

The Duties of The Priest

The Mission and the Work of The Church

Part 29

“But you are the chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

Prayer is a very important tool in our hands that can have a big rule in our lives as a church to make the difference and bring the victory. The church in the New Testament had faced great trials and troubles but win by the help of the LORD God through prayer.

Even the life of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ was marked by prayer; the following few of many Scriptures that mark Jesus’ life as life of prayer:

1- ***“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)*** Let us keep the same pattern of Jesus, that we start our day early with prayer.

2- ***“¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.” (Luke 6:12-13)*** Jesus before He chose the twelve apostles and endorsed to them the ministry He prayed the whole night. We need to do the same, before we take any important decision we need to take a good time of prayer.

3- ***“²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone.” (Matthew 14:22-23)*** Jesus made a way for Himself to be alone so He can pray and communicate with God. We need to keep time to be alone with the LORD to pray to Him and to receive fresh word, fresh anointing and more clear details for the vision of our lives so we can follow and apply. Keeping time to sit with God will bring a difference in your life. God will tell you words and give you keys to open for you new doors of His blessings.

4- ***“³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,’ he said to them. ‘Stay here and keep watch.’ ³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ ‘Abba, Father,’ he said, ‘everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’ ³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Simon,’ he said to Peter, ‘are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ ³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.” (Mark 14:32-39)*** In Gethsemane experience Jesus came to know and fulfill God’s will through prayer. Kneeling down and praying at the feet of the LORD will direct you to know and to confirm God’s will in your life in order for you to apply and do.

The early Church were involved also in prayer; through prayer they express their trust in Jehovah God, the giver of all good things, and acknowledged their dependence on Him for their needs and for the needs of others, ***“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (Acts 1:14)*** Prayer enables us to receive

the gift of the Holy Spirit of God, ***“how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13b)***

Prayer was part and parcel of the life of the church as we can read in the book of Acts as the following:

1- ***“⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)*** One of the points that the new believers committed themselves to do is life of prayer. We need to do the same, as a church, prayer should be part of our lives and the commitment that we love to do.

2- ***“²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. ‘Sovereign Lord,’ they said, ‘you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. ²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” (Acts 4:23-31)*** The apostles face the persecution with prayer and were able to continue to preach the word of God boldly.

3- Read ***Acts 12:1-19*** in your bible that states how the church prayed when Peter arrested and how God worked miracle to save his life through the prayer of the church.

4- ***“^d Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” (Acts 13:1-3)*** Prayer and life of fasting and worship was the way of God to reveal to the church the open mission field that he had prepared for them. In the same way prayer shall communicate with God and will tell us His vision that He had for us as a church to reach the lost, preaching the gospel to them and making new disciples.

My dear and beloved: Prayer is the gift of God for us today as a church that will help us to communicate with God, to receive from Him provision and protection, and to inspire us with the vision to reach the lost and do His will.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to increase my time to communicate and pray to you. Lead me to be more in your presence in order to hear your voice and do your will in my life. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*