prayer. These two views are quite different. The first is a picture of a person who prays just to receive attention and commendation from men. Jesus said, such a person has received his reward and shouldn't expect any response from God. On the other hand, the second person is one who has little or no consistent attitude of prayer privately (in his personal life) but will always put up an action of praying publicly. And in my opinion both are very wrong mindset which will make prayer a fruitless endeavor.

These two characters gives prayer a religious definition without its originality of fellowship and heartfelt communication with God. Therefore, it is important to place a check on your motive, intention and attitude towards prayer. If you will lift up your voice with others in public to pray, ensure that you are doing the same when no one is there in the corner of your room. It is hypocritical to create a false representation of a life you do not live privately in the public. Also, if all your praying is to attract commendation and attention of men, without a deep recognition of God, to whom prayer is to be made, you have only raise an altar of falsehood.

Don't be a hypocrite in all ramification. Live your life in such a way that prayer retain its proper meaning and can bring you to the exact benefit embedded in the sacredness of offering prayers. Be true to your heart and to God.

# PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive me of every wrong motive, false attitude and appearance I have worn in prayer. Cleanse my heart from every filthiness of the flesh and give me requisite understanding to approach prayer and the act of praying in accordance to your will in Jesus' name. Amen

# WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

TOPIC: THE FATHER SEES IN SECRET

**TEXT: MATHEW 6:6** 

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. KJV

Jesus said to imbibe this attitude different from a hypocritical approach; "enter into thy closet and shut thy door". Many took this statement literally and would not even dare to pray when all doors are not shut and when they are not in their houses. They interpreted this statement and confine prayer behind bars. This isn't what Jesus meant. He is simply saying change the motive, change your intention, and cultivate the right attitude to prayer.

Quit making it a means to gain attention or popularity or rather a mere religious and pious obligation. Jesus said that you should learn what prayer is all about and approach praying with a healthy mindset derived from God's word. Thus he said; "prayer isn't for show off or applause, it is a secret affair (which means, it is sacred and holy. It is intentional and a living relationship between God, who sees in secret and his children). Jesus did called our heart to the essence of prayer.

"Enter into thy closet, shut the door and pray to your father in secret" is to acknowledge God as the hallmark in prayer and never pray with an ill intention or wrong motive. Wear the right appearance, don't just have a public zeal to pray, ensure you have a consistent prayer life privately. Don't pray for attention, pray for God's revelation. Pray everywhere and at all times. Prayer is to be made without ceasing. Thus, Jesus didn't say that prayer can only be made when all doors are shut and in our closet, He is only correcting the wrong attitude that the Jews have towards prayer.

Always remember that you are praying to the Father who sees in secret (the one who sees all motive, intention and character) therefore, pray heartily, acknowledging his will established for prayer in his words. Apostle Paul communicated the spiritual identity of prayer beyond walls and all restrictions in 1Timothy 2:8, saying; I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. KJV

Prayer can be done any and everywhere because it is supernatural. You can communicate with your Father who sees in secret, wherever you are and at anytime of the day. Lifting your hearts and hands without doubt or in grievance with any man. Don't quit praying!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord for the privilege to pray. I am not confided or restricted by physical walls or boundaries, for prayer is spiritual and praying is unto you, who sees in secret. Therefore, everywhere and at all times my heart is tilted in reverence to your name without wrath and doubt in Jesus' name. Amen

# THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: HOW TO PRAY I** 

**TEXT: MATHEW 6:7** 

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. KJV

Do you remember that Jesus corrected the disciple's mindset about the manner at which prayer was offered under the Jewish religion? He provided enlightenment and redirection to the motive and attitude to prayer. Progressively, Jesus struck a strong cord that characterizes how prayer was offered to God amidst the Jews. Jesus pointed out that they pray as the heathen do which shouldn't be.

In order to interpret what Jesus summarised as **vain repetition** we need to read his provision on how prayer must be done. Jesus brought to their consciousness the essence of prayer and how it must be done which is quite different from what they have seen, heard or know before.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Matthew 6:8-9 KJV 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen'. Matthew 6:10-13 KJV

Do you notice that Jesus emphasized the sentence **Be not like unto them\***\_which corroborate the truth that Jesus was changing the status quo and norm in the way they have seen prayer offered before God. Then he started out with the essence of prayer "Our Father, who art in heaven and continue to the end with the correct template through which believers are to pray to God". This is the opposite of vain repetition. As it doesn't mean to offer short prayer or to spend little time in praying nor pray briskly and spontaneously.

