

CHARLES AGYINASARE

THE
INVISIBLE
OF
PRAYER

How to Win the Invisible War



CHARLES AGYINASARE

THE
IMPACT
OF
PRAYER

How to Win the Invisible War





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Every move of God has come in answer to prayer. Would you like to pray with more consistency, fervency and to receive answers to prayer? The Impact of Prayer will guide you into the kind of prayer you have been longing for.

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In this book the author has sought to set people on fire and equip them for the war that is waged in the spirit realm. Such profound and spirit-provoking statements like, “Praying men know nothing like it cannot be done, and those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those doing it”, “Heaven’s treasures are the reward of those A who pray”, “Only one schooled in prayer secures divine approval”,

YER

and “Prevailing prayer is not easy; only those who have wrestled with the powers of darkness know how hard it is”, among others, can only provoke a sincere soul to climb more forcefully the mountain of How to Win the Invisible War prayer.

Through Scripture and his astonishing personal accounts, Bishop Agyinasare carries you on a journey in prayer to help you win the invisible war. Are you ready to battle the gates of hell?

Bishop Charles Agyinasare is the Founder and Presiding Bishop of the Perez Chapel International. He also oversees a network of independent churches with their own founders and pastors. He is also the Founder of Precious

Television.

He has a mandate to lead God's people into
their breakthrough by preaching the kingdom

CHARLES AGYIN

of God through miracles, healings, signs and
wonders, success, prosperity and favour,

wisdom, leadership, excellence, integrity (holiness), family life, last days and
spiritual impartation.

The senior pastor of the Perez Dome, Accra Ghana, he is married
to the Co-founder of the church, Rev. Mrs. Vivian Agyinasare, and
they are blessed with three adult children: Dr. Selaise, Francis and Charlene.
They also have an adopted daughter Clementina Quarshie.

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THE IMPACT

OF PRAYER

How to Win the Invisible War

CHARLES AGYINASARE





Bishop Charles & Rev. Mrs. Vivian Agyinasare

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible except as otherwise indicated.

Text Design: Lisa Simpson

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Introduction

Prayer is the spiritual breath of the Christian. In my book

“Power in Prayer, Taking Your Blessings by Force” we sought to show that there was the need to thirst for God and that thirst could

only be quenched by fellowship with God. We can only mount up to our high places as the eagle even as we wait on Him in prayer, where we can war and wrestle with principalities and powers.

We also considered When to pray, Where to pray, Postures in prayer and How to pray to get results for ourselves and for others, Dealing with hindering spirits, tragedy spirits, unscriptural prayers and demands, spirits of assassination and how to overcome temptation. We looked at how to release the supernatural power of God for our generation as Jesus did. Reasons why you should pray for your pastor was also delved into. We concluded by showing steps to effectively meeting God in prayer.

The *Impact of Prayer* shows how to apply pressure to win the invisible war. There is something going on behind “The Curtain” of life. It is imperative to know that not all things are natural.

What happens behind the curtain is warfare which we call the invisible war. Paul said ***“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh;***

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). ***He also said that, “For we wrestle not against flesh and***

blood. ” (Ephesians 6:12).

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In writing this book, I am not interested in arousing cerebral controversy but to get people to pray, for Christian theology is battle theology. Warfare is not smooth and orderly. Isaiah 9:5 says, “***For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.*** ” Therefore, my warrior friend, get behind the Lord “... ***The Lord goes forth like a soldier, like a warrior he stirs up his fury; he cries out, and shouts aloud, and shows himself mighty against his enemies*** ” (Isaiah 42:13 — NKJV).

How the Early Church prayed and the results they had is an example of what the churches of today should look like. You will discover that no one is more powerful than his/her prayer life and also what to do if you have to replace personnel.

There are apostolic examples to help you know that it can be done. You will know the secrets of prevailing prayer as you read this book. You will discover truths about prayer and fasting in *The Impact of Prayer*.

The secrets of praying for your nation are revealed in this book.

Let us dip into this material to rediscover what God has in store for you as you pray. I have included personal accounts of my prayer life, not to boast to you of things I consider sacred but to urge you on, that it is possible, and you can do better than I have done.

Beloved, my heart cry is that the God who specializes in

warfare will help your hands to war and your fingers to fight. As an apostle and prophet of God, I wish above all things that you may possess the gates of your enemies. So pray, pray, pray.

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Chapter One

s

Importance of Prayer

Prayer is communicating with God; it is the pouring out of our hearts to Him. It is talking to the Father and having fellowship with Him. Prayer is baring our soul and spirit to the God of all flesh and Father of all spirits. It is to ask help of the Lord. It is the acknowledgment that without the Lord we can do nothing. Prayer is seeking the face of the Lord and waiting upon Him. It is keeping watch with perseverance.

Prayer is the only thing that can quench the yearning of our souls. Man has an insatiable desire that can only be filled by God.

A twentieth-century songwriter wrote, *“More of you, more of you dear God.”* ¹ Another writes, *“I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord... I need thee Oh I need thee, every hour I need thee...”* ²

But beloved, the only way to get more of God is to seek His face. The psalmist describes our need for prayer when he writes, ***“As the deer panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God”*** (Psalm 42:1).

¹The song “More of You” is from Jimmy Swaggart’s Album Jesus, Just The Mention Of Your Name.

²Annie S. Hawks, 1835-1918; Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899 — Public Domain.

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The deer in the Middle East at the time of David sought for water due to these reasons: firstly to quench its thirst; secondly when its predator was chasing it and it got to the water, its scent was lost. As believers, we yearn for God because He is the only One who can quench the yearnings of our soul. The world not knowing this, seeks to quench this desire through lust for various things such as drugs, sex, alcohol, etc. When we get more of Him, we will not be a prey for the enemy. We need to get into prayer where “***deep calls unto deep***” (Psalm 42:7).

It is time to be seeking God. He said in Jeremiah 33:3, “***Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.***” He has

No matter the

promised to reveal to us the deep things

miracles I see,

we do not know but we have to get into

I will not sacrifice communion with Him. Daniel 2:22, 28

it for the

says, “***He revealeth the deep and secret***

presence of God.

things:... But there is a God in heaven that

revealeth secrets... ”

This desire for God was so great in the life of Moses that when God said, “ I will not go with you but my angel will go with you”

Moses replied, ***“If your presence go not with us carry us not up hence ”***
(Exodus 33:15).

Angels have been known to be powerful spiritual beings. One angel slew over 180,000 Assyrian soldiers in 2 Kings 19:35. In Exodus 12, an angel slew the firstborns of Egypt. However Moses was not going to be satisfied with the acts of God, which the angel, assigned to them will perform; instead, He wanted God Himself.

How often have we not sought the gifts of God instead of the
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Lord Himself? **No matter the miracles I see, I will not sacrifice it for the presence of God.** God is with you in all fullness when you are with Him. In 2 Chronicles 15:2 it is stated, ***“The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. ”*** Those who can only be satisfied by God pray like the psalmist, ***“My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God ”*** (Psalm 84:2).

TEARING THE HEAVENS

Isaiah cried, ***“Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence ”*** (Isaiah 64:1). God is looking for people who will pray that He tears the heavens open. Scripture teaches us that the heavens can be closed, become brazen and the earth underneath become as iron. (See Deuteronomy 28:23-24.) **You can be in the same church, sitting on the same row or next to one another and one can have an open heaven and the other a closed heaven .**

When you are under a closed heaven,

You can be in

you come under frequent chronic diseases,

the same church,

things don't seem to work for you, you **sitting on the same**

suffer constant defeat in your endeavors. **row or next to one**

(See Deuteronomy 28:25.) You don't **another and one**

experience the manifestation of God in **can have an open**

your life or church. Your family falls apart.

heaven and

Your children, instead of being a source of

the other a

comfort to you, become a source of pain.

closed heaven.

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You experience all kinds of demonic manifestations, you go

through a cycle of poverty. You seem to go forward and suddenly

you regress, with no productivity. It is like God is far from you and you don't receive any word from heaven or divine direction. One of

the major causes of a closed heaven is failure to pay your tithes.

(See Malachi 3:8-10) When you pay your tithes and you still seem

to be under a closed heaven, then only prayer can change it.

Whilst Jesus prayed at his baptism, the heaven was opened and

the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. Jesus never began ministry

until he experienced an open heaven. **Under an open heaven, it**

takes less effort for maximum results. There is the divine intervention of God and His manifestation is demonstrated in the lives

of His people. Instead of demonic mani-

Under an open

festations, you experience angelic

heaven, it takes less visitations. (See John 1:51.) Health and **effort for** physical vitality becomes your portion.

maximum results. Heaven's rain waters your efforts. "*For*

since the beginning of the world, men have

not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has eye seen any God beside

you, Who acts for the one who waits (prays to) for Him " (Isaiah 64:4

NKJV Brackets mine).

NEED FOR PRAYING MEN

God's power is derived power. There is a price for God's

miracle working power; that price is prayer. A praying man

knows God and a man who knows God is a dangerous person.

Check the Scriptures and you will find out that all God's men of

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power were people of prayer. **Men of prayer are servants of God.**

When Elijah prayed and said, "*O God let them know that you are*

God, and that I am your servant " the fire fell. (See 1 Kings 18:36) The fire of heaven falls for those who gather around the coals

of heaven and have become "fired up" or like Dr. Enenche put it

"firerized." Fire does not fall for those

who are strangers in the courts of heaven.

Signs, wonders

When the unbelieving king sent to

and miracles are

arrest Elijah, the servant of God could

the reward of

say, *“If I be a man of God, let fire come*

praying men.

down from heaven and consume you and

your fifty ” (See 1 Kings 12.) because he was a man of fire himself who served a God who was a consuming fire. **Signs, wonders and**

miracles are the reward of praying men.

Nehemiah had heard (according to Josephus’ narration) that some travelers in his tongue were talking about the distress of the Jews while in captivity. He mourned over the situation, prayed and fasted. (See Nehemiah 1:4.) He later received a commission to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah therefore

wrote, *“Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both*

I and my father’s house have sinned ” (Nehemiah 1:6). And God used him to fulfill that commission because he prayed.

It is time God had people who are aflame with God by being touched with the embers of heaven; people who will pull down the strongholds of false religion through prayer.

The Impact of Prayer

In the past, revivalists preached against nudity and obscenity; today, however, preachers even have nightclubs in their homes where they watch corrupt videos and pornography on the Internet whilst their spouses and children are asleep. Charisma Magazine has shared so many of such unfortunate stories. Ezekiel cried, “***Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things, they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have hid their eyes from my Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them***” (Ezekiel 22: 26).

After God had decried the spiritual bankruptcy of His servants, in verse 30, 31 He said, “***And I SOUGHT FOR A MAN among them, that should make up the hedge, and Prayerless pastors stand in the gap before me for the land, that I today are birthing should not destroy it BUT I FOUND prayerless church NONE. members .***

“Therefore (because of this) have I poured out mine indignation upon them...”

(Capitals and brackets mine)

Who are the men of passion and the men of prayer who will stand before God lest He judges this world according to our iniquities?

PASSION FOR PRAYER

David said, “***Store my tears in your bottle***” (Psalm 56:8). What would be the

quantity of the tears you shed together with your church over the souls that are perishing in a month? Will it fill one 16

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perfume bottle? **Prayerless pastors today are birthing prayerless**

church members . Church leaders will be held responsible for the spiritual state of their flock. Man of God, what is the state of your flock? Jeremiah prayed, “***Oh that my head were waters, and mine***

eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! ” (Jeremiah 9:1).

How often do you pray for the nation or the church and the unsaved generation we are contending with? Isaiah said “***...Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people*** ” (Isaiah 22:4).

The state of the church and the world today call for a passion of prayer.

Thousands of years ago, Isaiah said there would come a time when, “***Darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people*** ” (Isaiah 60:2). I believe this is the time.

The world today does not believe the Bible and the church does not obey the Word. Recently on Ghanaian television, some ministers of the Gospel or “men of the cloth” trying to talk about the prevention of AIDS said, “We know that the Muslims take four wives and so can be in danger. Similarly, our church members do not stick to one wife so we should encourage them to use condoms.”

What an abomination! The church in America and Europe is ordaining homosexuals and lesbians, who claim it is an alternate

life-style, when they should be praying deliverance for the same.

The great British Empire, birthplace of Methodism and revivals like that of the Salvation Army, a nation that produced great preachers like George Whitefield, John and Charles Wesley,

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Ukraine. Man who walked with steel aid for 8 months healed.

Agyinasare Gospel Crusade cripples night in Ukraine. Man crippled for 8 months, used to walk with steel aid, healed and walking on his own.

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William Booth, the Jeffreys Brothers, Charles Spurgeon, etc. today sells its church buildings to Muslims and has at the centre of its city the statue of Buddha. According to the New Christian Media for Europe 2001 report, "Over 600 million people live in Europe. It was once the cradle of Evangelical Christianity.

