

Piercing the Darkness Through Prayer

Ephesians 6:18

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Prayer is the key that unlocks the storehouses of God's grace and power. All that God *is*, and all that God *has*, is available to those who pray. **Why? Because the visible and the invisible realness in which we live are so very real – divided only by the thin veil of our “humanness.”** The prayer of faith will not only determine *our* destinies, but that of millions of *others*.

Child of God, do not be fooled into believing that your destiny is in the hands of the natural forces you can see with your physical eyes. Your *destiny* is either in the hands of *Satan*, who is the prince who governs the darkness of this world – or it is in the hands of *sovereign God*, who brings the light of truth, and everything good, into the path of your life.

You see, what is miraculous to us is simply reality to God. What is *natural* to Him is *supernatural* to us. For example: it is natural for God to love you, to bless you, to prosper you in every area of your life as seen in 3 John 2 says, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” Malachi 3:10 says, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Genesis 12:2 says, “I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.” Philippians 4:19 says, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” **These are promises that are available to every believer through the prayer if faith.** Jesus put it this way in Mark 9:23, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

What does that have to do with deliverance? Acts 12 tells us the story of Peter being thrown in jail and chained between two soldiers

because he was preaching the Gospel of Christ and seeing confirmed by miracles. Verse 5 tells us about a group of believers that were “praying without ceasing for him.”

What happened? The night before the morning Herod was going to have him killed, God caused an angel to come to him in his prison cell. The angel awakened Peter and told him to stand up. **As Peter stood up the chains fell from his hands and legs and he walked past the sleeping soldiers and through the guarded gates.** Peter was delivered through the prayer of faith of a few believers!

Child of God, nothing can stop the prayer of faith! No *darkness*, no *demon*, and not even *Satan* himself!

Paul said to put on the whole armor of God. After he lists the various pieces of armor - the *helmet of salvation*, the *shield of faith*, the *breastplate of righteousness* and the *shoes of the gospel of peace* he says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Many Christians have never learned to pray. The disciples said to Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray." There is a *right way* and a *wrong way* to pray.

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. Prayer is laying hold of God's will. Find out what God wants and pray for that. **Prayer is not sending God to run your errands.** Prayer is submitting to the purposes of God. Prayer produces boldness. Paul says in verse 19, "Pray that I may speak boldly." **That is an important prayer for a preacher.** A preacher of the Gospel should speak with the boldness of a lion. One of the great problems in America today is that our pulpits are full of preachers who have presented such a *water-down, sin-free* gospel that *people can't find redemption*.

Prayerlessness is sin. 1 Samuel 12:23 says, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." In 1 Thessalonians Paul went so far as to say that we should “pray without ceasing.” My point is that **prayerlessness is sin.** **We should pray**

because God answers prayer. The Bible says in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." **America is waiting for the church that will demonstrate the great and mighty things of God.** When the church of Jesus Christ becomes *supernatural* again, our young people will stop seeking the *occult*. When the *power of God* is once more manifested, *people will walk the aisles of our churches to be saved ... their dead marriages will come back to life... their sons will come off drugs and their daughters set free from alcoholism*, all because the *power of God* is being released in our churches.

As powerful as God is, He cannot answer prayers until they are prayed. Prayer is the only way to get God's power released in your life. A *prayerless* Christian is a *powerless* Christian. **Prayer is the secret to power with God.** *Daniel* was thrown to the lions because his prayer life terrorized the demonized bureaucrats of Babylon. He pierced the darkness with prayer. **Elijah prayed and fire fell from heaven.** If that ever starts happening in your prayer life, it won't be boring, I guarantee you. In the early days of the church, *they prayed until the building shook*. Acts 4:31 says, "And when they had prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together."

Moses prayed, and as long as his hands were held up, Israel won the war. The moment his hands came down, Israel lost the war. The point is this: *what you do on the ground in prayer is what God can do in the heavens.* **The moment you stop praying is the moment God's power stops.** Your prayer is the secret of releasing God's power in your life. Jesus had a powerful prayer life; He prayed all night many nights. And after He had prayed all night, *then* came the signs and wonders.

When you pray, you tap into the supernatural world. Through the Holy Spirit, you can pray with supernatural intelligence that goes beyond the knowledge of man. Romans 8:26 says that when we don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit helps us: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with

groanings which cannot be uttered." **Our "weaknesses" include our mental capacity.** Regardless of how brilliant you think you are, you are playing in a sand box compared to the genius of all-knowing God.

Listen; answered prayer is not a miracle, it's a law. When you take an ice tray and fill it with water and place it in a freezer, if the temperature is below 32°, the water turns to ice. **That is not a miracle. That is natural law. It is the only thing that can happen.** When you meet God's conditions in prayer, you will get an answer. **It is not a miracle. It is the only thing that can happen.** John 14:14 says, "If you shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." Matthew 7:8 says, "For everyone that asks receives." **Prayer is not a mystery.** Answered prayer is not a miracle. **It is the law of God!**

There are some things that will hinder prayer.

- 1) **Unbelief hinders prayer.** The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, "He that comes to God must believe that he is."
- 2) **Sin hinders prayer.** The Bible says in Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." **Child of God, you simply cannot pray around sin.**
- 3) **Discord between husbands and wives hinder prayer.** The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:7, "...Husbands, dwell with (your wives) according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered."

There are some **conditions** for prayers answered.

- 1) **There is the law of asking.** The Bible says in James 4:2, "... you have not, because you ask not." And Jesus said in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and you shall receive." **Child of God, we have the awesome privilege of prayer, use it!!**

2) **Ask according to God's infinite power.** Knock God off His throne by asking things that stagger the human mind. Attempt to do such great things for God that unless He comes through, you'll fall flat on your face. **Live in that dimension.**

3) **Ask believing.** In Mark 11:24 Jesus said, "Therefore, I say unto you, Whatever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them."

Child of God, stand on the Word and pray with confidence! Do you need healing and the doctor says you can't have it? "Ask and you shall receive." Do you need the supernatural powers of heaven to break the yoke that binds your son or your daughter? "Ask and you shall receive." Do you need peace that surpassed understanding? "Ask and you shall receive." Do you need the stain of sin to be removed from your soul? "Ask and you shall receive." **Nothing is impossible with God!**

Do you need to be saved today? "Ask and you shall receive."

Please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. Help me to grasp the awesome power of prayer You have made available to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.