Rather, vain repetition is to pray without God as the ultimate reverence in prayer. It is to pray without order and haphazardly. It is a distortion in prayer out of God's will and direction. The element of Biblical prayer is God at the center, his kingdom as the essence and his word (daily bread) as the conduit that upholds the prayer. God knows our needs thus, we pray for his will to be done on earth because our needs are taken care of by him.

It is important that you understand this truth and pray to God who is holy and worthy of all praise beyond your needs and desires. Prayer is not just to have God meet your needs (and it isn't wrong to pray and ask God for your desires) but for his kingdom to be done on earth. He knows your needs already. Stop praying disorderly!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord because you art my Father in heaven. I adore and reverence your name knowing that my needs are your delight and your delight is to meet my need, therefore I pray for your kingdom to come and your will to be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Amen

# FRIDAY, 18TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: HOW TO PRAY II** 

**TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:18** 

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; KJV

I understand that many has interpreted vain repition as not praying too much or not speaking lengthy words before God in prayers. I am sorry to inform you that it is far from this because from Jesus' direction on how to pray, vain repetition isn't a restriction on praying for long or speaking too much rather it is a pointer to a wrong manner at which prayer is made. Which is not to acknowledge God as the Father and his kingdom on earth.

Furthermore, Apostle Paul brought to the consciousness of believers in Ephesus the truth that there is a spiritual warfare and the combat in prayer is not against flesh and blood but wicked powers, rulers of darkness in this world and spiritual wickedness in high places. He explained the weapons of the believers against these strongholds in Ephesians 6:10-17 while in verse eighteen, he established what we can call "the proper way to pray". Which isn't different from what Jesus taught his disciples.

The ability to pray in the spirit which is the safest means to watch and persevere in prayer for all saints. If we are to pray for all saints, will that be a short prayer? Will it be a five minutes prayer and will it be centered on our needs? Of course not. It says to pray all kind of prayer and supplication in the spirit, thus, we can pray the prayer of thanksgiving, petition (asking specific request) supplication (seeking mercy from God on an intervention with utmost reverence) and intercession (praying on behalf of another). All these can and should be done in the spirit beyond uttering our normal language but being sponsored by God's spirit in us.

Therefore, prayer is hundred percent supernatural. It cannot be done successfully via natural strength and in a disorderly manner. When you understand God's will in prayer, your attitude and approach will change. You will learn to submit to God's spirit to energise and strengthen you in the place of prayer. With his help there can't be vain repetition because the Holy Spirit will always make intercession for the saints according to the will of God through you. (Romans 8:26-27)

Thus vain repetition is a wrong order of prayer. It is prayer offered out of God's will and precept. Pray in the Spirit at all times, in all places not just for yourself and family but for all saints. This will always be a lengthy and intentional prayer. Not casual and mindless.

# PRAYER

Thank you Lord, for I am not without help. The Holy Spirit is my helper, my strengthener, the one who help me to pray as I ought to. He is the spirit of grace and supplication and I acknowledge his presence and power at work in me to direct my prayer in accordance to God's will on earth in Jesus'name. Amen

# **SATURDAY, 19TH AUGUST 2023**

**TOPIC: HOW TO PRAY III** 

**TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:6** 

Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. AMPV

We have established that prayer is a supernatural act carried out physically with our mouth and expression of words. However, our attitude towards it is crucial with respect to our understanding of how it should be done. Prayer isn't a one time, few words affair. It is a ceaseless, continued and heartfelt communication in the presence of God, the Father.

A similar instruction as it is written in Ephesians 6:18 as we studied yesterday is Philippians 4:6. It reveals that prayer is to be done instead of getting worried over any and everything. Also, prayer is accompanied with supplication, which is a very important kind of prayer. You wil think Prayer summarises everything about communication with God but by the knowledge of God's words, there are different kind or manner of prayer, which calls for different approaches.

