

# Prayer and Fasting Part 1: The Cinderella of the Church; House of Prayer; Prayers of the Saints (4/6/2019)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLDBlyTPKYI&feature=youtu.be>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Today we are going to be taking a break from our study on the book of Hebrews to talk about something that has just been pressed on my heart. This is something so timely we need to grab onto it right now considering what is happening in this world. You know, something ominous is on the horizon.

There is evil in this country we're grabbing hold of and practicing. We are promoting it and legislating all these evil things. I'm going to tell you; you need to get ready; you need to get prepared.

So for the next couple weeks, we're going to talk about praying and fasting. Today, we will focus on praying. We will need to establish the art of prayer and understand it. Once we understand it, we will get into fasting.

I want to open up today with a quote by Leonard Ravenhill. His quote is in regard to what he saw when he peered into the church. He saw what was happening to the church and how she was handling prayer. This is what we read—*The Cinderella of the Church today is the prayer meeting. This handmaiden of the LORD is unloved and unwooed because she is not dripping with pearls of intellectualism, nor glamorous with the silks of philosophy, neither is she enchanting with the tiara of psychology. She wears the homespuns of sincerity and humility and so is not afraid to kneel!*

Think about what he just said; it is an absolutely eloquent and beautiful description of prayer. He likens prayer to a Cinderella. The terrifying part is how the church is responding to this, Cinderella. They're abandoning her. They're locking her away, if you will, in the room far away from their heart and mind. There is nothing about her (prayer) which they desire today.

There is something that is not drawing the church to her. This is a frightening thing, especially in light of the fact that churches today can fill auditoriums. We have Christian events such as productions and concerts that can sell out in these massive churches, and people pay to go to these concerts. It is not that the concerts are bad. It is not a bad thing that they are charging, that is not my point. My point is they sell out.

I challenge you about this. Take these same venues and offer a night of prayer. Not only will you not be able to charge for that event, but almost nobody is going to come out because it's not dripping with the pearls of intellectualism. It's not stimulating enough.

I'm going to tell you something; prayer is the most pathetic event the church sponsors today. What do I mean by pathetic? I mean pathetic in attendance and desire.

It's amazing what Ravenhill said. He said, "If you want to know how popular church is, go visit it on Sunday morning. If you want to know how popular the pastor is, go Sunday night because if he can draw a crowd on Sunday night, he is popular. If you want to know how popular God is, go to the prayer meetings."

I learned this long ago. As you peer into the church, and you want to know who is really part of the body, call a prayer meeting. If you do that, you will find out who the church really is. The true church hungers for prayer. They desire it. They want to pray.

Think about this; why is it so hard for Christians to pray today? Intellectually speaking, we can talk to each other and agree virtually every Christian across the board all agrees prayer is a good thing. It's a Biblical thing. It's the Christian thing. It's spiritual, and we should all pray, but we don't do it.

When it really comes down to it, this is not something we have given ourselves over to. Some of you might say, "Daniel, you don't understand. My life is complete chaos. I'm being torn in 14 different directions. I have responsibilities and deadlines that need to be met. I really don't have time. I will pray because I believe in prayer, but I just can't do it right now."

My response to that is, "No, you won't. If you're not making time for prayer now and you think your schedules too busy, you won't pray in the future."

Let's cut to the chase. Regarding your time management; how you handle that? It doesn't matter if you're good or bad. That's not your problem. Your problem isn't time; your problem is you don't value prayer. The reason we don't pray is because we do not value it. It is that simple, whether you want to believe it or not, that is the truth. As I said before, the things you value you will invest in; where your treasure is, there your heart is also. People don't do what they don't want to do. We do what we value.

Then you have to strip it down and peel it back more. So if Christians aren't praying because they don't value prayer, why don't they value prayer? This is where we get into the inner sanctum. We need to understand why we don't value it.

Think about it in your own head because that is the question, "Why don't I value prayer?" I'm going to tell you, in part, the answer is because you don't understand it or have a true, biblical perspective of the power of what actually happens, what takes place, when you pray.