Today only 26% of its population attend church and less than

20% are born again.”

One prince of a great monarchy in Europe had this to say, “My ancestors were defenders of the Faith (that is Christianity) but when I am enthroned, I will be called defender of the faiths (that is of all religions)” How many monarchs of Europe today do not visit shrines and grottos of other religions because there is no more a desire for the most High. Sometimes when the people of God get all they need they forget that it is God who gives the power to get wealth. No wonder God demanded that we REMEMBER. (See Deuteronomy 8:18)

The man who preached the gospel for me to be saved is from the Netherlands; however today Amsterdam is known for its immorality, promiscuity, drugs and apathy to the things of God. Germany, the home of Martin Luther, now revels in putting psychics on television than having preachers. They would rather drink beer and have sports than go to church. “... ***Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years...***” (Habakkuk 3:2).

Much as the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon were and are disdainful, distasteful and damnable, it led the whole Western world to a time of prayer and seeking God who is the source of real security. This is the only reason why God will give America and the coalition victory in the “Strike Against

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Terror.” One concerned Englishman,

Satan is not scared David Radford, said to me, “Look at

of our preaching,

America on the day of Prayer and

in fact I believe

Remembrance in September 2001, they

he even laughs

had a prominent Christian leader like

because of our

Billy Graham who preached the unadul-

many doctrinal

terated word at the function. Today there

differences but he is no one who speaks for Britain as a man **is scared stiff of**

of God in a time of crises.” It is time

praying men and

British Christians prayed for men of

women because he power and spiritual influence like Wesley,

knows they rule the Whitefield, Booth, Spurgeon etc. to rise **nations with God.**

up in Britain to revive the dead churches

of England. The Man who fathered Pen-

tecostalism in Ghana was called James

McKeown from Britain; the man who fathered same in Nigeria was

British, Papa Elton. Men like David Livingstone opened up East

Africa. Thank God that Europe sent these missionaries to get us

saved! Today God is sending missionaries from Africa to help save

Europe and I am glad to be one of them. But it is time that England

and Europe prayed lest the enemy overtake them in their slumber.

No preacher whether in or out of the Bible ever cried, “God,

hear my sermon.” **Satan is not scared of our preaching in fact I believe he even laughs because of our many doctrinal differences but he is scared stiff of praying men and women because he knows they rule the nations with God.**

David said, “***This poor man cried and the Lord heard him***” (Psalm 34:6). Those who recognize they are poor in spirit are those who





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cry to God and when they do, He covers them with His power

because prayer is the language of the poor in spirit.

Beloved, it is time we prayed till we had the divine equipment to

rock the nations and to harass the powers of hell. It is time we were clothed with divine ability to set free the millions who are bound by drugs and held captive by lust; we need an endowment of power that

will break the power of false religion. It is time we could say, “Not by might, nor by power but by His spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).

DIVINE ASSISTANCE

Prayer brings the favour of God. ***“Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For who ever finds me, finds life, and obtains favour from the Lord”*** (Proverbs 8:33-35).

Man who walked with steel aid for 8 months healed and

crying with joy, wife hugging me with joy.

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Trophies of God's Miracle Power (Swedru Crusade, Ghana)

Sticks of cripples healed third night (2001)

Favour, according to the Oxford Dictionary, "is to be endorsed, to support, to assist, to make easier, to provide with advantages, to show special privileges."

Beloved, favour also means to be featured or to be shown

partiality or given special prominence. Psalm 102:13 says it is time for God to favour the church as the set time is come. When you have

favour, where others fail, you succeed. For example, the favour of the Lord was on Isaac, when the Philistines in the land of famine could

not get any harvest. Isaac, however, sowed in the same land and got a hundred fold the same year. When the Philistines dug wells and got

no water, Isaac dug wells and had water. (See Genesis 26.)

“Thou who art highly favoured. Blessed art thou amongst

women...” (Luke 1:26). Mary was an ordinary virgin, just like the other virgins of her time but she found favour in the sight of God.

Favour makes you blessed amongst the multitude.





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When Israel cried unto the Lord in Exodus 2:23-25, He heard them and gave them favour in the sight of the Egyptians. ***“And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty”*** (Exodus 3:21).

And they had plenty of wealth from the Egyptians before they left Egypt. When Esther fasted together with Israel, she found favour in the sight of King Ahasuerus and got the wicked decree of Haman changed (Esther 8:5-11).

The psalmist, talking about how Israel won the battles in the promised land, said it was just because of the favour of the Lord. (See Psalm 44:1-3.) But it was not because of their might.

Will you be one of those who apply prayer pressure to gain the support of the Lord to turn things around for the Kingdom

of God? Without divine assistance, David could not have thrown a stone to get Goliath where he was vulnerable. Without God providing special privileges, how could the walls of Jericho have

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come crushing and crumbling down before Israel and Joshua? We need men and women of prayer who will secure special privileges from the corridors of the Almighty to get things done on earth.

After our church had been in Accra for two years, our meeting place became too small to contain us in the four services we had.

More people were outside than inside and when it started raining, only a few could squeeze into the auditorium, others had to sit in

the rain. I therefore kept praying and asking God for a place in the city where we could have a big property. I had so prayed up that

at a certain time whether my eyes were opened or closed, I saw us

worshiping in a big park. I kept telling the church what I saw. I

also kept telling the church that somewhere in the city God had a property waiting for us. Anybody I discussed this with, including

men of God, told me I must be crazy because there were so many churches which had been in the city before us that had to go to

the outskirts of the city to build their churches. But I kept praying.

One day, there was an advert in the newspaper about a property being sold. We also put in a bid and won. The money to pay for the property, including buildings, needed a divine intervention.

We sought the Lord and He helped us raise that exact amount of money which sent ripples through the system because, according

to the press, no one ever raised such monies before. We therefore secured the former Meat Marketing Board Headquarters buildings which were deteriorating but most important of all it was in the city centre. We got special privileges because we sought the help of the Big Boss Himself; Jehovah is His name.

Today when our 46 churches in the city come together, we worship in this park. Every Sunday we worship in our 14,000-seater auditorium in our Perez Dome. We have a Bible School, a

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worship hall for two Youth Services, a hall for two francophone services, and another hall for two children's services.

HEAVEN'S TREASURES ARE THE REWARD OF THOSE WHO PRAY

Therefore commit your ways to Him. Psalm 37:5 tells us to

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” He alone can establish your works and thoughts.

Proverbs 16:3 says, ***“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”*** The desires of your heart can only be performed by Him for He does far more exceedingly abundantly than what you ask or think. (See Ephesians 3:20.)

Abraham saw the manifestation of Isaac, the miracle baby, after much prayer. (See Genesis 15.) Jacob got a miraculous change of name and a specific destiny after wrestling with God in prayer. Israel experienced deliverance after her cry came to God. (See Exodus 2:23.) David remained king after he had sinned when he

pleaded with God not to let His Holy Spirit depart from him. (See Psalm 51.) Solomon became the wisest man in those days when he asked God for wisdom in prayer. (See 1 Kings 3.) Jabez changed his destiny with prayer. (See 1 Chronicles 4:9-10.)

Space will not allow me to elaborate on Hannah, who through prayer gave birth to Samuel, the prophet and last judge of Israel; or Lot, who got favour and was allowed to go to a little town called

Zoar close to Sodom and Gomorrah without it being destroyed; or Daniel, who through prayer shut the mouth of lions; or Jeremiah, who through prayer escaped being sent into captivity. We can

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also mention Isaiah, whose lips were touched with the coals of heaven whilst he prayed. The Scriptures abound with testimonies of answers to prayer.

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Chapter Two

s

United Prayer in the Early Church

The Church today does not have any other pattern except that of the Early Church and it is the exact representation of how the apostolic church should look like. Unfortunately, today many churches claim they are apostolic but they have moved so far away from their apostolic roots. An apostolic church should be fashioned after the one that is described in the Acts of the Apostles.

The early church was a praying church and they engaged in collective or united prayer.

THE FOUR PILLARS

The early church was a praying church and prayer was one of the four pillars upon which it was built and established. Thus, if any church will be successful today, it has to be by the same four pillars. In Acts 2:42, these four pillars are identified as ***“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (teaching of the***
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Word), fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers” (Brackets mine).

The first pillar is the preaching of the unadulterated Word of God. It is the Word of God that prunes and corrects our lives. By the Word of God we experience the breakthroughs for our lives.

The second pillar is fellowship. There should also be constant fellowship, church attendance and meeting with one another. In Hebrews 10:25 the Bible enjoins us ***“not to absent ourselves from assembling together as is the manner of some.”*** Even in those days, some were registered members but would still not attend church.

In every church, there should be fellowship among the members.

They should have church services; love feasts, family (cell) meetings and other meetings where they can fellowship with one another.

The third pillar is breaking of bread. The church should also have communion services and when they have fellowship at home, they should eat together and have the breaking of bread. In the love family meetings or cell meetings, there should be love rela-

tionships where one person's problem is everyone's problem and another's rejoicing is everyone's rejoicing.

One thing that you should never miss is the Lord's Supper (communion). This implies that you should live a holy life. As a believer you have to strive to live a holy life, since it is possible. Once you live a holy life, nothing should stop you from partaking of the Lord's Table.

The fourth pillar is prayer. The Bible says, "***they continued steadfastly.***" This in effect means that they continued without wavering. They never treated it lightly. They continued steadfastly in all four.

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United Prayer in the Early Church

In the church, music and the other

We should never

ministries of help, highly essential for

substitute the

the effective running of the church, **preaching of the Word,** have their place. We should, however, **fellowship, the break-** never substitute the preaching of the **ing of bread and prayer** Word, fellowship, the breaking of **with any other thing.**

bread and prayer with any other thing.

May God stir your heart that you will not be satisfied until you have prayed and you have had fellowship with Him; until you have brought some spiritual incense into His presence. If you will pray like you should, you will also be on fire for God. Reinhard

Bonnke once said that, “*houseflies can never settle on a hot stove.*” If you are cold, the devil builds a nest in your life. The hotter you are, the more the devil is afraid of you. He might bring temptations

and trials but you will overcome them all the time. Prayer was the lifestyle of the early church. You should not go without at least one hour of prayer a day.

UNDENIABLE PROOFS OF THE HOLY GHOST

The early church prayed and anytime they came across a situation they could not handle, the first thing they did was to pray and to seek the face of God. In Acts chapter 3, Peter and John were going to the temple to pray and on their way, at the gate, they saw a crippled man who asked them for money. Peter said, “***Silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.***” After the man had been healed, there was holy confusion in the temple. The man began to leap, jump and praise God with all the people around him.

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The Sanhedrin (the highest Jewish court) observed the whole thing critically. Realizing that they were losing their congregation, they had Peter and John brought before their council, caused them to be beaten and imprisoned, whilst they decided what should be done with them.

Whilst they were discussing the issue, one of their own said in

Acts 4:16 that “***for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all that dwell in Jerusalem and we cannot deny***

it.” For a cripple to walk, for a blind eye to open, for a deaf ear to hear is a notable miracle. They admitted that indeed a notable

miracle had taken place but did not want it to be repeated. In verse 17, it is stated that as a result, they called the apostles and warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus or heal the sick again.