But according to Philippians 4:6, prayer and supplication is to be carried out unto God. Supplication is simply heartfelt petition. Do you still remember Daniel's prayer with his friends to seek God as regards the king's dream? That's a form of prayer and supplication. They make specific request before God in prayer. Do you also notice that they must have prayed for few days and spent time in prayer after which God revealed the King's dream to Daniel?

Therefore, prayer and supplication is a continued form of prayer. It's not a vain repetition rather it acknowledges God, as the only source and help and reverence his person and power to save, deliver and fulfil that which is being asked in prayer. Haven had a clear understanding of prayer even as Jesus taught his disciples, Apostle Paul admonishes the Christians at Philippi not to worry, as it causes frustration and deep discouragement. But to engage in a continued, heartfelt specific request to God in prayer.

The beauty of praying in accordance to God's word is that it brings long lasting result. It is on the premise of praying rightly that you are confident of an answered prayer. You wouldn't doubt if God heard you even when you haven't seen the physical manifestation of what you prayed for. Rather, the peace of God will overwhelm your heart as it is written in Philippians 4:7.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 KJV Seek to approach prayer with the right understanding and attitude. This is the essence of Jesus' explanation to his disciples.

# PRAYER

Thank you Father. I do not relegate the power embedded in praying in accordance to your will. I stand in faith by the power of your word, walking in the light as you are in the light. Amen

# **SUNDAY, 20TH AUGUST 2023**

TOPIC: THE SHUNAMITE WOMAN I

**TEXT: 2KINGS 4:21** 

And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. KJV

We have so much to learn about this woman who had an encounter with Elisha, the prophet. Her attitude towards the situation of things around her will be a great lesson from which we can draw God's wisdom.

She rendered a distinct assistance to the prophet of God alongside with her husband. Then, Prophet Elisha thought to bless her. Through the observation of Gehazi, they found out that though she was old and wealthy, she has no child. Thus, the man of God prophesied and commanded the hand of God upon her to receive the miracle of a baby. It came to pass as it was declared. After some years, the child had a strange attack, his head hurt and he died on his mother's lap.

There is no woman who witnessed the death of her child and will not raise an alarm for help. However, this woman acted contrary to the norm. She took the child, laid him on the bed which the man of God Elisha usually lay when he come around their house, shut the door and said nothing to her husband.

What gave her the confidence to keep quiet in the face of a great loss? Why did she lay the child on Elisha's bed? It simply means that she refused to accept that she had lost her child. And we can detect this from her response towards her husband. Let's read 2Kings 4:22-23

And she called unto her husband, and said, send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again. And he said, wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, **it shall be well**. KJV

Her response was **It shall be well**. She refused to speak of the death or any loss. She didn't accept the death. She made her way to the man of God, who represented God's presence to her. Thus, we can safely say that, she went to God in prayer. Knowing that he can change the situation. But first, the miracle started from her words and conviction. She was convinced that all shall be well.

Prayer is as good as your trust in God's ability which shows from the words you confess. Refuse to speak contrary to your expectation in prayer rather declare that all shall be well with faith in God's integrity.

# **PRAYER**

I decree and declare by the power in the name of Jesus that regardless of all odds, all is well with my life, my family, my career, my ministry my business, my finances, my nation and everything that surrounds me in Jesus' name. Amen

# **MONDAY, 21ST AUGUST 2023**

#### **TOPIC: THE SHUNAMITE WOMAN II**

**TEXT: 2KINGS 4:26** 

run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well. KJV

She saddled her ass and rode behind her servant as fast as possible down to the man of God, Elisha at Carmel. Elisha spotted her ass from afar and sent Gehazi ahead to ask her if all is well with her household, yet she responded "**All is well".** 

She maintained a consistent positive confession in the face of a dead situation. This further establish that her faith wasn't fickle. She didn't just spill out all is well for declaration sake, rather she had faith in God. She wouldn't back down and accept the loss of her only son, and she didn't panic to seek help as though all hope was lost. She went forward, though in pain yet with full assurance of faith.

Don't wait till you behold the physical manifestation of your desire in prayer. Create the reality of your desire through your confession. Speak out what you expect to receive as a response from God. Let your words be filled with life and faith.