I am hoping today to alleviate some of that. I'm hoping today to bring some understanding. We've got to have this understanding and have proper context for biblical prayer.

I'm going to tell you this is personal for me. The more I pray, the closer I get to Yeshua. It's incredible! The closer I get to Yeshua; the more I want to pray. This is just how it works. It's a fundamental law in the faith.

If you give your heart to prayer, and I mean truly give your heart to prayer, it will do things in your life you could not have imagined. All those character flaws you despise, the things you struggle with, the

addictions you're struggling with, and all those bad habits you possess, including all the wrong motives of your heart, will change when you give yourself to prayer.

Try God in it. If you do that, you will be blown out of the water finding out what He will do for you. If you want peace that passes all understanding in your life, you need to learn how to pray.

There are so many people right now who are struggling. They're stuck and so fragmented. I've never seen anything like it. Just looking at the amount of pharmaceutical pills being kicked out to help people will tell you this is true. There are so many people who feel the weight and stress of the world. As a result, they feel so fragmented; they are drowning in oppression and depression.

If you learn how to pray, you will be able to go through the storm. You will be able to handle the trials and tribulations face-to-face, and you will have peace. If you don't, there will be no peace.

Let me be very clear on something. If I were to stand up here and tell you I'm this Elijah who's been this stellar prayer warrior his entire life, it would be a lie. That's laughable. That is not the truth. What I can tell you having been on both sides of the track is not having a real prayer life with the LORD dramatically impacts my faith. You can measure a man's faith by his prayer life.

I want you to think about that because it's another scary reality we don't want to be confronted with. When you say to yourself, "My prayer life is not that great", then neither is your faith, and I speak from personal experience. When my faith has been lagging and lacking; when there is a disconnect between God and me, it is because I'm not communicating with Him. I'm not talking with Him or spending time with Him. I'm spending more time in the world than I am with Him. God have mercy; that is not where you want to be! We need to be immersed in prayer.

It's just ironic to me that Christians are appalled prayer has been ripped out of schools. However, nobody's appalled over the fact it's been ripped out of the church. Nobody is appalled it has been ripped out of their own hearts. From an intellectual level we can profess with our mouths prayer is a good thing. We can confess it is righteous and holy, but we're not doing it. We're not giving ourselves to prayer, and you can see the effects on the fabrics of our society today because we ripped prayer out of schools. It is horrific!

Go back to the 1960's. This is when the lawsuits started coming. It was in early 1962 and 1963 the lawsuits started to mount ripping prayer out of schools, and we can see the effect it had. You see what the devil knows? The devil knew what would happen. This is planned; he came to steal, kill, and destroy, and the fabric of society is affected in a very significant way because we ripped prayer out of schools. Prayer is a threat to the kingdom of Satan. For him to gain advantage, authority, and power, he must remove that time of prayer.

With that said, I want to open up today by taking you to Isaiah 56:6-7—<sup>6</sup> **"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants-- Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant; <sup>7</sup> Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for **My house shall be called a house of prayer** for all nations"** (emphasis added).

Notice how it says—All nations? These are the nations that are being grafted into Israel through faith in the Messiah Yeshua. Do you want to truly have a perspective on prayer? If so, this is the first thing I want you to see. God has chosen to call His own house—בֵּית תְּפִלָּה (*bayith tēphillah*), a house of prayer. That's the name He has placed upon His Temple.

Now, I want you to think about something; why is that significant in regards to prayer? It's very significant because what is in God's house? His throne. God Himself dwells in His house. So what does this tell you? It tells you this amazing prayer is the vehicle that will drive you into the Holy of Holies before the Living God to speak with Him.

That's what prayer is. It is communication directly with God who is in His throne room. That thought in itself is a humbling thought for me. We have access to the Holy of Holies.

Jump to Hebrews 10:19 where we find the writer saying— **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest.** How do we enter? **By the blood of Jesus.** That's how we entered the Holy of Holies. It is because of what Yeshua has done we have access to communicate directly with God and that is what prayer is.

Let me take you to the book of Revelation 5:8. The context is a scroll with seven seals. Nobody can open it except Yeshua. He was the only one found worthy. **Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints** (emphasis added).