When you are told not to preach in the name of Jesus, they just do not want the sick to be healed and the signs and wonders to manifest since these can only take place in the name of Jesus. So to be asked not to use the name of Jesus

Everyone needs

was to be told literally not to work

to belong to a

miracles in the city anymore. It is shown

local church.

in verse 23 that after they had been

threatened and told not to speak in the

name of Jesus, and not to do what God wanted them to, they went

back to their own company to report all that had happened. The

first thing they did was to report it to the brethren — that is their own company (local fellowship). Everyone needs to belong to a

local church. When they brought the report, the next thing they

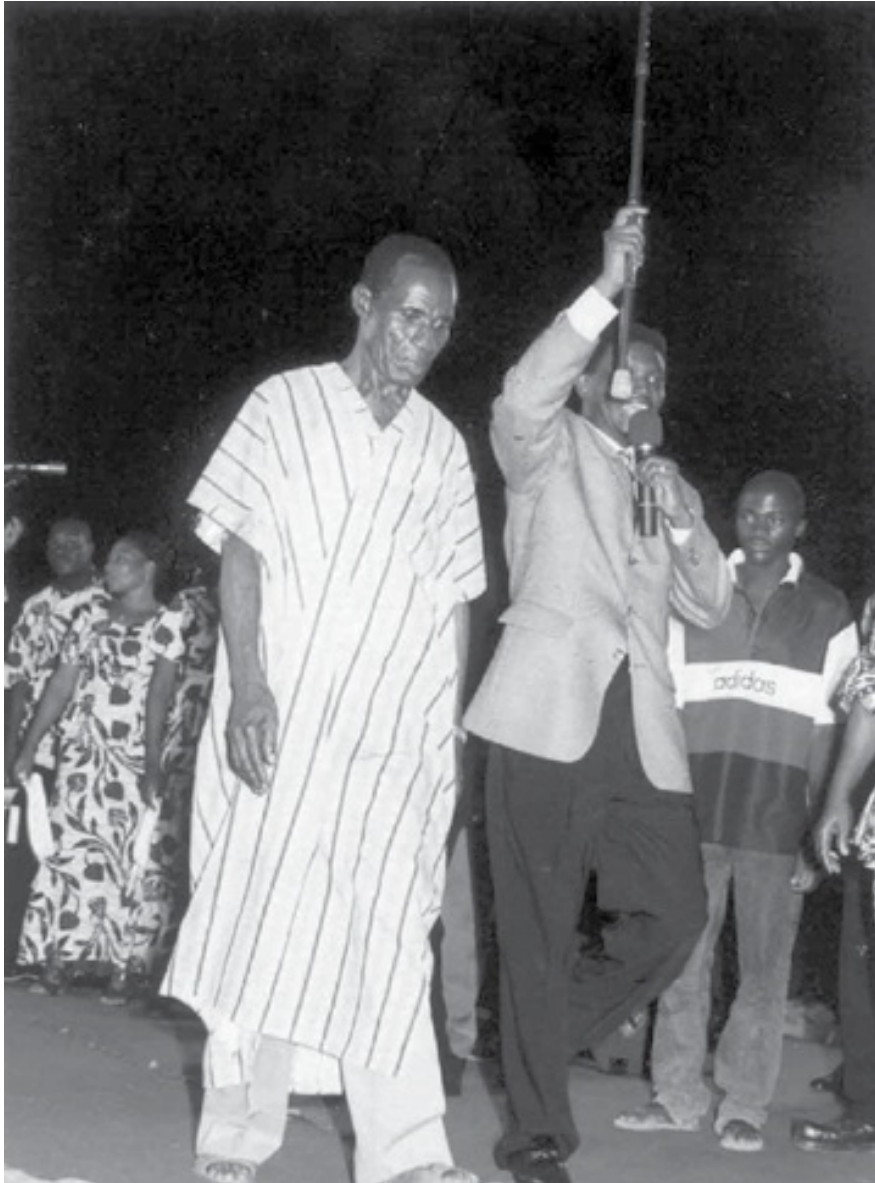
did was to pray to the Lord.

The devil has a plan to ensure that the church of Jesus Christ

will not go forward and so he looks for various ways and means







United Prayer in the Early Church

Man crippled for 5 years came to crusade with the aid of a stick COTE D'IVOIRE Crusade. 2001

Man crippled for 5 years
healed in La COTE D'IVOIRE.

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The Impact of Prayer

to stop the church of Jesus Christ. But Jesus said, ***"I will build my***

church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The Bible says we are not ignorant of the devil’s devices;

this knowledge should make us pray. Let us look at the apostles’

prayer and some of the things they asked for from the Lord in

verse 29. They asked God for utterance, boldness, and the ability to preach the Word without fear. Even though the Sanhedrin did not

want them to preach, the apostles prayed for boldness to preach

the Word and even though they were criticized for performing

miracles the apostles wanted to perform more miracles. In our

days, people are criticizing miracles. It is one of the main reasons why we need more miracles since the heathen can only be saved by

the manifestation of God’s power. The fact that they are criticizing miracles gives us more reason to demonstrate the power of God.

One of the things that have given us growth in the city of

Accra is United Prayer. The members of the church are required to

fast on their day of birth within the week. Those born on Monday

fast on Mondays and they are expected to meet at the church site

to pray from 12 noon to 2.00 p.m. At the end of every month, the

whole church fasts for one week, which is the miracle service week.

In that week, those who can are asked to fast at least twenty four

hours non-stop and everyone — from children to adults — fast.

Children below five years fast one hour each day, those between five years and 12 years fast for two hours each day. Children between

12 and 15 years fast for three — six hours. The elderly ones from

70 to 80 years fast for three hours, those between 60 and 70 fast

for four to six hours. The members who are between 50 to 60 years

fast from morning till evening (3 p.m.) and those between 16 to 50

years fast from morning till evening or for 24 hours.

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United Prayer in the Early Church

There is always a manifest presence of the Lord. Many people who come to our services are healed at the church premises even before the service. Everyone who preaches in our services talks about the abundant supply of the Spirit and the ease with which they are able to declare the Word. Many of our church members heal the sick, cast out devils and even see the dead raised.

The Apostle Paul said, ***“when I came to you, I did not come with the enticing words of man’s wisdom but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power so that your faith will not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God”*** (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Don’t forget that as we all come together, we operate a corporate anointing which has greater impact to accomplish great things.

A MIRACLE SETTLES THE ISSUE

If the church of Jesus Christ will pray and ask God for signs, wonders and miracles, mighty things will happen. When we talk about a miracle, it is not just physical healing. When a marriage is going through challenges, what that marriage needs is a miracle.

When people are doing all they can in a business and are not getting the break-

If the church of

through they must get, those people need

Jesus Christ will

a miracle. If you look at the recorded **pray and ask God**

miracles of Jesus, the provision at the **for signs, wonders**

wedding at Cana in Galilee according to

and miracles,

the Bible was the first miracle that Jesus

mighty things

ever did. It was a miracle of provision. God

will happen.

met the people at their point of need.

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The Impact of Prayer

When the disciples were in the boat and the storm was raging,

Jesus stilled the storm. The Bible calls it a miracle. On that occasion no sick person was healed yet the Bible describes it as a miracle.

When Jesus multiplied the bread and fed the seven thousand men, the Bible called it a miracle.

When someone has a huge debt and does not know how to pay and God, by His divine intervention, gives him insight to do something which results in a breakthrough to pay the bill, we call it a miracle. When people who owe you money have decided that they will not pay those monies but then are moved by prayers to do so, that is a miracle.

At every point in time, everybody needs a miracle but our miracle needs vary. Someone writes the same exam five times and

At every point in

for inexplicable reasons fails each time. He

time, everybody

studies hard and does everything to the best of his ability but is unsuccessful. Then

needs a miracle

prayer is offered and he goes to write again,

but our miracle

not sure of what he even wrote but passes

needs vary.

the exam, that is a miracle.

When God meets us at the point of our need, we call it a

miracle. We need to pray as a church that God will move in the lives of people who come to church and intervene in their situations.

Even though they have come to worship God, they are serving

God also because they know He is all powerful and Almighty.

They know He is the greatest of all. When people come to church, they expect their needs to be met.

So when the church prays, one of the things they should pray

for is that signs and wonders and miracles of the Holy Ghost

should be wrought in the lives of His people; that as people come to church, God will give them a testimony. God should cause a











United Prayer in the Early Church
change in the lives of His
people. They should be
seeing miracles in their
lives, they should know that
the blessing of the Lord is

upon them. They should
know that God has neither
forsaken nor forgotten
them, but it will take the
prayers of the saints for that
to happen.

Woman bowed together
for 20 years healed —
Kumasi Crusade (Ghana)
Woman bowed together for
20 years healed — Kumasi
Crusade. (Ghana-2000)

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The Impact of Prayer

When we preach at crusades, we preach to unbelievers. They do not understand the Word; God is obligated to prove to them His power. If they do not see God's power, they will not believe. (See John 2:23.) To the unbeliever, seeing is believing; to the Christian you need to believe before you see. The Christian already believes and that is why he is called a believer. He does not need signs to convince him that God is alive. He needs signs so that he will be encouraged, so that he will know that God has not forgotten him. The Bible says in Psalm 110:3 that “ ***Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power (miracles).*** ” (Brackets mine) If we pray, at any part of the service — from intercessory time to praise and worship, preaching time etc. — God will meet us and every part

of the service will be filled with the presence of God. By this we can go home with a testimony and a song, knowing that we serve a Living God. As we come to church, and we all pray, you may be sick, but you will not even notice when your sickness disappeared. There are so many people who started attending our church whilst they were sick but one day found out they were well. They did not really know the exact day and time God healed them. It is just because of the manifestation of the presence of God. It should continue and it should get better.

In our days, one of the things we need to do is to pray that the presence of God will fill His temple continually such that, even as people get to the church premises, their needs will be met.

The unbelievers should not say, “Where is the Lord God of your fathers?” The unbelievers should look at us, and say, “*Aha ah! We want to serve your God because we see that everything you touch is blessed; everywhere you go we see there is a change .*” May God make it happen thus in your life; where everybody has failed, may you

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United Prayer in the Early Church

succeed. When it is not going well for everybody, may it go well with you. Where people have stumbled and fallen, may you rise up and stand tall. Where people are suffering need and lack, may you never suffer lack; may your needs be met.

GREAT FAVOUR

The early church prayed and when they prayed, the Bible says in Acts 4:33 that “ ***With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace (not little grace, but***

great grace, divine enablement, divine ability and capabilities, and favour) was upon them all. ” (Brackets mine)

If we will all pray and declare the Word of God, we will experience the power in the Word of God. We will also receive insight and ability to declare the Word of

If we will all pray

God with the wisdom of God. The grace

and declare the

of God would be upon every one of us. **Word of God, we**

The enabling power of God would be

will experience

upon everybody, not just divine ability,

the power in the

but God’s great divine ability would be

Word of God.

upon us all.

In effect, the struggle in your business will cease; the struggle in your marriage will cease. The impossibilities will be made possible

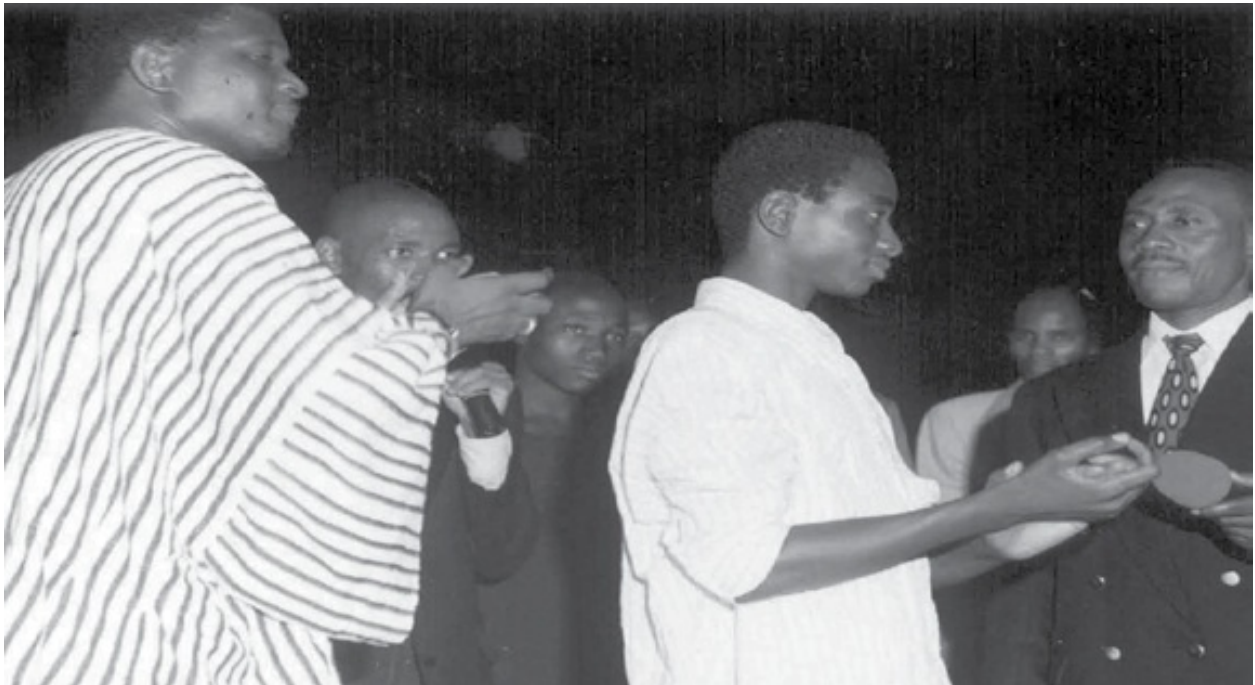
in your life. As you go and come, success will be normal with you.

As you go and come, breakthroughs would be normal with you.

There will be grace, favour and open doors for all the church. For

this reason, the church cannot afford not to pray. If there was a

time we needed to pray, it is now!



The Impact of Prayer

In 1987, I had to go to the northern city of Tamale, a Muslim stronghold, to start an independent charismatic church. Until that

time, there were no charismatic churches in the place and every church there I knew received its support from southern Ghana or from abroad. I went into this city which is predominantly Muslim without any financial support and started a church. Before I saw any books on spiritual mapping, every night I would gather my team, some of the people I had groomed, and led by the Spirit. We would walk around the principal streets of the city praying through the night from about 10pm to 4 am, praying and taking authority over the principalities that ruled in the place. We asked God to give us a breakthrough in that city by calling people into the church and declaring that people would see their lives touched. God will give birth to more churches because the more churches the easier the evangelism, for one believer will beat a 1,000 but two will put 10,000 to flight.