When she came to the prophet, Elisha, she fell at his feet and held unto his legs. Gehazi pushed her away because she isn't supposed to do that, but Elisha restrained him and said;

....Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me. 2 Kings 4:27 KJV

Isn't it strange that the prophet didn't discern what has happened? The Lord hid the woman's loss from the prophet's perception. He didn't discern nor saw in a vision what had happened to her. He only knew that her soul was vexed (she is in heaviness). Permit me to say that by her confession, God agreed that she had no loss. Thus, he kept the man of God from seeing the dead child. Not until she opened her mouth and tell him "didn't I say do not deceive me"

She refused to communicate in clear terms that her child was dead. She stood strong in her faith, fully persuaded that she will have her dead son back to life. In every situation, be persuaded! Refuse to say what you don't want to see rather declare that which is your utmost desire.

# **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to maintain a positive and consistent confession in the face of negative circumstances in Jesus' name. Amen



# TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST 2023

TOPIC: ABILITY TO DISCERN

**TEXT: 2KINGS 4:29** 

Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child. KJV

By her response, the man of God was able to discern that her child was dead. Then, he gave his servant Gehazi certain instructions to revive the child from the dead. However, the woman refused to go back home without the man of God. Thus Elisha agreed to follow her but Gehazi went ahead of them.

When he got to where the boy laid down dead, he did has his master Elisha instructed him alas! there was no sign of revival. Let's read; And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked. 2 Kings 4:31 KJV

The man of God thought that by the instrumentation of the instruction given to Gehazi, his servant, the miracle would be accomplished. He felt his rod was enought to raise the child back to life. However, it turn out to require more than just his rod.

Sometimes, it is possible to assume that by just praying for a while or few days, answers will come and things will change but sometimes, it takes more than our envisaged and calculated approach. It's important to be able to discern in every situation the voice and direction of God in order to bring about miracle and victory already perfected in God's will.

It isn't wrong to say that God had seen the woman's faith and was ready to have her receive her miracle of a revived child, however, it has to be done the Lord's way. When Gehazi came back with no result, Elisha knew that there is need to find out what to do. He got the message that there is more that is required to receive this miracle.

Situations can be different from each other, it is always wise to seek God's face for direction and not just praying without proper discernment. Learn to have a open heart as you pray. Ask the Lord for direction as you make positive confession and trust in his integrity. He will always lead you in his light.

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord because your ways are different from my ways and your thoughts are higher than my thoughts. You see in darkness and light belongs to you. You know what is in secret and there is nothing hidden before your eyes. Please, lighten the course of my life in Jesus' name. Amen

# WEDNESDAY, 23RD AUGUST 2023

#### TOPIC: THE LORD'S DIRECTION

**TEXT: 2KINGS 4:32** 

And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. KJV

God's ways are higher than ours and his thoughts different from our thoughts. There is always God's direction in accordance to his will in every situation that we found ourselves. Hence, the word of promise written in Proverbs 3:5-6 which says; Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths. KJV

God delights in directing our path, but we have a role to play by seeking to know his direction, inorder to achieve success as we walk on his expressed paths for our lives. The prophet, Elisha, understood this truth about seeking the Lord when the expected proves abortive. Thus, he change his strategy. Haven received the response from Gehazi, he knew there is more to do. He went alone to where the dead child was, shut the door behind him and prayed. Let's read;

He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. 2 Kings 4:33 KJV

What do you think will be the content of the man of God's prayer? How long do you think he prayed and with what kind of intensity? Most likely he made intercession for the dead child and supplication (specific request) before God. You will be amazed the next action that he took; please read; And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. 2 Kings 4:34 KJV

Elisha received direction to lay upon the child via his prayer. This he did and the child was still warm. Surprisingly, he didn't give up. He went to and fro, pacing round the house. I believe in our days, what a man of God will most likely be doing is to speak in tongues and declare God's words again as received through prayers. Thus, the prophet laid on the dead child the second time; Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 2 Kings 4:35 KJV

When you hold unto the promise of God, don't give up even after you have prayed. Go yonder and seek the Lord's direction and receive clarity. It might just be that there is a step more to take. Even at that, the ability to persist and trust wholly in God is needed to receive the physical manifestation of your desire. Prayer is God's intelligent system to intervene in the affairs of his children. It can't be standardize to a particular style and time. Be led by God's spirit.