Now, this is amazing! Where does this verse take place? In the throne room, and there are 24 Elders in the throne room, and here is the Lamb of God, Yeshua the Messiah, in the midst of the throne. What do the elders do? They fall down before Him. However, they have something, and the writer is very clear. They have—**golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints** (emphasis added).

That is an amazing thought! When we drop to our knees, and we go to prayer, those prayers are in the throne room before Yeshua and before the Father. That's where they go. We have a connection that is incomprehensible when we think about living in this world. We are able to communicate with the God of Heaven and Earth. The One who made everything, Who has breathed life into you, we can communicate with Him.

This reminds me of Deuteronomy 4:7—**For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?** This promise that is given to Israel is an amazing thing. We can talk to God for whatever reason. We can pray!

Jumping ahead to Revelation 8:3-4—<sup>3</sup> **Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.** <sup>4</sup> **And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand** (emphasis added). Again, we just keep seeing this imagery. Your prayers, your voice, your petitions, and your cries are there in the throne room before the LORD?

When you read this, I'm hoping this will start to spark something within you that calls you to literally go to your knees to start praying in order to know the power and access we have to the Father through the Son.

I want to take you to Psalms 5:1-3—<sup>1</sup> **To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David. Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation.** <sup>2</sup> **Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, for to You I will pray.** <sup>3</sup> **My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up** (emphasis added).

If you want to see how righteous men of God functioned regarding their daily practice, David tells us the first thing he does before he does anything else. What he does first is he prays to the LORD. He gives the best and the first of his day to the LORD. This is what he does.

Let me ask you; what do you do? Think about your routine because we all have our routines. We all have our little programs we follow on a daily basis. The second you open your eyes in the morning, where are you in thought life? Is that first second in the morning like David's moment? I ask because for some of you the second you open your eyes the cares and the thoughts of the world come flooding in. All the things you have on your table, that you have to deal with, all those things you haven't taken care of that you were supposed to take care of, all these fleshly and worldly things come flooding into your mind and take your heart strings and carry you off. Therefore, you don't give the LORD the best, the first, of your day. Instead, you give it to the world. You give it to the cares and concerns of the world.

I'm going to tell you; if you're in that habitual cycle and practice right now, you are in trouble. We need to follow the pattern given in Psalms. There's a reason this word exists. We need to be communing with the LORD.

I want to take you to Leviticus 23:10 &14—<sup>10</sup> **Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.....** <sup>14</sup> **You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.**

In other words, Israel didn't touch the harvest or partake of any part of it until they took the first and the best and offered it to their Living God who provided it? This is an offering of Thanksgiving. This is an offering that was commanded recognizing the LORD is the LORD of Heaven and Earth.

We need to take this principle and apply it to prayer because it does apply to prayer. We don't partake of any part of the day whatsoever until we give Him our first and our best. You want to be able to handle the things in your life that are going to come in that day? Why would you want to do that without communing with God first and getting equipped?

You do this because you do not know what the day brings. It is unknown to you. It would do you well because you may not make it through that day. The moment you open your eyes, you go before the throne of the Living God with your heart and prayers.

It doesn't stop there. I'm going to show you this in Psalm 55:17—**Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.** This is what the psalmist, David, did. He bathed himself in prayer. There were formal moments throughout the day, morning, noon, and evening where he would pray. In the temple times, the morning and evening sacrifice was the time of prayer. It's not a

coincidence; they were offering the sacrifice of praise. We offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving because those are a form of prayer.

Let me take you to Luke 18:1 where Yeshua said—**Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart** (emphasis added). This is our rabbi, our Master Yeshua, telling us we are to always pray. Let alone we have these formal moments in our day set aside, which we fail to do, Yeshua takes it farther. He tells us we are always to be praying and meditating on Him.

That's why Paul tells us to pray without ceasing. He followed Yeshua's footsteps. This is what we're supposed to do. We are to pray without ceasing.