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United Prayer in the Early Church

ENCOUNTER WITH SATAN

Today, I get excited when I see the number of churches that have sprung up in that community; we did the pioneering warfare for them. Some of the people we used to pray with on my team are senior pastors today. We would walk on the streets of Tamale praying. I remember on one such occasion we had prayed as usual and my wife had also just been discharged from the hospital after giving birth to our first-born. I will never forget the experience; it was my personal encounter with the devil that night. My wife passed out (I presumed dead) in my presence. I poured water on

her face but nothing happened. All of a sudden I saw a figure sitting on my bed at the feet of my wife. At that moment so many thoughts ran through my mind. For instance what will the relatives of my wife say? Will they accuse me of taking their princess into another town to kill her?

In Africa, occultists and witch doctors can supernaturally kill a person for spiritual power. Therefore, having a supernatural ministry, I wondered if people would not say that I killed my wife to gain more supernatural power. Also, I could imagine how people would relate to my healing ministry when I had a dead wife.

With all these thoughts racing through my mind, this strange figure who identified himself as the devil, said to me, “that is the end of your wife.” I rebuked this foul spirit in Jesus’ name and I said, “Satan I bind you; you can’t hold my wife.” He replied, “You are those who torment this city” and I said, “I don’t torment this city; you torment this city and I am not afraid of you because Jesus overcame you 2,000 years ago.”

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The Impact of Prayer

All around me there was a strange chill and it was dead silent.

The figure looked at me with hideous and piercing eyes and said, “You are lucky.” And I replied, “You are just afraid of Jesus and me, so go.” The figure immediately disappeared. I called my wife’s spirit to come back; she sneezed and came back to life. It looked like a short time but the whole process took about two hours. (There is no time in the spirit realm.) It took her a few days to fully recover. We have a lot of experiences with prayer that only heaven can

reveal for we have not been granted permission to release them yet. It was during this time God revealed to me that any time the Muslims are fasting, we should fast with them, binding the spirit of Islam.

Years later, I remember during one such fast, news broke out that some occultists had circulated my picture in the city in an attempt to kill me. One evening just during the last Muslim prayer, something came over me. I realized I was beside myself and began to talk unintelligibly and was choking with a gas I could smell in the atmosphere which no one else could. I began to sink and was not able to do anything about it. Fortunately I have trained my wife to be a praying woman and had taught her to pray strategic prayers.

All of a sudden, I felt her hands on my chest grabbing my shirt and rebuking the spirit, "Foul spirit you cannot take my husband, loose him and let him go free." Instantly my breath returned to normal.

I regained consciousness and could communicate intelligibly.

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United Prayer in the Early Church

DIVINE DELIVERANCE

In Acts 12, the Bible shows us another occasion when the church prayed. The Bible says that King Herod took James and cut off his head, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews and the religious crowd, he took Peter with the intention of beheading him, too. One group of people that do not like the move of God is the religious crowd. You will be surprised that some of the people who resist the move of God are Christians. It has been like that

throughout history. The people who were most mad with Jesus were the religious people in His day — the Pharisees and the Sadducees. These two groups, however, did not agree because they did not believe in the same thing. The

The people who

Pharisees believed in spirits, they believed **fight and resist the** in angels and demons. The Sadducees did

move of God the

not, however, believe in those things; they **most are part of the** did not believe in the resurrection. But **established church.**

because of Jesus, (because there was the move of God) these religious enemies became friends so that they could get Jesus and try to kill the move of God.

The people who fight and resist the move of God the most are part of the established church. Before James was beheaded, the church did not see the need to pray for its leaders but after Peter was arrested, they realized that if the apostles were alive it would be better for them. They then decided that this time they were going to pray. The Bible says whilst Peter was in prison, the church made intercession or prayed without ceasing for him. (See Acts 12:5.)

One of the areas the church should not forget is prayer for its leadership. As a church, a member can steal or commit adultery

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The Impact of Prayer

and the church will still continue but when the Bishop looks at someone wrongly, he is in trouble. When people in leadership or pastors at certain levels of authority do wrong things, it seriously affects the

church, so we have to pray for the leadership.

The Bible says, “***smite the shepherd and the sheep will scatter***”

(Zechariah 13:7). When you strike the sheep, there will still be

sheep. So the devil targets those in authority, those who are always making the news or noise on the platform. Apostle James says

we are the people who would be judged the most, because we are the people who preach the most. We the teachers and those who talk will be judged by every thing we said and everything we have preached. (See James 3:1.)

The Bible says the Early Church prayed and had miraculous

results. (See Acts 12:7.) Peter was delivered from prison. Prayer can change everything and anything because prayer moves the hand of

God. When the hand of God moves, anything can change. The

Bible says in Ecclesiastes 10:19, “***...money answereth all things***” but this just pertains to natural things.

I was told a story recently of a man who was traveling on an

aircraft. Whilst they were on the flight, the plane began to shake

and the pilot lost control. The flight developed serious problems. A Christian on the plane began to pray. As he prayed, he said all of a sudden his camera clicked and the plane stilled and the

trouble ended. When they got back home

Because prayer can and he developed the film, he saw this

change everything huge image of an angel in the cloud by

and anything, we

the plane. Just around the time the pilot

have to pray.

lost control, an angel appeared in the

cloud. We were shown that picture by Dr.

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United Prayer in the Early Church

Gert-Jan Agtereek (a Pastor in Lieden, Netherlands) and you could see outside the plane an image of a big man in the cloud. Prayer was able to change a technical problem that should have crashed the plane. Because prayer can change everything and anything, we have to pray.

You might not have human ability but you have heavenly capability and that is very important. When you add your human ability to the heavenly capability, you become a conqueror. As a church, this is the time we need to pray as we have not done before and every obstacle in our way will be removed. As a church, we have to pray for every breakthrough we need.

NATIONAL DISASTERS AVERTED

In 2000, I was in South Korea to see what Dr. Yonggi Cho had been doing. When the Holy Ghost prompted me to go, one of the reasons that spurred me on was that it was said that one time in South Korea, the people were on strike. There was chaos and confusion in the land.

A massive demonstration took place that escalated badly.

The government had done everything it knew but could not stop it. The President called on Dr. Cho and said, "I believe in your prayers so do something about this situation." Dr. Cho organized the Christians in Korea and went to the national park and began to pray. Two days after the prayer, the strike came to a halt. This

shows the power of prayer.

I can narrate countless times when we had to pray and intercede for our nation, Ghana, in times of national crisis and on

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The Impact of Prayer

each occasion God answered. From February 1997 to December 2000, once a week for one hour, I went to the Osu Castle (the seat of government) to pray with some notable government officials about the nation. I recall in 1999 and 2000 there were some serious demonstrations, strikes and tension that could easily have sent the nation into chaos. I declared five days of fasting and prayer and we lay on the floor before God.

On all those occasions, a catastrophe was averted without most people realizing how it happened. In 1998, there was an earth tremor in Accra, which really shook the city, and according to the seismologists, there was going to be a bigger one. Everyone was shaken. I went to God in prayer and God directed me to assure the nation there would be no harm and that it would not strike again. I went on radio to announce it and told my church. To the glory of God, the tremor did not happen.

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Chapter Three

s

Apostolic Examples

God has only one need: to have fellowship with man and that is achieved through prayer. (See Revelation 4:21.) In the Old

Testament, whenever they went into the temple, they always used candles and the priest burnt incense before the presence of the Lord. Today, we do not need to burn incense before the Lord because the Bible teaches

Prayer helps

in the New Testament that the prayers of

us cleanse the

the saints are carried as incense or sweet

pollution of our

smelling odour to the Presence of God.

spirit and flesh.

(See Revelation 5:8; Revelation 8:3,4.)

Therefore, if you want God to smell something good in Heaven, then you will have to pray.

Prayer helps us cleanse the pollution of our spirit and flesh. In the Old Testament times, God was pleased with the incense they burned to Him as part of their sacrifice and prayer. In the New Testament however, He has said that we will worship in spirit and in truth. The Old Testament practice represented a shadow or a symbol of what was to come in the New Testament. In the New Testament, however, we see the actual or the real appear.

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The Impact of Prayer

NO ONE IS MORE POWERFUL

THAN HIS PRAYER LIFE

The Early Church was a praying church. Before Jesus ascended,

He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. Sadly, today many Christians have tongues but not the power. Jesus did not say you will receive tongues when the Holy Ghost had come on you, He said you will receive power, and receiving power is completely different from merely speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is extremely needful for the church as that is the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit's baptism. We also call speaking in tongues the "prayer language"

Sadly, today many because it carries the believer into the **Christians have**

power of God. For this reason the Bible

tongues but not

states in Jude 20 that "***build up yourself on the power.***

your most holy faith, praying in the Holy

Ghost. " Praying in the Holy Ghost means

praying in tongues. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:4, "***He that***

speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that

prophesieth edifieth the church. " As you speak in tongues, you get yourself powered up.

Praying in tongues is also praying in the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says, "***For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but***

my understanding is unfruitful. " George Jeffreys, the great evangelist who shook England in the 1930s and founder of Elim Pentecostal

said "he prayed in English. If it seemed inadequate, he prayed in

his more expressive native tongue, Welsh. If that failed, he prayed

in tongues.” Most of my prayer is done in tongues, because when I

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Apostolic Examples

begin to speak a language of my understanding, after a short while

I do not know what to say again and so I just pray in tongues. The

Bible says, “***He who prays in an unknown tongue does not understand and no one understands him, howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries***”

(1 Corinthians 14:2). However there is a difference between

devotional tongues and diverse tongues. A diverse tongue is one of

the gifts of the Spirit and when it comes, it comes congregationally and there should always be an interpretation. But every believer can and should have devotional tongues. Mark 16:17 says, “***These signs***

shall follow them that believe... they shall speak with new tongues.” It is like having a telephone; you can use it to make calls (i.e. talking to God in tongues) and you can use it to receive calls (i.e. receiving diverse tongues). Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:28, “***I thank my God,***

I speak with tongues more than ye all.”

Beloved, pray in the Holy Ghost.

We have often talked about how the Holy Spirit descended

on all of the 120 disciples on the day of Pentecost, how they were

filled with the Holy Spirit, how they spoke in tongues, and the

power of God descended on them. You might want to ask how

did that happen? The Bible explains in Acts 1:14 that “***These all***

continued with one accord in prayer and supplication ...” As they prayed and waited on God and brought their requests before the

Lord as to how to fulfill the Great Commission, God poured out

His Spirit on them.

Until the day of Pentecost, women were not numbered with the

men but after the death of Jesus when the curtain which separated the Holy place from the Holy of Holies was rent in two from top to bottom (which could not have been done by any human being), the women were numbered with the men. The Bible notes
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The Impact of Prayer

that Mary the mother of Jesus was also with them. This is the reason we, as New Testament believers, do not give Mary the same special place as Jesus. She gave birth to Jesus for whom the world is grateful, but for her to be saved, she needed to believe in Jesus as her Lord and Personal Saviour. If she needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit then she needed to be in the Upper Room with the other disciples who were praying and waiting for the promise of the Father.

For the same reason, we do not need to pray through her, asking her to talk to Jesus on our behalf. The Bible states that we have only one Advocate with the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ. (See 1 John 2:1.) It is only that Name, Jesus, that we have been given to pray through, not through John or Michael. (See Philippians 2:10, John 16:23.) No one else is our Advocate and Intercessor with the Father except Jesus Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit took place because they continued together in prayer and supplication even though Jesus had promised the baptism in the Holy

You have to pray

Spirit. This shows that you have to pray

through the

through the promises of God for your

promises of God

life. Paul said to Timothy to wage a good

for your life.

warfare with the prophecies (promises)

that came concerning him. (See

1 Timothy 1:18.)

The early disciples without any doubt prayed. The Holy Spirit

did not descend because the people were just religious, but He did

come while they were praying fervent prayers.

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Apostolic Examples

In January 1983 when I came into full-time ministry, I prayed

like I had never done before. Every week I fasted for 24 hours on

Tuesdays and Fridays. I would pray not less than eight hours a day

in those days. Night after night, I would go to bed in the wee hours of the morning, asking God to touch my life and touch my ministry

because I wanted Acts of the Apostles results. I remember there

were times I would walk along the beach for miles just praying and

asking God to anoint me with fresh oil. I lived in two areas called

Teshie and Chorkor, small communities in Accra, Ghana. I would

walk to the outskirts of Teshie behind Burma Camp. I would set

out about 5 a.m. and return at 11 a.m. to minister to the people.