# PRAYER

Lord, please open my eyes and heart to understand all that you are doing in my life at specific and significant time. Help me to be patient and persistent to seek your wisdom when prayers gets tough and waiting on you gets tougher in Jesus' name. Amen

# THURSDAY, 24TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: THANKSGIVING IN PRAYER** 

TEXT: 2KINGS 4:

And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. KJV

The position of the Shunamite woman is one that is worthy of emulation. She eventually received the reality of her declaration. Truly, it was well with her at the end, she received her son alive. Hebrews 11:35 affirm that by "Faith, women received their dead raised to life again". Indeed, she was a woman of faith.

On the other hand, she also exemplify a life of deep consecration to prayer. Haven declared to her husband and before the man of God that "all is well", She refused to give in and give up, trusting that by the intervention of God's power through the man of God, her child will be raised from the dead. She received her son and made obeisance to God's servant, Elisha.

Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out. 2 Kings 4:37 KJV

She fell at his feet\_ she worshipped the Lord, her heart blessed the man of God and she gave thanks to God. The act of bowing down to worship is an incense of total surrender and deep gratitude. Beyond the physical act, it is a form of thanksgiving in prayer. With that singular attitude, the Shunamite woman displayed the extent to which she was grateful to God and his servant whom he used as a conduit of his grace and power.

After you have received your miracle, be humble enough to fall before at the Lord's feet. Make obeisance to God from your heart. Offer to him, your thanks in prayer and reverence his mighty acts. Don't be like some, who count it an unnecessary act to fall down flat on their face before the great and mighty God. Your clothes shouldn't be too expensive to hinder you from adoring the name of the Lord. If God deserves absolute worship, don't give an adulterated one. Go all out and express your joy and gratitude.

Learn to give thanks to God in a consecrated and heartfelt manner. He deserves our thanks!

# **PRAYER**

Lord, I ask that you empty me of every form of self-worth and pride towards the absolute reverence of your name and deeds. Help me to count my pride as nothing before your presence, that I may offer before you the fruit of my lips and sacrifice of praise, worthy of your good deeds towards my life in Jesus' name. Amen

MOPELOLA OYENIRAN

# FRIDAY, 25TH AUGUST 2023

#### TOPIC: WHAT TO DO IN AFFLICTION

**TEXT: JAMES 5:13** 

# Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. KJV

It is important that we give our absolute attention to God's words and become conscious of certain instruction and guidance which stand as wisdom for living. We have learned extensively on prayer and the simple truth that God hears and answers prayers. However, it is imperative that we make the most of this relationship with our Father in heaven.

Apostle James, haven learned of God's ways, spoke on the subject of prayer and in his words, he addressed the challenges and problems that we seldom encounter daily. He said, is any afflicted, let him pray. I am of the opinion that he must have great insight into the revelation of God's words, that enabled him speak to the people of God without reservation that the way out of affliction (hardship and suffering) is prayer.

The story of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, the Prophet is an example of how prayer ensures victory in affliction. Peninah, Hannah's step wife, would taunt and mock her because of her childlessness. She provoked her daily and made Hannah's life sorrowful, bitter and frustrating. Despite, Elkanah, her husband's love and reverence for her, Hannah couldn't come out of her sorrowful state.

Not until she made up her mind to approach God in prayer, Peninah was enjoying her pain and solitary. Just in one Shiloh, that year, Hannah poured her soul unto the Lord. Please read;

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. 1 Samuel 1:9-10 KJV

Hannah's prayer was characterized with weeping and a deep silence. Her voice was not heard not even by Eli, the prophet, who mistook her anguish for drunkenness; but her heart was wholly poured out to God. She vowed to give back the bundle of joy to God's service and she received the blessing and affirmation of an answered prayer from the prophet.

What wonder it is to believe in the name and power of the God of Israel! Hannah went back with a joyful countenance. It became impossible for Peninah's unwholesome words to affect her. Not anymore. In her affliction, she prayed and God proved his mighty power. What are you going through and it seems you are all alone in this world? You are not alone, can you encourage yourself in the Lord and pray? That's the way out of your hardship and suffering. Have faith in God!