Let me ask you: are you praying without ceasing? I'm going to tell you a lot of my life I have not done that, and the effects of that are very costly. Men, if you do not take spiritual authority in your home and do not learn the art of praying without ceasing, your home may fall and crumble right before you. I don't want that to happen. I am telling you this is mandatory for all men in their homes. You pray without ceasing. You cannot pray enough. You do not want to leave a crack of vulnerability in your home for the enemy to come in.

Look at what Yeshua says in regard to praying as recorded in Matthew 26:41—**Watch and pray, [why?] lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak** (emphasis added). That is an amazing statement. Why do we constantly pray? Lest we go into temptation. In other words, the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Because you're in that carcass of flesh, it is looking for an opportunity. Give it an opportunity and see what happens. The way to prevent any opportunity or vulnerability is prayer.

Bath yourself in prayer. Bathing yourself in prayer; puts a shield around you. We have to get into the frame of mind where we are constantly meditating on the LORD, and, therefore, pushing out all these nonsensical, worldly, and garbage thoughts. We need to get them out of our minds and focus on Him.

This is life and death. The adversary is looking for an opportune time to deal you a brutal blow. I'm going to ask you; if you've been immersed in prayer, do you know the strength you will have? The Spirit of God is within your heart, and the spirit of God is upon you to refute all these advances enabling you to see deception coming a mile away because you'll be with the LORD. You're in the throne room. You're praying to Him. This is the safest place to be in the world. Amen?

Psalms 63:6—**When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches** (emphasis added). He says—**watches**—not watch. David is up in the middle of the night. What is he doing? Is he playing games on His cell phone? No! He is meditating on the LORD. Is he thinking about all the things he has to do tomorrow? Those are the things he feels the weight of; the world pushing him down causing him stress. Is that what he is focused on? No! He's meditating on the LORD. This man will have peace in the midst of a very crooked and perverse generation. He will have peace in a midst of a very fallen generation, filled with evil.

The word “meditate” in the Hebrew is **הָגָה** (*hagah*). I want to talk to you about something in regard to meditating because I want you to understand there are several forms of prayer. Let's start out with the reality of prayer in that when we go to God we can go to Him with thanksgiving, praise, confession, and petition. All of those are prayer because prayer is just simply communication with God. When we fall to

our knees and pray whether we're praising, worshipping, or confessing, whatever we are doing, all of it is prayer.

There are, however, other forms of prayer. What do I mean by that? For example, when you're going for a walk, this is a time of meditation, and your meditation is a time of prayer. Look at the pagans. They do yoga, and unfortunately even Christian yoga has taken hold, but yoga is a time of meditation. That is certainly nothing we want to mess with, but the principal is absolutely legitimate when you bring it into a Biblical context of us meditating and praying to our God. We need to do that.

There is another form of prayer which is absolutely critical. Since prayer is simply communication with God, what you need to understand is communication is not a one-way street. Good relationships have two-way communication. I communicate to you; you communicate with me. The best marriages have the best forms of communication. They've mastered that art of communication; however, it doesn't mean they don't have problems. It means they navigate conflict resolution though.

I want you to understand something; one of the most powerful aspects to prayer I have had is the reading of the word of God. This is because the word of God is the voice of God. You can read it to be intellectual, you can read it to gain knowledge, and you can read it for history. But for me, the things God has revealed to me in supernatural ways and the most intense times I've ever had in this book is when I open the book and use it as a prayer. I read my Bible as I'm praying in the context of saying, "Oh LORD, here's your servant. Please speak. What do You have to say to me?"

True Bible study should be a time of prayer where you receive the words of God into your heart and you're hanging on every word spoken because He is speaking to you. He has something to say to you. Prayer is not simply a one-way street where you rattle off your petitions and desires such as "Oh LORD, bless me this way and bless me that way." That's not what prayer is. It is a two-way street.

We not only speak to Him. We need to hear from Him. One of the primary ways God will speak to you is when you are spending time in the Bible. It is the ultimate time of prayer. You can speak with God and then receive His word. Later on you meditate on it, "LORD, I heard what you said. I read that today. Now I need to meditate on it." By doing that, you will unlock doors of understanding in meditation. It's a time of prayer because God, through the Holy Spirit, is speaking to you. This is an amazing thing! We've got to rewire the way we function; the way we think.

