

Prayer

Part 1

Prayer is the real need for us today in our lives. Life is difficult and we really need God to be in our mid and handle all our hardships and trials and to solve our problems.

“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.” (Mark 1:35) Jesus had waked up early and went to a solitary place to pray. Before he started His day He prayed for the day to be blessed. The same for us we need to start our day with prayer and reading the word of God so that we will be directed with His word and as we prayed before we start then His presence will be with us the whole day. Therefore keep time every day before you got involved in any work or activity. Make that a habit and a practice for you and for your family to follow daily, so God will bless you abundantly, gives you the strength and bring unto your presence a fruitful day.

The word of God tells to **“Pray continually.” (1Thessalonians 5:17)** God should be the center of our lives to help us and support us. Therefore it is awesome to pray continually and to **“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Colossians 4:2)**

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.” (James 5:13) There are two options we have according to this word of God. If the Lord had blessed you and answered your prayer then praise Him and sing to Him. But if you are in trouble then pray and continue to pray and ask God to help you and support you. So God should be the center of our lives and wellbeing, and we need to be in constant prayer and communication with Him.

In **Mark 14: 38** Jesus said, **“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”** Prayer is very important as a way to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh and the temptations of the world. When we pray we are united and have fellowship with God. But if we are away from prayer we will tempted to watch TV, to gossip, to go to wrong places, or along wrong people so we may fall in temptations. So prayer is a good habit that we may spend our extra time.

Let us read the following Scripture from the Bible that speaks about life of prayer: ³⁶ **“There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:36-38)** That woman Anna had lived with her husband only seven years and then he left her but widow and she continue to live her life for God. She was bound with the temple praying and fasting and worshiping God.

That woman had left the world and its temptation and she commit her life fully to follow God wholeheartedly. It mention here that she never left the temple but worshiped night and day; what a wonderful style of life in a constant and continuous fellowship with God through prayer and fasting.

At that time the temple was the worship center, and people part of their worship is to offer to God burnt offering and other offerings that mandate bringing animals like goat, sheep, ox, birds, and offer them to God. In addition to that they may offer grain, flour, etc. So Anna was in the mid of tremendous flow of food and in every day but she was not tempted with the delicious food. She delighted to pray and to fast unto God. She was enjoying The Holy Spirit of God more that the delicious and fresh food that was going to the temple. Therefore the Lord rewarded her and blessed her with the following:

1- Contentment: She had full satisfaction with God. The lord occupied the place of her husband and her family. She was living without worry or fear, for the Lord was her confidence. It is mentioned about her that, **‘She never left the temple.’** She never left God’s presence, for she was in continuous and constant communion with Him, therefore she was in peace and in rest, for God was carrying all her burdens. The same to you, your life of prayer, dedication and commitment to God will bring unto you peace, joy and satisfaction in your life.

2- The Gift of Prophecy: Prayer and fasting, and life of humility before God had filled that woman with the wisdom of God and Lord made of her a prophet who tells and declares the will of God to the people and what is to come. Your humility, prayer and fasting will fill you with the Holy Spirit. As you pray and fast the Lord will give you His word to sustain your life with, and to declare it to the people around you.

3- Meeting Christ face to face: Anna had lived in holiness and in obedience to God’s word. Her full hope was on God, His word and she lived on His way. Therefore ultimately she met Christ face to face. The same for us now as we live in holiness, obeying God’s word and hoping and waiting for Him to come to take us, then as we seek Him with all our hearts then we will meet Him face to face and we will hear from Him, **“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:21)**

4- The gift of evangelism: Anna the prophet after she met Christ was directed by the Holy Spirit to declare the promise of God and His salvation to those who were ready and waiting for the coming of Christ, for **she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.** The same for us today as you persevere in prayer and fasting God will lead you to preach His message and tell about Christ to all who are ready to accept His word and receive Him as Saviour and Lord over their lives.

My Dear and Beloved: Commit yourself fully unto God. There is much temptation and more worldliness around, but be sensible and quit all that perishable things, ⁶⁷ **Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (James 4:7-10)** as you commit yourself to God and agree to pray and fast.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I love to obey your word and live it. Lord I commit myself to take the style of Anna in prayer and fasting. Lord, use me for your glory to do your will and your plan and to tell others about you and declare to them your perfect pleasing and good will. Lord help me to live in such a way to please you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.