# PRAYER

Lord, I pour my heart to you in faith. Raise me up out of depression, sadness, bitterness and confusion. Help me to wait on you in prayer and thanksgiving. Encourage my heart and unleash your joy in my soul as I trust in your mighty name. Amen

# SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: IN SICKNESS, PRAY** 

**TEXT: JAMES 5:14** 

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: KJV

It's always an unspeakable blessing when we come to understand the word of God and live daily in the light of it. It is good to pray in all kinds of affliction. Apostle James mentioned sickness, a very common affliction that can beset any man as long as we are still in this world. He pointed out that God's prepared provision to deal with this kind of affliction is to pray first before all else.

Let the elders (pastors, leaders, and every other matured believer who understood the power of God over sickness and diseases) be called upon. Then, let them pray for the person who is afflicted with sickness and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. This is how God intervenes and his power displaces the sickness.

This kind of prayer is referred to as the 'Prayer of faith'. Well, every kind of prayer requires faith (absolute trust in God) for answers to come and birth miracles. However, in specific terms, when prayer is offered for the sick, there is need to have faith that such is healed without doubt. This is very important as there is every tendency to want to see the instant change before believing that the miracle of healing has taken place. It doesn't work like that!

Prayer must be offered in faith and deep conviction that the sickness is gone even when it doesn't look like it physically. The blessing of this prayer for the sick is that if such has committed any sin, it shall be forgiven him. This is to say that, even when the sick believes that it is his or her sin that has brought about the sickness, God is willing to heal and forgive once he or she is prayed for. Isn't this sweet!

James 5:15 affirms it, saying; 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. KJV

The next time you fall sick or have anyone around you down in sickness, take this first step in accordance to God's words. Act out as a matured child of God who trust in the power of God to heal every kind and form of sicknesses and diseases. Lay your hands upon that sick fellow, even if it's yourself, if you don't have an oil, simply pray and anoint yourself in the name of Jesus. Ensure you stay in faith, knowing that even your sins or the fellow sin (if you are praying for another) can not hinder the miracle of healing. Enjoy God's provision for the affliction known as sickness. Pray before all else is done!

# PRAYER

Thank you Father, for healing is the children's bread. I believe in your power to heal and forgive sins. I lay my hands upon the sick and they recover, I lay my hands upon myself and I trust in your healing power. Sickness shall not have dominion over me or around me in Jesus' name. Amen

# SUNDAY, 27TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER** 

**TEXT: 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. KJV

We have a responsibility towards one another as believers. In my opinion we are yet to really understand and maximize the beauty and power of God resident in our brothers and sisters in Faith. This inability is largely caused by dishonor. May our eyes be opened to see that God has made your brother in faith a timely and godly help for you. God will always use men, we are his resources and the conduit of his power on earth. A miracle occurs when a man hears from God and decides to obey, which in turn become a blessing to another.

It is important that we act on God's words by praying one for another and confessing our faults to one another as a seal of trust and submission. This doesn't give room for talkativeness and irresponsibility but an avenue to have a secured life, where we can truly rise for the help of one another.

You can pray for another person, yes you can. You can intercede not just for your family, but for any one saved and washed by the blood of Jesus. You can step out in agreement with another brother or sister in Christ and make a petition before God. Do not be casual about this great benefit of oneness which the Lord has put amidst his people as the body of Christ.

It's time to arise like as of old, where the community of believers is the most powerful force on earth. Don't leave in isolation or dishonor and talk down on everyone in the church and around you. It will be difficult to act on this instruction to pray for one another. Find yourself in the company of believers whom you can call upon for prayers and timely help. And be that person that can be called upon for prayer and spiritual assistance.

We must have a new vision for our friendship and relationship. Like Daniel and his friends, who understood the purpose of God for their lives and had a strong relationship that cannot be broken. God was the focus of their relationship and not self. Have godly partners, the church is not for fashion show, competition or any kind of worldliness. It is to receive the knowledge of God, sustain friendship in the family of God and learn submission to godly authority.

Each one of us is a righteous man, whose heartfelt prayer is able to make tremendous power available. Maximize the power of God in your life and don't hesitate to bless others with it and receive the same help from others. This is the will of God for his people.