Later in the afternoon, I would go out to pray again. For almost six months, I prayed this way. During this time, I attended a Morris

Cerullo School of Ministry, with a great desire to experience the supernatural. On the last day of the meeting we had been anointed with oil and I heard the audible voice of God. He said to me, “My boy Charles, I send you out as I sent Moses, go; I will put My words in your lips, reach the world for Me.”

After the meeting I was very confused because I did not think I had the personality and the monies to reach my generation. So I went to seek God in prayer in a three-day fasting and prayer time.

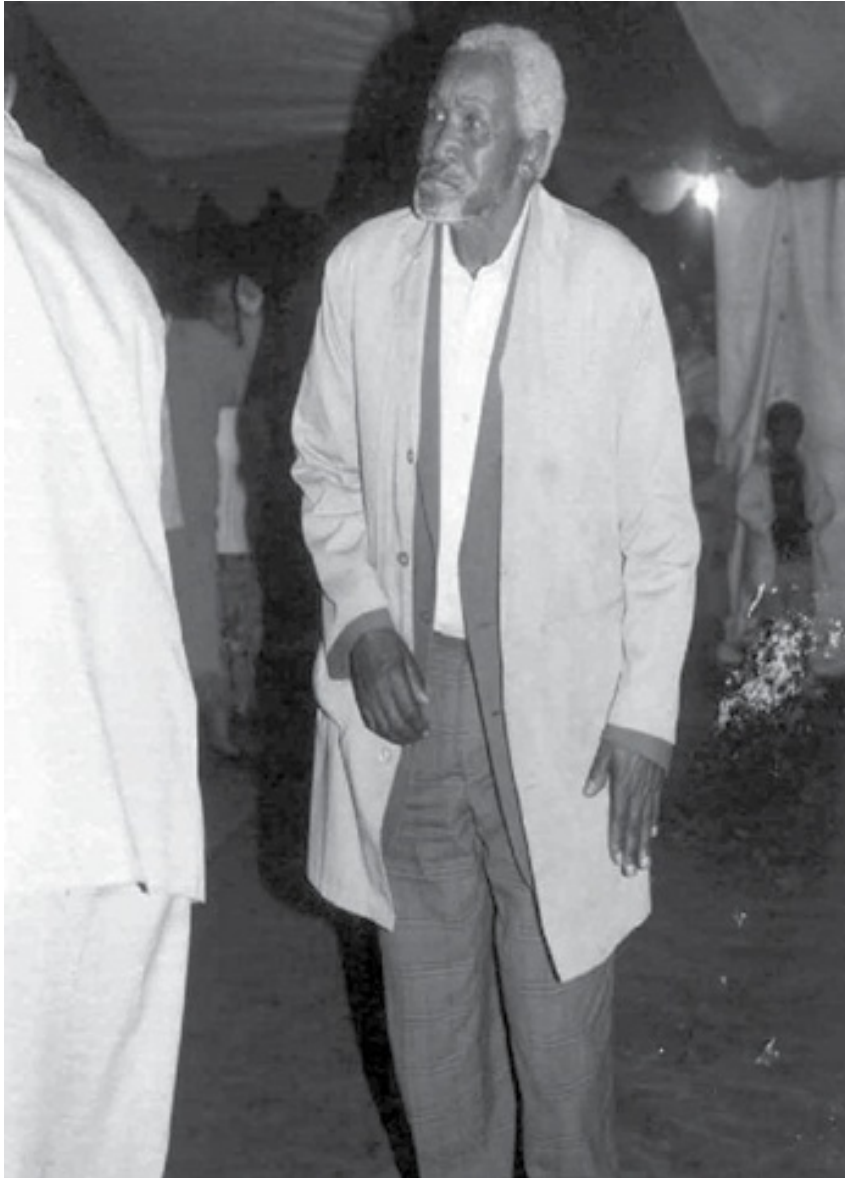
In the first two days I prayed more than 10 hours a day. On the last day, I had prayed for so long that I was very exhausted. Around 11

a.m. the Holy Spirit said to me, “My boy Charles, I give unto you power over demons and principalities, heal the sick, raise the dead, preach the kingdom.” This marked the beginning of my healing ministry and since then, God has given me Acts of the Apostles results in 78 nations of the world.









The Impact of Prayer

Mmabatho, South

Africa — Man

crippled for 8 years

and came with the

aid of a stick to the

crusade 1997.

Mmabatho, South Africa

— Old man crippled
for 8 years went home
walking on his own.

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Apostolic Examples

REPLACEMENT OF PERSONNEL

The apostles learned from Jesus' example to seek God before making any major decision. Thus, it is recorded in Acts 1:24 that because Judas had committed suicide following his shameful betrayal of Jesus that led to His crucifixion, the apostles had to choose a replacement for him. Judas had been given a place among the Twelve apostles of the Lamb but he lost that position as a result of greed. There are different classes of apostles. The first group of apostles are the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb that comprise twelve people Jesus Himself chose. These were the ones who had walked with Him, seen the things He had done, and seen His death and resurrection. These have a special place in heaven. (See Revelation 21:14.) Thus, when Judas, one of the twelve died, it became necessary that they replace him.

They were to choose someone who **Before you deal**
fulfilled the laid-down conditions. The **with the people you**
Bible says in verse 24 of Acts 1 that first

do business and

of all, they prayed and asked God to give **transactions with,**
them someone to fill the position. Before

do you pray?

they cast the lot or decided to vote for the
one who would fill that spiritual office,
they first prayed. Before you deal with the people you do business
and transactions with, do you pray?

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The Impact of Prayer

Man blind in one eye and crippled for 6 year healed,

(arrowed) could see and walk without his stick, Ukraine

As believers we have come to a time in our lives when we have to pray. As pastors we often choose people to do things for us; we need to pray before making those choices. Over the years, we have trained some people and taken others through our leadership-training programs. When they complete the training, there are some we do not have the witness to ordain or lay hands on to be received into ministry. It is not because we are being partial or that we do not like them but it is because we have not received the green light from above. Some often wonder why people who have graduated from our Bible College and some of our other training programs are not received into ministry immediately. Some have even wondered, “Are these leaders not looking at the faces of these graduates?” The last thing I will do is to look at faces to disobey divine orders. It does not matter how much you give to me. I had better listen to God. This is because whatever you give to me can be stolen but what He can give me, no one can steal. No one can buy the anointing of God.

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Apostolic Examples

You need to pray about the dealings

You should even

you get involved in, the business transac-

pray about those

tions and the people you relate to. You

you make

should even pray about those you make

friends with.

friends with. I know a lot of people but

only a few of them are my friends. I know

so many preachers, I preach for some and some also preach for me

but only few are my friends. There has to be a release in your spirit before you befriend people. You cannot choose the family, tribe

and country you are born into but one of the things you can choose

is those who become your friends. Pray before you choose them

because it is said, “show me your friend and I will show you your character.”

CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU

The Early Church fathers prayed for the stability and establishment of the new converts. “*My little children, for whom I travail (labor) in birth that Christ be formed in you ,*” (NKJV).

They did not leave the new converts to their personal growth and fate, but carried them in their bosom till they were mature.

They had a passion for souls to be saved and laboured for them to be established. They did not just give birth to them, but

spiritually carried and raised them in prayer. Colossians 4:12 tells us, “*Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God .*”

The Impact of Prayer

No wonder the results of evangelism of those days resulted in stability. It is said that just like the Apostle Paul, Charles Finney experienced more established converts than any other preacher, because after his revivals he would labour as fervently in prayer for the establishment of the new converts as he did when he needed them to be converted.

They also taught the people to pray if they expected the church leader to visit them. Philemon 22 says, “***But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.***”

They did not just write for the apostles to come and visit but prayed through for them to be able to do so because they knew even if God gave the apostles the green light to visit them, there could be hindrances. “***For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries***” (1 Corinthians 16:9).

“***Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us***” (1 Thessalonians 2:18). There are times some unrealistic visa officers will prevent God’s servants from traveling. Other times, your passport can get lost, or there may be a threat of hijacking etc. which could all be a hindrance.

The devil knows there are levels of spiritual authority and anointing. He also knows it takes certain levels of ministering with authority to grant you the breakthroughs you need so he will stop them from reaching you. If you will pray, the anointed man you need will be released to you.









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Lady bedridden for 18
years held by husband
and holding her walking
stick to crusade (Denu
— Ghana 2001)

Bedridden for 18 years,
raised by the power of

God.

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DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

In Acts 16:13, the writer of the book of Acts shows that when Paul, Silas and his team went to Philippi, they went to a riverbank to pray and a noble lady named Lydia gave her life to the Lord and supported their ministry. The Early Church fathers were constantly in prayer.

Prayer and fasting open up your spirit to the spirit realm.

This is a vast area where so many things occur. Whilst in the spirit realm, it is very easy to contact very strange spirits. The only remedy you have against this is the direction of the Word of God.

The Word of God acts as navigational

Prayer and fasting light to direct you. When a plane or ship **open up your spirit** is going to land at night, it needs navigational lights otherwise it will crash or run aground.

There are so many people who have prayed and received a vision or a word, which is totally contrary to the Word of God. It is not possible to pray and receive a direction to go after another man's wife, as that is not of God. It goes directly against the Scriptures. If whilst you are deep in prayer you see in a vision that you are marrying someone's wife, you should know that is not of God. You should be able to line up whatever you receive from the Spirit realm with the Word of God. Unfortunately, this is the point where most people have missed it. It is sad to note that many of the false churches today were found as a result of prayer.

I have come across several people who went into a fast and

prayed for long periods but ended up mental patients. They then

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begin to quote the Bible upside down and to declare themselves the only prophets in town.

The leaders of these churches went to pray, and heard a voice but failed to judge that voice with the Scriptures. You need to remember that the Bible states in 2 Corinthians 11:14 that the Devil himself shall come as an angel of light. When the Devil wants to deceive you, he will not come as a weird beast with horns. In films, you often see him with horns wielding a three-pronged bronze fork, with a long thumb, a tail like a serpent and a very horrible face. He knows you are a Christian so he will not come like a hideous creature; he will come as an angel of light, a bright shining angel quoting the Scriptures.

When he came to tempt Jesus, he did not do it outside the Word; he used the Word but turned it upside down. He said ***“If you will turn these stones into bread, because you have all the power to do it ”*** (Matthew 4:3). Jesus did not do it. He then took Him to the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ***“cast yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple because the Scriptures say, He will give His angels charge over you, lest you dash your foot against a stone”*** as stated in Psalm 91. He was quoting the Bible but he had turned everything upside down because the same Bible also says, ***“Thou shall not tempt the Lord your God ”*** (Matthew 4:7). You do not have to put fire in your hands because you are a child of God and speak the Word of God that says, ***“He makes His ministers as flames of fire so nothing shall by any means hurt you ”*** (Matthew 4:6). All you do with fire is to run

away from it or use it for good and not for harm.

If you do not have the Word of God inside you and you just keep praying without the Word, you can easily be derailed. And so Jesus said to His disciples and the Pharisees, “***you neither know the***

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Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 26:29). It is very important to have an understanding of these two: the Scriptures and

the Power of God. To walk in the power of God you need to pray. But if you only emphasize the power

Prayer is very

of God minus the Word of God, you will

important, but you blow up because you become too spiritual
need the Word of

and will not lead a balanced Christian life.

God to back it.

If you also emphasize the Word only, you become puffed up and dry up.

Prayer is very important, but you need the Word of God to back it. The Apostle Paul and Silas had planted many churches but they still went to pray regularly.

As they went to pray, a damsel filled with the spirit of divination followed them and proclaimed, “***these are the servants of the most***

High God, listen to them” (Acts 16:17). If you do not have the manifestation of the discerning of spirits, you might think that was of God. Assuming we had gone for a crusade and a man comes along

saying, “Hey, here is a man of God, listen to him,” what is wrong with this? The

statements of this damsel were true, were not harmful in any way and looked scriptural. The Apostle Paul however discerned that her statements were not of God.

When you are prayerful, you will begin to notice the manifestations of the gifts and you will receive direction from the throne of God. You will however need the Word of God to balance whatever you receive from the spirit realm. You need to abide in the Word because when you are on fire that is when the devil tempts you most. Many people, who pray a lot and are not balanced in the Word, are not able to take spiritual decisions for themselves. They often

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hear so many voices and if they are not really balanced in the Word, if they do not eat the Word, if they do not put things in the right perspective, they are easily deceived by the devil. I have noticed that the more you pray, the more you build up yourself and surge in faith and believe in the supernatural, but also the

When you are

easier it is for the devil to deceive you **prayerful, you will** because you believe all things. Such people

receive direction

are easily deceived in their business **from the throne** dealings, their relationships and in many

of God.

of their undertakings if they are not

studying the Word. By virtue of the fact that they have been praying, it is easier for them to get into the supernatural because it takes faith to move in the supernatural. If you will stay balanced, stay in the

Word and feed on it, then when the devil comes, after you have prayed, he will not stay. The Word says, “**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world**” (1 John 4:1).