Moving on to Psalm 119:148—**My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word.** Somebody should have told me this long ago. I have probably read it and never saw it. Look at what the Psalmist says—**My eyes are awake through the night.** He is sleepless. He is awake during the night. Why? So he—**may meditate on Your word.**

How many of you when you have been restless and haven't been able to sleep get up and start playing games on your cell phone, or you start to work? You start doing these things not recognizing God has awakened you and needs you to hear something from Him. This is a time to go to prayer. This is a time to pick up the word and to hear from Him.

It took me years to figure this out. It was through the Spirit I discovered it because I hadn't come across that verse yet. There was a period of time in my life when I had severe insomnia. I could not sleep, and I actually got angry and said, "You know how I'm going to deal with this? I'm going to pray." I was

thinking the enemy was keeping me up not letting me have sound sleep. I did not recognize, in my own stupidity and foolishness, it was God wanting to speak to me.

So I am telling you; when you're restless at night, good! Get into the word; get into prayer because He has something to say to you.

I want to take you to Psalm 109:3-4—<sup>3</sup> **They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without a cause.** <sup>4</sup> **In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer** (emphasis added). David is in war; his enemies are rising up. How does he respond to this war? He responds by giving himself to prayer.

Let me ask you: how are you responding to the war? Are you responding in the flesh to all the different things the enemy is going to throw at you? I'm telling you; the ultimate weapon in war is prayer, and the devil knows it. The moment you set your heart to go pray, he is going to put a dozen things in front of you to distract you and take you away from praying. He is going to whisper lies in your ears. He will tell you things like, "You are going to pray. Well, you know as well as I do they are just words. God's not going to hear from you." The devil may also say things like, "You know what you've done. You know your past. Who do you think you are? Do you really think God is going to listen to you? Do you think you are anyone God would listen to? You should be ashamed of yourself for all these sins you have committed in the past." The devil starts spinning these lies so by the time you go to your knees, you are like, "I don't believe prayer works. I don't know if God is going to hear me." At that point, you are operating with no faith. The devil has absolutely disarmed you. Your words are just words.

I want to take you to Isaiah 36:5 because this is one of the clearest passages in all of Scripture in regard to how the devil works us over, takes advantage of us, and literally takes authority over us. Some background to this verse is King Hezekiah is ruling Judah. The king of Assyria, Sennacherib, has risen up against him and is coming out to war against Judah. Sennacherib sends his emissary, his Rabshakeh as he is called in Scripture. The Rabshakeh is going to go out on behalf of the king of Assyria and give them an option. He tells them, "Just give in to us. Surrender to us and all will be well. Don't think otherwise."

I want to share with you part of the dialogue. This is the Rabshakeh speaking to King Hezekiah. This is what we read in Isaiah 36:5—**"I say you speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. Now in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me?"** (Emphasis added).

I want you to look at this in the context of prayer because this is something you will come up against. This is what the devil will come and tell you when you're going to prayer. The devil will tell you, "God is not going to hear you because you are just speaking empty words into the air. Don't think God is going to listen to what you have to say." This is what the devil does, and Sennacherib, this king of Assyria, is a typology of the devil, and the devil will send his little princes out, his little demons, to whisper in your ear all of this nonsense.

Moving on to Isaiah 36:18-20—<sup>18</sup> **"Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, 'The LORD will deliver us.' Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? <sup>19</sup> Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? <sup>20</sup> Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?' "**



Do you see what the Rabshakeh just did? This is what the devil does to us? He takes you from vertical faith and brings you down to viewing things horizontally. He will show you history, as in the verse we just covered, “Look Hezekiah. Not one Kingdom has survived my hand. I've destroyed all of them. None of these gods delivered them. What hope do you have?”

He will do this to you. He will get you looking at scenarios of all these times past. He will whisper in your ear, “There's no hope for you.” This is what gets intercessors.

To give you an example of that, many years ago, my wife and I went down to the hospital because one of our friend's daughters had leukemia. I have to tell you this was the first real experience in my life of actually feeling brutal, spiritual oppression. It was an eye-opener.