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Father. I ask Lord, that you open my understanding to behold the blessing you have deposited in my brother and sister in Christ. Help me to honour others and live responsibly towards men and deliver me from casual relationship that has no spiritual and eternal benefit in Jesus' name.

# MONDAY, 28TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: EARNEST PRAYERS** 

**TEXT: 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. KJV

An example of earnest prayer is described by the manner at which Elijah, the prophet prayed to God to cease the rain. Before we consider how he prayed, let's turn our attention to the description of his personality. 'Elijah was a man subject to like passion as we are'\_ what does this means? The Amplified version will help us a great deal here, let's read;

\*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [with the same physical, mental, and spiritual limitations and shortcomings]\*, and he prayed intensely for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. James 5:17 AMP

Did you read that carefully? Elijah, though a prophet of God was not an extra ordinary believer in the sense that he shared the same physical, mental, spiritual limitations and short comings as we are in this present day. Therefore, it is wrong to picture Elijah, as a special kind of person, who has greater merit before God. This isn't to relegate the truth that he was God's prophet but to bring our minds to the possibilities deposited in us by God as his children.

If Elijah, with those limitations and short comings can pray to God asking that it might not rain and God heard him and do as he demanded then, we can pray and God will hear and act upon our petition in accordance to his will. There is a great beauty when we fully understand our right in the Lord and give ourselves to its power in greater measure. Let's read how Elijah declared his request before the Lord;

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. KJV

Behind this declaration and affirmation was his earnest prayer. He didn't just have the boldness to make the decree of no rain before the King, Elijah had prayed earnestly, after which he declared to the King that there won't be rain just as he has said.

The secret to bold declaration and astute conviction is an earnest prayer. It's time to stop approaching prayer in a casual and insignificant manner. Let your spirit be alive in prayer. Engage the help of the Holy Spirit as you pray, and most importantly, pray with God's words on your lips. The result is boldness and an undeniable conviction that will enable you to stand and decree God's will on earth.

# **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to maximize the privilege in prayer. Pour upon me the spirit of grace and supplication that I might stand in the place of prayer with great conviction by the power of your word and working of your spirit in Jesus' name. Amen

# TUESDAY, 29TH AUGUST 2023

**TOPIC: PRAY AGAIN** 

**TEXT: JAMES 5:18** 

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. KJV

There is a consistent pattern of earnest prayer recorded in the life of Elijah, the Tishbite. We learned yesterday, that he prayed for the rain to cease from falling. When it was time for God to send rain, the word of the Lord came to him in 1Kings 18:1 saying;

And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. KJV

He received the instruction of God and Elijah sprang into action. God has revealed his intention to send rain after three years and six months, therefore rain is expected to fall in accordance to his will. However, it is evident to note that the rain fell by prayers. Elijah prayed again!

We must understand and accept the truth about the working and dealings of God on earth. God is confided within the conference of our prayers. Whatever he will do on earth, he will stir up his people to pray and demand for it before the physical manifestation. Every act of God finds expression as an answer to prayers. Please, debunk the mindset that all things happen as God wants it. Not at all! As a matter of fact many things happen contrary to how God wants it. Believers have the responsibility to cause God's kingdom to thrive on earth by the power of earnest prayer.

Begin to view Prayer as the meeting place, through which the children of God allows the will of God to become a reality on earth. Whatever you desire to change either negatively or positively will take place not until you have prayed. It is true that there is God significant hand upon his people but it is only to stir us to pray, equip us with the ability to wait on him and direct our heart to the understanding of his will through his word as we pray.

Prayer is the only means to bring God on the scene of matters and issues on earth. Before you accuse God of being silent over your life, ensure that you have prayed earnestly and you are doing this with the knowledge of his word. Thus, it is not enough to have a one time record of prayer, but a life time consistent and persistent record of prayer. You have prayed yesterday, to be able to pray again today. You prayed today to be able to pray again tomorrow. This chain cannot be broken.

#### **PRAYER**

Lord, please teach me to pray effectively and efficiently by the power of your spirit. Help me to submit my pride and arrogance to the will of prayer. Let it be evident in my heart that the only offensive and defensive weapon I have as your child is prayer. Help me to honour your will by a worthy devotion to prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

# WEDNESDAY, 30TH AUGUST 2023

TOPIC: REFUSE WEARINESS IN PRAYER

**TEXT: 1KINGS 18:41** 

And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. KJV

Just as Elijah received God's instruction to send rain, he boldly decreed before the King that there is a sound of abundance of rain even before it manifested physically. It is important that we believe the word of God beyond what is happening before us and what we see with our natural eyes. Prayer is an act of faith, thus it takes a man convicted by faith in God's word to pray earnestly.