In Ephesians 6:18 when the Apostle Paul was elaborating on prayer, he said we should pray with all prayer and supplication. The Early Church fathers were constantly in prayer and they prayed all kinds of prayer. As a team they prayed and they prayed individually, too.

POWER FOR THE GENTILES

In Acts 10:9 the Bible tells us how Peter, when he was hungry and the food was not ready, went up on the rooftop to pray. He did not complain; he quietly went up on the roof to pray. Whilst he was praying, he fell into a trance and saw a vision. Immediately, God

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showed him a sheet with all kinds of animals and the voice said, “**kill and eat**” (See Acts 10:13.) and he said, “**I have not eaten anything unclean before.**” (See Acts 10:14.)

Peter was in the Word and according to the Old Testament Scriptures, a Jew is not supposed to eat certain animals. Peter was saying he couldn’t eat them even though he had seen a vision that told him otherwise. This came to him on three different occasions. Each time, the Holy Spirit said to him after the vision, “**What God has cleansed, call not thou common**” (See Acts 10:15). The Bible then says, whilst he was still in prayer, the people Cornelius (the centurion) had sent to come for him arrived. The Holy Spirit again whispered,

“Get up and go with them for I sent them.” (See Acts 10:20.) As he was in prayer, God could give him direction. When was the

last time God ministered to your spirit to be a blessing to someone?

When was the last time God spoke to your spirit to do something?

If you pray constantly, God will show you what to do. Even as you pray, God will show you the needs of people so you can meet them.

He will also show you who to witness to out of the people you meet.

As an individual, Peter prayed and stayed in the presence of God.

This prayer time of Peter’s led to the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the Gentiles.

BEHOLD! HE IS PRAYING

The Bible says in Acts 9 that on the day Saul got saved, Jesus met him on the road to Damascus, he became blinded by a bright flash of light that appeared with the presence of God. Jesus then told him to go into the city. God had told Ananias, ***“Go to this***





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Clutches of the first few cripples healed on fourth night of Denu Crusade (Ghana) 2001.

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house in Joppa, you will see a man called Saul of Tarsus, behold he

is praying .” What a testimony! God was testifying about a new convert and what He could say about him was, he was praying, and

directed Ananias to go and lay his hands on him. The Scriptures reveal that both Ananias and Paul were praying so God could easily speak to them.

I want to give you a paraphrase of the dialogue that transpired between God and Ananias and that gives ample proof of the fact that Ananias was praying at the time. God told him, “I want you to go to a house in Joppa belonging to a man called Judas and look for Saul of Tarsus; he is praying” and he said to God, “Hold on.” Such a dialogue could only take place in prayer. Ananias told God, “It is like your facts are not up to date, you are not abreast with the times because this man you are saying I should go and pray for, all of us

Christians have been praying against him, some have been binding him, some of us have been loosing him because he has gone to ask for permission to arrest some of us. He has had some of us thrown into prison. We have testimonies of how he engineered to have some of us killed and so God, you cannot be serious. I don’t think it is the same man you are talking about.” Then God replied, “Yes, it is the same man, but I want you to know that I’m going to use

him as a chosen vessel to affect the gentiles, kings and children of Israel. He has also seen in a vision a man called Ananias has put hands on him to receive his sight.”

Countless times when people become saved and they attend church, we tend to judge them with sins of their past. You would hear someone say, “Bishop, stop. This man is not correct; he is a sinner.” Fortunately, the person has been changed by the Spirit and with time that change shows up.

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Whilst Ananias prayed, God told him of a new convert who was praying. Because the Early Church prayed constantly, they received divine directions and instructions constantly. May you be sensitive to the voice of the Spirit. May the Holy Spirit draw closer to you because you have drawn close to Him. May you understand the ways of God and not just His acts, even as you seek His face.

May He show you which way to go to get out of bad situations.

Jesus said, “***My sheep hear my voice, another shepherd’s voice***

they will not hear” (John 10:27). It takes closeness with God to detect His voice. When you are close to

someone, as soon as you hear his voice, **When you fellow-**

you recognize it even though you may be **ship with God, He**

some distance away. An interpreted **makes His voice**

Ghanaian proverb says this “When you

distinct to you.

know a person, you don’t put on the

lantern to look at him at night.” In the same way, when you

fellowship with God, He makes His voice distinct to you, He gets you to a point where you can identify His voice. May His voice be distinct to you. In your time of crisis when you need Him most, may His voice be distinct to you, when you need His guidance and counsel most. May the spirit of prayer rest upon you.

PRAYER AND THE MINISTERING OF THE WORD

In Acts 6 the Bible records a situation where the Early Church came to a point where some of the members began to accuse the apostles of tribalism. They claimed that because the apostles came from Nazareth, it was like they were giving undue attention to the

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Jews born in Israel and discriminating against those Jews born in other lands.

Today, when people find the slightest problem in a church they begin to complain, “Aah, the church is not supposed to be like that” or “How can this be in the church?” If you carefully read through the records of the Early Church, you will be amazed at the number of problems they had. Some of the problem areas were those of tribalism, rumour mongering, complaining, fornication, etc. With the thousands of people that joined the Early Church, a spirit of complaining began to run in their midst. This came to the notice of the apostles who told them, “We cannot leave the Word of God to take care of the natural things, so choose a few people from among you, men of honest report, good character, who are full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom whom we may appoint over

this business.” It notes in verse 4 that they said, “we would give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministering of the Word.”

The apostles felt that the other things were important but others could take care of the natural things whilst they concentrated on the Word and prayer. So they chose deacons whose qualifications included amongst other things being full of the Holy Spirit and they committed the daily chores to them. If a church should get to the place where God wants it to be, if the needs of the people should be met, then the ministers need to give themselves to teaching and the preaching of the Word and to prayer.

Very often a church where you will notice constant fights between the congregation and the pastor, or perhaps the church complaining that the pastor does not visit them, you will also notice that it turns out to be a powerless church. By the time the pastor completes his visiting rounds, visiting every single member

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of the church, he would have been drained of all his strength. Since he is physically exhausted, he cannot pray and study because prayer is also work. By Sunday, he is so exhausted he just tells stories.

If the pastor is powered up, one word from the presence of the Lord makes all the difference. If the pastor seeks the face of the Lord and comes back from the altar of mercy and grace with his lips touched by the coals of heaven, his heart ignited by the Holy Spirit, and he stands as a representative of God with the authority of heaven backing him. Only one word that he declares will turn the

entire situation around for the flock. Person to person evangelism and visitation is important but you live in your community with the people, you are in the office with the people; therefore, do the personal evangelism and release your pastor to study and pray.

The apostles wanted time for prayer and the ministering of the Word. For this reason, I constantly challenge church workers that despite their busy schedules of rehearsals and studying, they should always make ample time for prayer. If they will add prayer to all that they do, they will receive remarkable results. Our church workers are expected to pray at least two hours every day and our pastors more than two hours a day.

MODERN DAY EXAMPLE

I will end this chapter by quoting the testimonies of two people.

Bishop Hansel Adjei Frimpong says,

When I came into contact with the ministry of Bishop Agyinasare, my life was powerfully impacted. This was in

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February 1988, when I was doing my National Service at the Ghana Secondary School, Tamale, after completing the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi — Ghana. It was during this time that I was introduced to the WMCI and I had the opportunity to observe the prayer life of this great man of God.

What I observed did really impress me. Month by month, he would come to wait on the Lord in a fellow teacher's flat for three to four days.

When he came on his retreats, we would leave him praying

in the morning at about 8 a.m. to go to school. We would return home at about noon to find him still praying. We would go back to school for the afternoon session, come back finally at about 3:30 p.m. and he would still be praying.

I had often thought I knew how to pray but after observing the Bishop for a while, I realized that I still had more roads to cover. Three years later when I became a Pastor of the Church, I realized he was still committed to praying in much the same way as before.

Each Pastor's Conference started with two to three days fasting and prayer, and each day, he would take us through 8-10 hours of prayer. He geared us on with his favourite saying, 'No man is more powerful than his prayer life.'

Today, over 25 years after I first came into contact with the Bishop, those of us who have been privileged to be close to him (as Executive Council Members) are still witnessing the same commitment to prayer. The Executive Council never begins any discussion until we have gone a run of 10 hours of prayer.

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Indeed, the secret of great men are in their stories. Truly, I know that you cannot be sold out to something and not excel in it.

Bishop Hansel Adjei Frimpong, Assistant Bishop,

Perez Chapel International

Mrs. Gifty Affenyi Dadzie writes,

Getting to the altar or more specifically ministering to a

man of God could be most challenging but extremely rewarding.

For the past six years I have had the honour and privilege to minister in various capacities to a man of God whom I have grown to respect, admire and revere. Dr. Asare's faithfulness of heart and his desire to uphold the virtues of not only holiness but integrity and sincerity to the things of God is mind-blowing.

What then accounts for these rare qualities, one might ask.

I believe the answer is simply prayer. His consistency, love and inordinate desire for intense prayer act like a magnet to most

close associates. This magnetic effect inadvertently ushers one into a new realm of prayer life. In his characteristic unselfish manner of sharing his keys to drawing closer to God in prayer, one has no choice but to nurture a new passion for a consistent prayer life.

Sharing a prayer time with Dr. Asare though instructive could be tedious since he is a man who commits himself to long hours of prayer (at least 3 to 15 hours) depending on the topic and urgency of the situation. Due to the fact that he is a 'praying machine' and has done it repeatedly one feels frustrated at the initial stages.

However, it becomes divine and refreshing after a few sessions. What this does, is to place you on a new and different 67

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pedestal in terms of relating to your maker. When the signs of fruitful results or answers to prayer begin to unfold one is quickly tempted to forget about the pain, discomfort and anguish during the long hours of travailing prayer. I believe that as a man approved of God in the miracle ministry, Dr. Asare has had to pay a dear price in denying himself to intercede for the

hurting, lost and demonized to be touched by the power of God. Obviously after these long sessions of prayer regularly he does not pray at length in public. He has a habit of just commanding and it's done in the name of Jesus. Personally I have seen God unravel His mysteries and purposes to His servant many times. During prayer sessions the Spirit of God ministers to him in diverse ways, never would Dr. Asare pray without a notepad and pen beside him. I vividly recall how through such 'agonizing' prayer times God delivered me from a looming danger and a major challenge that confronted our core business in 1997. I have no shadow of doubt that but for God's timely intervention as a response to the 'agonizing' prayer sessions the enemy would have triumphed over us. Thanks be to God for raising giants like Dr. Asare who can confront thrones and dominions through prayer. In line with Scripture that 'we should not lean on our own understanding but acknowledge Him in all our ways and He will direct our path,' it's amazing to see or hear Dr. Asare pray about things that would ordinarily be considered petty. It's really a joy to learn to pray effectively and obtain results."

Elder Mrs. Gifty Affenyi-Dadzie

3 times Ghana Journalists Association President(1996-2002)

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Chapter Four

s

Praying for your Nation

The Bible in the Book of Ephesians 6:18 says, "**Praying always**

with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching

thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” The Bible says, “praying always with all prayer.” In the Amplified Bible, it reads, “pray at all times (on every occasion in every season) in the Spirit with all manner of prayer and entreaty.” This simply means

that there are different types of prayer but we will not be able to consider all the types of prayer in this volume.

We have the prayer of intercession, the prayer of supplication, the prayer of dedication, the prayer of commitment, the prayer of faith, the prayer of petition, united prayer, the prayer of agreement which includes many other different types of prayer and praying for your nation.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said this about prayer, “God is limited by our prayer life; He cannot do anything for mankind unless we ask Him.” When we talk about anything on the surface of the earth, God is limited unless we pray; that is what John Wesley was saying. Why is God limited unless we pray? The answer is in Genesis 1:26-27. The Bible states that God said,

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“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female he created them.”

The Bible says in the beginning God created, male and female.

He then gave them dominion over everything on the face of the earth. God made man a little god over the earth or He made man to be in charge or to rule on the face of the earth. Psalm 8:4,6 says, ***“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou has put all things under his feet .”*** Psalm 82:6 reads, ***“I have said, ye are gods;... ”*** Jesus even asked the Jews in John 10:34, ***“Is it not written in your law, I said ye are gods? ”*** God made us little “gods” or He simply made us to take charge of the earth and to have dominion.

When you refer to Genesis 2:9, the Bible says, ***“When God created everything; they were pleasant to the eye and good for food. ”***

However, when you come to chapter three, the Bible says, ***“And when the woman looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had forbidden man to eat, it was pleasant to the eyes and good for food.”***

Everything God made in the garden was pleasant to the eye and good for food. Now this relates to the problem of lust. Lust tells you that what you have is not good enough; what someone else has is better. In the garden, because of the desire to take what God commanded man not to, he yielded the dominion God gave him

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to the devil. Thus the Bible in 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, ***“In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them who believe not... ”***

The Bible was referring to the devil here as the “god of this world.”

