

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Theme: Igniting the Power of Prayer
Part 2 – The Mechanism of Prayer**

**Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

Lessons from Part 1 – The Necessity of Prayer

- The true measure of a person is his prayer life—what he prays, how often he prays, and so on. It is not what he is before men, his public life. But, when he is alone, in his private time before God
- Prayer changes us, not God. Prayer is a way for us to come into subjection to the will and the dealings of God with us in our lives.
- Your prayer life is the key to intimacy with God. It is your connection to the source of God’s grace and mercy. *Hebrews 4:16* - “*Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.*”

Last week we looked at the necessity of prayer; why is prayer necessary and why is the devil, enemy of our soul always after our prayer life. We also looked at the lives of men and women who shaped history through their prayers so we can be inspired by them. Today we are going to look at the mechanism of prayer. The word mechanism means a process by which something takes place or is brought about. It is not enough to understand the necessity of prayer or even to develop a strong passion and desire for prayer, we must learn how to develop a powerful and consistent lifestyle of prayer. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Luke 11:1 “*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”*”

It’s important to note here that our greatest teacher when it comes to prayer is the Holy Spirit. No practical method can replace our reliance on the Holy Spirit in helping us to pray. However, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding (Isaiah 11:2). He is our teacher who teaches us how to live and please God.

Romans 8:26-27 “*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 17 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.*”

Seven Practical Steps to Igniting the Power of Prayer

- 1. Set a time and place to pray:** Prayer should not be a random act; you must plan prayer into your schedule.
 - *Psalm 55:16-17* - *As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me. 17 Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.*
 - *Mark 1:35* - *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*
 - *Daniel 6:10* - *Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*
 - *Acts 3:1* - *One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon.*
- 2. Develop a prayer plan:** A prayer plan is your plan to pray on a weekly or monthly basis. Since there are many things to pray for, it means you cannot cover all your prayer points in one sitting. It is important to come up with a weekly plan that covers all areas of need and desire. This is like your weekly calendar. Make sure it is as logical and consistent as possible. An example can be:
 - Monday: my spiritual life, my career
 - Tuesday: my children, wife, husband, extended family
 - Wednesday: my ministry members, my church
 - Thursday: Future husband, my business
- 3. Develop prayer models:** Your prayer model is a system developed to maximize your prayer. Without a system, your prayer will be haphazard and less fulfilling. Below is an example of a 1-hour prayer model.

One Hour Prayer Model			
1	Pray in the Spirit: using your prayer language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephesians 6:18 – “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people” 	15 minutes
2	Adoration: thanksgiving, praise, and worship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for things He's done, salvation etc. • Worship using names of God e.g., Jehovah Jireh. • Read your favorite worship Psalms. Ps.34, 145 etc. • Use worship songs from YouTube, Spotify etc. 	15 minutes
3	Petitioning: your personal needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present your various requests to God. 	15 minutes
4	Intercession: the needs of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for unsaved family, friends in need, etc. • Pray for your church, pastor, ministry etc. • Pray for your city, nations etc. 	15 minutes
			1 hour

4. Develop a lists of prayer points: As you read your Bible, pray, or listen to other people pray, you should develop your lists of prayer points for each of your prayer subjects, e.g., marriage, children, ministry etc.

- 1- Personal prayer points: spiritual life, financial life
- 2- People list
- 3- Church list

5. Keep the record of your answered prayer: Just like the old hymn, “Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.” As you document your testimonies, you are laying a strong foundation for faith and creating a personal history with God.

- *Psalm 138:3 - When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.*
- *Psalm 86:7 - When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.*

6. Have a list of big prayer - Don't just pray for mundane things.

- “Make no little plans, they have no magic in them to stir men’s blood.” ~ Daniel Burnham
- *Matthew 6:32-33 “For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

7. Read books about prayer – stir up yourself by way of remembrance (2 Peter 3:1)

1. Let Us Pray, Watchman Nee
2. The Complete Works of E. M. Bounds on Prayer
3. How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life; Gregory R. Frizzell
4. Too Busy Not to Pray, Bill Hybels
5. Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Jim Cymbala
6. Prayer That Brings Revival, David Yonggi Cho
7. Secrets of a Prayer Warrior, Derek Prince
8. Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer, Myles Munroe
9. And the Place Was Shaken: How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting, John Franklin
10. The Prayer-Saturated Church: A Comprehensive Handbook for Prayer Leaders, Cheryl Sacks

Conclusion

Developing a strong, consistent prayer life must be the desire of every believer. As we have learnt, this process will not happen automatically, it requires purpose and intentionality. You will have moments of success and failures, but you must keep your eye on the price and keep going while relying on the help of the Holy Spirit. Remember, Elijah was a human being, even as we are yet he moved heaven and earth through his prayer. Why not us, why not now? Let us pray.