The beautiful part of Elijah's trust in the word of God was seen in his action afterwards. After he declared to the King a sound of abundance of rain, Elijah, went up and prayed for that which the Lord had declared that he will do.

Just as we learned yesterday, God has said it so that we will pray. He only revealed his intention that we might give room for its manifestation as we pray. Let's learn for how Elijah prayed:

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, there is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. 1 Kings 18:42-43 KJV

Elijah took a very distinct position in prayer, putting his face in between his knees. This doesn't seems like a gentle and mild manner of prayer to me. Elijah proved to have learnt how to pray in times like this. Break out of gentle and mindless manner of praying. Throw yourself outrightly before God and learn to pray with all sincerity.

The rain didn't come up, not until Elijah tarried in the place of prayer, putting his head in between his knees consistently for a while. By the seventh time which he asked his servant to go and check for a handful of gathered cloud, his prayer gave room for God's will to prevail in the earth. By now, you should know that praying once and giving up is not God's will for you. Weariness or tiredness is not God's will for you in prayer. Don't give up until you see the handful of cloud gathered in the sky. Wrestle in prayer, it's like a woman in labour. Learn to travail till your desires are met.

# **PRAYER**

Thank you Father for you hear and answers prayer. In this I rejoice and give you all the glory. I receive strength to pray and not get tired or weary as you bare me up by the power of your Spirit. I travail in prayer by the strength of the Holy Spirit, I am not alone for God is with me as a mighty terrible one in Jesus' name. Amen

# THURSDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2023

TOPIC: A LIFE TIME RESPONSIBILITY

**TEXT: LUKE 18:1** 

And he spake a parable unto them to this end , that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; KJV

We can trace the commitment of Jesus in teaching his disciples about prayer and he also used parables to communicate its importance. Scattered in the scripture from Genesis to Revelation is a consistent message that prayer is essential and a basic pillar of the Christian faith. Moreover, there are two pillars that uphold the life of faith, it is Prayer and study of God's words.

I will like to state that the content of prayer is as important as the act of prayer. Many believers failed in receiving response to their prayer because it was nothing but murmuring, complaining and vague utterances before the Lord. Do you desire to pray rightly? Simply learn to pray God's words. For example;

Psalms 23:1 says; **The Lord' is my shepherd, I shall not want**. You can pray this text of scripture and declare before the lord that ",It is written that the Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want, therefore I acknowledge you Lord as my Shepherd and I shall not want". This simple line prayer over and over in simple terms as you understand is more powerful than saying something that goes thus\_"Lord, I know that you are up in heaven, and you can see how my life is, won't you do something about me and my life?, Please send me help ooo, and provide for me, destroy anyone who is making my life difficult in Jesus' name"

Though, God is merciful and will work by his act of grace and kindness however, the content of this kind of prayer is wrong. Prayer must be based on God's words and directed by the knowledge of his will. This is the power that is embedded in prayer. 1John 5:14-15 says that when we pray in accordance to God's will (which is his words), we are confident that he hears us and what we can have assurance that what we ask, the Lord will do for us.

Seek to pray rightly by giving yourself to the study of God's words and learn how to communicate rightly with God, who is your Father and also receive the accurate manner to worship him at all times. Furthermore, men ought always to pray and not to faint, says Jesus. Prayer is the believer's responsibility that start from conversion till the end of time. It is expected in accordance to God's purpose that we are men and women of prayer. At any time, you should be a walking and living prayer. Your life must exude the fragrance of the Father's presence. Be committed and devoted to praying, this is God's will for your life.

# **PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for the knowledge of your words. I ask that you pour your grace upon me to act upon your word by praying in the right manner and for the right reason. I submit myself under your mighty hand that I might become strengthened and empowered to live a life devoted to prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

His Voice Daily Devotional is God's voice reaching you daily through His words.

# **ABOUT AUTHOR**

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