We go to the hospital to visit this beautiful, little girl who has leukemia. As I'm walking down the rooms, all I can see in every one of these rooms is pure oppression and bondage. These little children are in pain and are suffering. It's absolutely horrible.

So we are going down to pray for this little girl to encourage her, and I can remember how I was actually warring against unbelief because you can believe, “The doctors are the only ones who can do anything here. If the doctors can't do anything, then there's no hope.” As we were talking down the hall we learned this little girl's friend, two doors down, just died of leukemia. Then we heard the little boy three doors down just died of it to. So the enemy gets into your mind and heart and tells you, “There's no hope. Look around. They're all dying. What good is your prayer going to do for this little girl?”

This is how he works on us, and this is where the battle is. He's trying to strip the power of prayer from us. He is trying to strip the power of faith of going into the throne room.

I've been in those moments, and I'm telling you, you have to rebuke the spirit of unbelief and rebuke those attacks. The devil knows this. This is the point: the devil knows the power of prayer, and he's coming for you. If you want to be an intercessor, and we'll talk more about that later in the study, this is going to be something you come up against.

That being said, I want to show you how Hezekiah responds. Feel the weight of this because Hezekiah is looking at the fact not one nation on the planet has survived the attacks of Assyria. Remember what Hezekiah had been told by the Rabshakeh, that claiming they will be saved by God is just words. So this is what Hezekiah does— Isaiah 37:1 **And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD** (emphasis added). This is בַּיִת הַתְּפִלָּה (*bayith tēphillah*). What is the house? What did the LORD call His house? He called it a House of Prayer? What does Hezekiah do in response to all this garbage the devil has thrown at him? He goes to prayer.

Well, how does it work? Jump to Isaiah 37:21-22—<sup>21</sup> **Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me** [That was the answer. The LORD gives them the reason why he's going to destroy Sennacherib] **against Sennacherib king of Assyria,** <sup>22</sup> **this is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: "The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back!** (emphasis added).

In other words, you're a dead man king of Assyria. Your army is dead all because one man prostrated himself in *בֵּית תְּפִלָּה* (*bayith tēphillah*), a house of prayer, praying to his God.

The result was 185,000 Assyrians were slaughtered, and the king who went back home to worship his own gods was killed by his own sons. It was total devastation. Why? Because Hezekiah prayed?

Do you know the power of prayer? I'm going to tell you the devil knows the power of prayer.

How many you have been to Israel? One of the things that struck me when I was on the Temple Mount was that if you want to start an international crisis, grab some Jewish friends of yours and go up to the Temple Mount and pray. Do you understand the devil has attempted to lock it down? He has come to prevent God's people from praying right where the *בֵּית תְּפִלָּה* (*bayith tēphillah*), a house of prayer, existed. Why? Because the devil knows the power of prayer. He is threatened by prayer, and we don't even know it. It shows in our lack of praying.



Let me take you to the Book of Daniel and build on this. Daniel 6:3-4—<sup>3</sup> **Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him;** [This will be germane as we continue, put this on a shelf. Remember this, he had an excellent Spirit within him] **and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.** <sup>4</sup> **So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him** (emphasis added).

So the situation is King Darius has assigned Daniel to be one of three governors, but because Daniel has shown himself to be so phenomenal and has this unbelievable Spirit, Darius decided Daniel needs to be over everything. However, the other governors and satraps are not taking a liking to this situation.

Moving to Daniel 6:5-7—<sup>5</sup> **Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the Law of his God."** <sup>6</sup> **So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever!"** <sup>7</sup> **All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions** (emphasis added).

There are two things in these verses that are fundamentally critical. What did the devil go after? Prayer— **that whoever petitions any god.** You cannot pray to your God. These governors and satraps knew what they were doing. The second thing I want you to recognize here is these governors and satraps knew Daniel was keeping the law of the Persians perfectly. There's nothing in regard to Medes and Persians that would in any way condemn him. So these men figured the only way they could get Daniel was in regard to his own Law. They then went after one specific thing. They went after prayer.