When man obeyed the devil, he immediately relinquished his

rulership, his authority, his ability to control and his dominion over everything on the earth into the hands of the devil. Thus when the

devil came to tempt Jesus in Luke 4:5-6, the Bible says, ***“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it .”***

THOSE IN AUTHORITY

The devil was stating a fact by saying that all the things of the world had been delivered to him; therefore Jesus did not argue with him. Adam had really delivered it to him and this made it difficult for God to come in and do anything for mankind. God is a God of principle and He operates by His laws. It will be very illegal spiritually for God to come in and do anything for mankind if we do not pray. For this reason, the Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:1 that, ***“I exhort therefore, that first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions and the giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God. ”***

A careful look at this Scripture shows that the writer is exhorting all believers that “first of all” we should pray for leadership. This is 71

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our first necessity in prayer. When the church comes together for prayer it is for all men.

It adds that “first of all supplication, prayers, intercession and

the giving of thanks” should be made. It means that we should make requests for people and we should intercede for others. We should also give thanks for the things

The first thing you God is doing in the lives of others. This **have to do is to pray** shows that during the intercessory prayer **for those**

time, you do not start praying for yourself,

in authority.

but for others, for all men, for kings and

for all that are in authority. To be

successful in praying for our nation, the first thing you have to do is to pray for those in authority.

It is very necessary, very important and paramount for us to

pray for those in authority because, first of all, leadership comes

from God. In Psalm 75: 4-7, the Bible says; ***“I said unto the fools,***

Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn: Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west,

nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. ”

The Bible did not use the north in this Scripture because many

times, when the ‘north’ is used in the Bible, it signifies the Throne of God. It signifies the place of Authority, the place of God’s power.

(See Psalm 48:1,2.) Promotion does not come from the east, west

or south, it comes from God. God is the judge. He says that “lift

up not your horn.” This infers that if any one is in leadership, he

should not desire self-aggrandizement. It goes on to add that “do

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not speak with a stiff neck,” meaning those in leadership are not to have a boastful attitude or make boastful assertions.

AUTHORITY COMES FROM GOD

In the book of Daniel, God taught Daniel about leadership so he in turn could teach Nebuchadnezzar. God made him understand that all authority and power emanates from Him, so in Daniel 4:17,25 He said, “*...to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men .*” It is God who sets people in authority.

It is also very important for those in authority and in leadership to recognize

It is God who

the fact that if they are going to be

sets people

successful as leaders they will remember

in authority.

that their leadership role or their authority comes from heaven. You will notice that not all of the world’s leaders are necessarily people of great substance, but God set them up to be people of great substance.

I was reading a testimony of the late President Kennedy and he noted that surprisingly the presidents of America, to a large extent, have come from people who were not all schooled. They had come from diverse backgrounds; some were soldiers, economists,

some from very poor backgrounds, whilst others were from rich backgrounds. He also noted that coming into the presidency is not something you can necessarily learn about, as it is God that sets people there.

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Bishop Agyinasare and team being shown around the presidential palace by President Laurent Gbagbo of COTE D'IVOIRE.(2000)

Bishop Charles Agyinasare meets with H.E. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, 2002.

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A close look at our past heads of state in Ghana also attests to this fact that they had varied backgrounds but God turned them into heads of state. A typical example is our late President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. He was known to have been a stowaway to America

but later on he became our President. It is God that places people in leadership; He takes people out of nowhere and places them in leadership. Other leaders however came from rich backgrounds.

It is very important that in any area of

All power is in

leadership you find yourself, you recognize **God's hands and it** that God put you there. King David in **is He who is able to** his old age remembered and recognized **make people great.**

that it was God who had placed him as

king over Israel. David was a shepherd

boy; he was taking care of sheep when God lifted him and set him up to rule over Israel.

King David says in 1 Chronicles 29:12 that, “**Both riches and honour come out of thee (God) and thou reignest over all; and in your hand is power and might and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all.**” (Brackets mine) This was David's testimony.

David was saying that all power is in God's hands and it is He who is able to make people great and He gives strength to all, the same as in Daniel 2:20 and 21. The Bible adds that, “**He removeth kings**

and setteth up kings, he giveth wisdom to the wise.” God has the power to remove and set up kings. Therefore those in leadership

should not forget this and those who also appreciate leadership

should recognize that it is God who sets up leaders and so we are

obligated to pray for them. Those in leadership, including spiritual leadership, should not forget that whilst one leader is on the scene, God has one in preparation and another in training.









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Receiving the Member of the Order of the Volta from
President J.A. Kofour of Ghana, 2007.

Bishop Agyinasare presenting his books to President
Faure Gnassingbe Togo, 2005

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GOD USES LEADERS FOR HIS PURPOSE

In Romans 13:1,3 the Bible tells us about leadership: “***Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.***

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil...” We find that God sets leadership, and uses rulers as instruments of

judgment. At times, He uses them as instruments of His mercy.
God chooses His leaders and He determines what to use them for.
It however becomes very important

God chooses his

for the people of God to pray for these

leaders and He

leaders. If the people of God pray for the **determines what to**
leaders, they will lead the nation into
use them for.

righteousness but if the people of God do
not pray for them then the nation goes
into unrighteousness. The nation then gets into one calamity upon
the other. God raises a leader who would chastise the nation but if
the people of God would pray against unrighteousness, preach the
Word and ask God to make people live a righteous life, then God
gives a leader who shows mercy and brings the favour and the
blessing of God upon the land.

In the Bible, God raised up Nebuchadnezzar and He brought
him against Israel to teach His people the laws of God, and to
make them remember that they had deserted their God. He later
raised another king — Cyrus — to get His people back to their
land. That was God showing His mercy. He had brought judgment
but God was now showing mercy. If we pray, God will give us the
kind of king or ruler we need to lead us into His blessings and
prosperity.

The Impact of Prayer

In Daniel chapter 6:10, the Bible shows us how Daniel prayed consistently. Even when people conspired against him that he should be stopped from praying, he continued. He prayed despite the threat of being thrown into a lion's den. Instead, everyday Daniel opened his window and faced Jerusalem and the Bible says in Daniel 6:10 that he knelt down and prayed three times a day and gave thanks to his God. In chapters 9 and 10 you find Daniel interceding for Israel. He was talking about the fact that God should remember the promise that He

If we pray, all the

gave Jeremiah His prophet that they

promises that God would be in captivity for seventy years.

has made concern- He prayed that God should release them

ing our land will

because the seventy years time limit was

come to pass.

up. Daniel interceded for the nation; he

prayed that it was time for God to show His people mercy and

God indeed showed His people mercy.

A few years later, God brought King Cyrus, who released

the Israelites from captivity as recorded in 2 Chronicles 36:22.

This shows that if we pray, all the promises that God has made concerning our land will come to pass.

For every country, there are several promises that God has

made. However, these promises will not come to pass unless the

people of God pray. Unless the people of God pray that those in authority would give us good governance, it will not happen. Paul said to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18 that he should wage a good warfare with the prophecies or (promises) that had come upon him. The kind of government we get as a nation is dependent on the prayers of the saints.









Praying for your Nation

Bishop Charles Agyinasare fellowships with the Prime
Minister of Togo,
H.E. Gilbert Hounbo, 2009.

President Atta Mills surprise visit to Perez Dome to wish Bishop
Agyinasare Happy 50th Birthday (April 2012)

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The Impact of Prayer

Jesus said in Matthew 5:13, “***You are the salt of the earth, if
the salt loses its flavour, it is thrown away and trodden under feet.***”

It means that we have the ability to season our nation and to
determine the direction in which it should go. If we will pray, then God will

intervene, influence leadership and those in authority in the way that it should go so that blessings and prosperity will come to our land. We get all kinds of entities claiming they have power, but real power is in the hands of the Christian who prays. You have the power to transform and the power to change the situations around you. No wonder the Bible exhorts us in 1 Timothy 2:1 that, ***“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour. ”***

THE GOD KIND OF LEADER

Christians have the power to determine by their prayers the kind of government they want to live under. Christians can just pray for a leader and they will get a leader after the qualifications of men like king Saul. They can also ask God to give them a leader after His own heart and God will give them someone like David. The Bible tells us the qualifications a God kind of leader should have, or the qualifications people who rule over us have to exhibit. There are two major qualifications God asks of his leaders in

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Praying for your Nation

2 Samuel 23:2. The Bible states, ***“The Spirit of the Lord spake by me and his word was in my tongue.***

The God of Israel said the Rock of Israel spake to me, he that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

*And he shall be as the light of the morning when the sun riseth,
even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of
the earth by clear shining after rain. ”*

The writer says that by the revelation of the Spirit of the Lord,
these are the qualifications of those whom God wants to rule over
people. Firstly, they should be just and secondly they should rule in the fear of
God. The Bible says that if the person who would rule
is just and would rule in the fear of God,
then their light shall shine like the **Leaders should**
morning.

be just and they

In the morning when the sun begins **should rule in the**
to shine, you cannot stop it. It gets so
fear of the Lord.

bright, and is so beautiful. It does not
hurt but it is beautiful. The Bible adds, “even as a morning without clouds, as the
tender grass springing out of the earth by the clear
shining after rain.” When the grass starts growing and it springs
out of the earth, it is very beautiful, delicate and tender. If anyone would rule,
they should first exhibit these qualities. Then they
would shine, prosper and go forward.

Charles Finney, in the 1800s, advised American Christians
concerning their vote. He made them aware that they should
withhold their vote from any candidate who did not fulfill the moral requirement
established by Scripture. This moral requirement
established by the Scriptures is the Ten Commandments.

The Impact of Prayer

SATAN OR GOD

Praying for leadership is very strategic and very important because God and the devil are always looking for a way to influence leadership. If God gets hold of leadership, then the nation prospers, but if the devil gets hold of leadership, there is trouble. If a leader is a godly leader but at one time the devil gets hold of him, the nation will go through a lot of trouble.

In the book of 1 Chronicles 21:1, the Bible says, “***And Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel.***” Does this Scripture mean God does not want us to count people? You might wonder whether God does not believe in statistics but that is not it. In the book of Numbers, (which is dedicated to the statistics of God’s people) God told Moses to number all Israel.

However, when King David came to the throne, God so prospered him that God did not want him to take note of the soldiers he had and the people he could use in battle. God wanted to take all the glory and not David. The Bible shows that Satan stood up against Israel and he provoked David to count the people. As a result of David’s yielding to the devil’s influence the Bible says seventy thousand people died in one day. (See 1 Chronicles 21:14.)

What this means is that if the devil is able to get hold of leadership on only one occasion, the nation will go through a lot of challenges. Remember what happened to the world when the devil got hold of Hitler. There was a holocaust; in fact millions of people died, apart from the six million Jews who were exterminated. In Africa when the devil got hold of Idi Amin in Uganda, it was a

disaster.

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In many countries today, you can notice the unreasonable scale of atrocities that are being committed because some of the leaders who call themselves “war lords” have allowed themselves to be influenced by the devil. Today, these nations are devastated. However, if we follow the precepts of God and pray for our nations, we will be spared these atrocities and God alone will influence these leaders for our good.

Battles have been going on for generations before we were born. God wants to influence man for his good and the devil also wants to influence man to destroy him. Therefore when we pray, we are actually breaking the devil’s hold over the lives of people and asking God to intervene. We are actually asking God to come in and change things on our behalf.

The devil likes to operate in three major realms of authority. These realms **When we pray, we** are political authority, religious authority, **are actually break-** and economic authority. This is the reason **ing the devil’s hold** you find a lot of churches around but at **over the lives of**

the same time there is a lot of demonic **people and asking** activity going on even in religious circles. **God to intervene.**

If there is any circle which has a lot of counterfeits, it is in the area of religion

and among religious leaders.

Another area where the devil likes to hold sway is in the political arena. When you get into the political arena, you meet all kinds of people in authority who are involved in all kinds of practices, all kinds of invocations, sorcery, witchcraft, incantations and Satanic religious practices simply because the devil is using

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them. If he can grasp their minds, then he can influence them to bring to pass his plans and purposes.

When you go into the economic arena, the business arena, you will find all kinds of successful men and women, who are into all kinds of cults and secret societies.

Those in the leadership of these realms of authority like to belong to secret societies and Lodges etc. You would hardly find a lot of ordinary people in secret societies because the devil is trying to get hold of those in authority. It is the basic reason why we have to pray so that those who are in charge of our political arena would be people who are influenced by God. We will also need to pray so

that the Spirit of God would influence

Pray to yield these those who are in charge of our religious **institutions to the** and economic arenas. If the devil should **kingdom of God.**

influence the economic sphere of our

lives, you can imagine the kind of

decisions that would be taken. In the end, it would not bring prosperity to the whole nation; only a few people in the society will enjoy the prosperity of the nation.