Why did they do that? Because one of the most notable things about Daniel that was overt was his ability to pray. His commitment and dedication to prayer was amazing. This is what they saw, and they wanted to go after that. So they decreed a law just like we see on the Temple Mount today.

How does Daniel respond to this? Daniel 6:10—**Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed** and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days (emphasis added).

So despite a law being enacted prohibiting any prayer to anyone else except King Darius himself and punishing anyone who did this, how does Daniel respond? He doesn't blink. This is not going to inhibit his prayer life. Nothing is inhibiting his time and communion with God. This is ironic because today the Christian church has the exact opposite problem. Nothing is compelling them to go to prayer.

This is not okay. We are on sand. If you are not praying, you are on sand. We need to be built on the Rock, on the Messiah Yeshua. We need to be communing and communicating with Him.

If you want to be the kind of man Daniel was, respected, loved, and adored by the LORD the way He has loved Daniel and shown the favor God has given him, you are going to have to do what Daniel did. You are going to have to have that excellent Spirit? An excellent Spirit promotes prayer.

I want to take you to Acts 4:29-30—<sup>29</sup> **Now, LORD, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,** <sup>30</sup> **by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.** They are glorifying Yeshua, and these servants, these disciples, care about His name. His name needs to be made famous.

Continuing in Acts 4:31—**And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness** (emphasis added). When you get men and women together who are completely broken before God, that's the power of prayer.

There were literally earthquakes. The Holy Spirit comes down, and I'm going to tell you every legitimate revival that has begun has begun with prayer. Read Wesley's writings if you want to see this.

That's it. That is the secret. The secret is prayer.

Acts 9:39—**Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas [or Tabitha; they are the same person] had made while she was with them.**

Tabitha, who was a righteous woman of God rich in good works, had passed away. She lived in Japa, but they knew Peter was nearby in Lydia. Because of that, they called for Peter.

So Peter comes out, and this is what we read in Acts 9:40—**But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise."** And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up (emphasis added). That is the power of prayer.

Time after time this is what you see in Scripture. When Elijah raised the dead, he did it through prayer. He entered into the throne room, the ultimate power of the universe. When Peter raises the dead, he does the same thing. We have access by the blood of Yeshua; we have boldness to enter into the throne room, but we don't do it.

This is scary. We have all this power available, and the enemy is going to throw everything he can to prevent you from going to prayer because this is what happens. You have the ground quaking. The Holy Spirit is coming down in fire. You have people being raised from the dead. But the basis of all of this is prayer through faith in Yeshua. That's what it is.

James 5:13—**Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray** (emphasis added). This is the answer! There are a lot of people suffering; there are a lot of people medically sick. What are we supposed to do? We are supposed to pray, but we don't know how. We haven't practiced, and we haven't given ourselves to it. The people you want praying for you are people who are committed and dedicated to prayer because they know how to get to the throne room. This is who we want to be around.

James 5:14-15—<sup>14</sup> **Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him** (emphasis added). This is the answer to it all because we keep seeing it. **Anointing him with oil in the name of the LORD.** <sup>15</sup> **And the prayer of faith will save the sick** (emphasis added). Every time we are going to prayer, and this is something the enemy is going to try to prevent us from doing. Now you are starting to see why we need prayer.

I want to close with a statement made by Dr. William Mayo. He is one of the founders of the Mayo clinic. This is what we read; this is amazing— **I have seen patients that were dead by all standards. We knew they could not live. But I have seen a minister come to the bedside and do something for him that I could not do, although I have done everything in my professional power. But something touched some immortal spark in him and in defiance of medical knowledge and materialistic common sense, that patient LIVED!** (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (p. 1046). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc).

That is giving glory to Yeshua. Here you have a man, a brilliant doctor who is still recognize today, and what he recognizes is these ministers, who have no medical training whatsoever, are coming and they're doing something Dr. Mayo could not.

This is what the devil does not want you to know. He doesn't want you to believe it. He doesn't want you to believe you can do stuff the medical doctors cannot do. He wants to get you to rely on and trust in flesh, therefore, making your flesh your strength. However, we're told in Jeremiah 17:5— **Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength.**

**Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD** (Jeremiah 17:7).