The devil wants to rule anywhere he finds an institution which controls the thoughts of masses of people. We have to pray to yield these institutions to the kingdom of God to take charge so that our nations would experience the mercies and the divine intervention of God.

We will need to pray that wherever people's minds are being taught and people are being spoken to, and wherever the masses are, the Spirit of God would rule and take charge of those in authority, so that He can influence them.

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Praying for your Nation

STANDING IN THE GAP

In Genesis 18, you would notice that Abraham, as one man, was able to intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah. He prayed and asked, "God if you find fifty righteous men in Sodom and Gomorrah, would you destroy the land?" because God had told him the sins of Sodom were so bad that He was going to destroy the city. In the city, men were sleeping with men, women were sleeping with women; all kinds of atrocities were being committed. They were killing without realizing that it was a crime. God told His friend Abraham about His plans to destroy the land. If you are a child of God, He will reveal to you the disasters that would come.

The Bible says, "***If the salt loses its savour then it is good for nothing***" (Matthew 5:13). The world is preserved because of the believers in it. The people of God are

virtually holding the hand of God at bay. **If you are a child of**

They are holding at bay the curses the **God, He will reveal** nation has brought upon itself and asking **to you the disasters** that God should intervene, that He **that would come.** should have mercy on the land.

Abraham prayed and asked, “God, if you get forty people, what would you do?” God said, “Abraham, whatever you say.” Until Abraham stopped, God was ready to bring a change in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be delivered by the prayers of Abraham. You know Elijah was also able to intercede to move the hand of God for Israel. God is looking for people who would pray.

In the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 22:30, it says, “***And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it, but I found none.***”

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Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them, I have consumed them with the fire of wrath; their own way have I recompensed upon their hands, saith the Lord God.” God said that He sought for a man who would stand in the gap so that He would not destroy the people. You are that man

You are the

or that woman that God has sought in **watchman God has** this generation so that our judgment **set in your nation** would not begin. In Isaiah 62:1,2,6,7 **to intercede.**

God says that He has set watchmen over the walls of Jerusalem who will not rest until God establishes His glory in the land. You are the watchman God has set in your nation to intercede until His name is established in your country.

The Scripture we read in 1 Timothy 2, mentions also that we must pray for leaders and for those in authority so we will have good governance. When there is good government, there would be peace and joy in the land. When there is peace and joy in the land, it helps the preaching of the gospel.

In Jeremiah 29:7, God said to the people, “***And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.***” If the nation is not at peace, there is no prosperity. If there is looting on the streets, you cannot have peace to enjoy whatever wealth you have made. You cannot do your work neither can you go about your business. If there is a state of emergency you cannot dare to go out. As such, we must pray that the nation will have peace; for in its peace, you will also have your peace.

I want to quote from *Celebrating the Pilgrimage of Life: Bishop Charles Agyinasare*, the first 40 years pages 28 & 29.





Prevailing Prayer

President John Mahama of Ghana visits Perez Dome and calls it the seventh wonder of Ghana (November 2012)

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING

“In November 2000, Bishop Charles Agyinasare was invited to preach and help pray for the new President of La Côte d’Ivoire in his inaugural thanksgiving service. He preached and instructed the new political leaders of that country on what to do to secure righteousness and honesty for the nation and also exhorted the believers to see their role in praying to reconcile the nation. The nation at this point was in turmoil. A year earlier, the military under General Guei had overthrown the constitutionally elected

government headed by Mr. Konan Bedie. The Supreme Court under Mr. Bedie had declared Mr. Alhassan Outara (the former prime minister to the first president, the late Mr. Houphet Boigny) as a non-citizen of the country. General Guei promised to lead the nation into an election, which he did and also contested as a

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presidential candidate. General Guei lost the election to Laurent Gbagbo but refused to step down. The electorate therefore took to the streets and demanded Mr. Gbagbo be installed president. The supporters of General Guei, Alhassan Outara and Laurent Gbagbo began to stir the nation into unrest. Mr. Gbagbo was installed President and two weeks later, the bishop was invited to his inaugural thanksgiving service.

“Three months later, the Bishop went for a ‘Cote D’Ivoire for Jesus Crusade’ in Abidjan, which registered tremendous results. The President of Cote D’Ivoire invited him and his team to dine with him and to share the gospel with him and some of his senior cabinet ministers. Since then the bishop has become a personal friend to the Ivorian President. Their relationship is so cordial that when H.E. Laurent Gbagbo visited Ghana in May 2001 he worshiped at the headquarters of the Word Miracle Church International.

“The President has gone ahead to invite these three major political opponents who had been in exile and whose supporters are causing trouble to return and sit down to reconcile the nation.

It is believed that this began when the saints began to pray for the nation after the inaugural thanksgiving service.

PREPARING A NATION

“At the invitation of Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Imakando (whose local church in Lusaka had grown to over eight thousand people) Bishop Charles Agyinasare in November 2001 went to Zambia to break grounds for Imakando’s 10,000-seater auditorium.

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“It was close to election time and the Vice President of Zambia was at the function. Bishop Charles Agyinasare admonished the Christians to pray, and that the country will not plunge into chaos by politicians who would lose the election.

“A month later, the election was held and some candidates were not happy with the results. However, instead of leading the country to civil war as had been predicted by many political observers, the situation was calm. God had used his servant, Bishop Charles Agyinasare as a prophet to the Zambians, who also took God’s servant seriously and prayed for their nation.”

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Chapter Five

s

Prevailing Prayer

Let us consider fervent and prevailing prayer. In James 5:16, the Bible makes a powerful observation. It says, “***The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.***” Charles Finney says, “Prevailing or effectual prayer is that prayer which attains the blessing it seeks. It is that prayer which effectually moves God.” Let us consider in the Bible some who prayed fervent and prevailing prayers.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS BY FIRE

One of them the Bible calls Elijah or Elias. He prayed a fervent and prevailing prayer, which we can find in 1 Kings 18. As a nation, Israel had come to a place where they were torn between two opinions as to their worship of God. When they got into that confusion, God raised Prophet Elijah to confront the situation. Elijah decreed and there was no rain in Israel for three-and-a-half years. Then there was a contest between the prophets of Baal on one side and Elijah on the other. Elijah threw a challenge to each

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side to offer a sacrifice to their God/gods. The God or gods who would answer by fire would be the genuine God.

The prophets of Baal prayed from morning to about three in the afternoon and no fire came. At a point, they started to cut themselves with knives so that they would bleed; they screamed

and rolled on the ground calling on Baal to bring fire down, but no fire fell. When it was 3 p.m., Elijah told them to stand aside and then he wet the sacrifice with water, dug a trench around the sacrifice, filled it with water and made it seemingly impossible for God to get a fire burning. He asked that if God was the only true God, He would eat up the sacrifice with fire. Immediately the Bible tells us the fire fell.

In 1993, I was invited to preach in India in Tamil Nadu State in the town of Chengham. This is a Hindu town that had never experienced a crusade before because, according to the pastor who invited me, whenever anyone tried to hold a crusade there, the Hindu monks levitated (suspended) in the air. The attention of the people became drawn to these monks and the crusade would fail. Having prayed up for the crusade, on the first night I declared, “I am not here as a politician or a banker but I am here as an Ambassador of Christ with the authority of heaven behind me and anyone who will suspend in the air will remain there.” To the glory of God, no one attempted to levitate. The pastor later told me, “No one had ever dared these monks publicly in this town before.”

When I finished preaching I asked for the deaf and dumb to come forward and a 27-year-old deaf and dumb man from birth was brought to me. I stuck my finger in his ears and prayed simply “In the Name of Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord, may your ears

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pop open.” Immediately, the young man began to hear and speak.

That night many Hindu monks gave their lives to Jesus.

Elijah's example of fervent prayer was for God to move and cause rain to come. We can see the fervency of Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:1. After this, Elijah said unto Ahab, "Get thee up and eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain" (1 Kings 18:41). Elijah had now spoken the mind of God to the king.

When there is a crisis in the nation or crises in a town, the unbelievers and the people who do not know God have the liberty to wine and dine but you as a child of God, do not have that liberty because you are obligated by God to pray until there are results.

TRAVAIL BRINGS DELIVERY

If the nations are to become what they should, it would depend on the prayers of the saints. Verses 42 and 43 say, ***"So Ahab went to eat and drink. And Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel; and he cast himself down on the earth, and put his face between his knees."***

depend on the

And said to his servant, Go up now,

prayers of

look towards the sea. And he went up, and

the saints.

looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times."

After Elijah said to Ahab to go and eat and drink, Ahab left,

and Elijah put his face between his knees. Putting your head between your knees was the way the women of the Orient or the

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Middle East used to labour during childbirth. As Elijah prayed that way, he was travailing in prayer.

The Bible says in Isaiah 66:8, ***“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”*** It takes travail to bring to birth. There is no woman who gives birth without going through

birth pangs, or travailing. It takes travail to bring forth a child. In the same way, it takes travail in prayer; it takes prevailing prayer to bring the purposes of God to pass in the nation, in your life, in the lives of your friends and in the lives of the people you know.

Elijah put his head between his knees and began to pray and said to his servant, “go to the top and see.” The servant went and came back six times, saying “Master, I don’t see anything.” If the servant went to the place that Elijah sent him and Elijah was still in prayer then it would have taken some time. If you are praying fervent prevailing prayers then it means that it might take some time. If you pray the prayer of faith, all you do is to just speak to the situation and you expect it to be done. But if you are praying prevailing and travailing prayer, then you keep on with the prayers until you see the manifestation of the answer.

As people of God, we cannot just say, “I prayed for so and so last week and prayed for that last week and so I have stopped.” No,

we have to keep on, until we see the manifestation of what we are asking God for concerning His blessings upon our lives, friends and nation. Every great move of God is achieved through prayer. At this time in the world, God is looking for people who can pray prevailing and sustained prayers; those who can go on and on









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beseeking God that He will do something. Elijah stayed at it until the Bible says his servant came back after the sixth time. Elijah said, “Go again seven times.” ***“And then it came to pass at the seventh time that he said, Behold there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea like a man’s hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.”***

Lady who had an accident and became crippled and came with clutches and in P.O.P to Abidjan crusade. (LA COTE D’IVOIRE-2001)

Lady who came with P O P

went home healed. COTE
D'IVOIRE crusade.

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A MAN OF LIKE PASSIONS

This is how Elijah was able to get the rain to fall. He had to stay at it until he saw a sign of the cloud. If you are praying prevailing prayers, you have got to pray until you have a release in your spirit.

Until you know on your inside that you know it is done. You have to keep praying till you know that something has happened and that the power of God is going to be manifested. The Bible says Elijah was a man of like passion. Elijah had the same temptations as you and I. He had the same weaknesses as you and I have. Elijah had the same challenges; in fact after he had called down fire and prayed that there would be rain when there had not been rain for the past three-and-a-half years, Jezebel threatened that she was going to kill him so he went to hide in a cave and said, "God, take my life." If he really wanted to die, he should have stayed where Jezebel would have killed him. Many times we say to God, "You can do whatever you want with my life," but when it comes to the nitty gritty, we want to escape. I mean, we do not really mean what we talk about always.

AND THE RAIN STOPPED

The Bible says Elijah was a man of like passion, but he prayed and he changed the situation. With all your limitations and challenges, God is saying that, if you will pray, He will hear.

You remember the Acheampong regime when there was a severe drought and people were blaming Kutu Acheampong for all things including the no-rain situation.

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No.44

THE

INDEPENDENT

And The

By

Rain

Kabral

Blay-Amihere

Stopped

Wednesday, October 4th - 10th October, 1995 US \$1.00

UK .50 ¢300

That was when he made his famous statement — “Am I God to give you rain?

Brethren, on Tuesday, September 26, 1995, the link between rain and God was established at the Word Miracle Church International [now Perez Chapel International].

It went like this — at about 8:25 p.m. the kind of rain they call cats and dogs started pouring all over the city. It was as if we were going to experience the kind of heavy downpour we had on July 4, 1995 that resulted in flood and deaths in Accra.

But the rain was not to fall for long. Two minutes into the rainfall, the Head Pastor of the Word Miracle Church International uttered these words “In the name of the Lord I say that this rain will stop in five minutes.”

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The Thomas in me overtook my feelings and I said to myself can this really happen? Will the rain stop?

You won’t believe it, just as the storm stopped at the command of Jesus Christ to the amazement of the disciples, the cats and dogs rainfall stopped after five minutes as commanded by Bishop Charles Agyinasare to the equal amazement of the congregation. God had spoken.

After witnessing this miracle, Kabral became a member of the local church pastored by Bishop Agyinasare.

At the time Kabral wrote this, he was President of both the Ghana Journalists Association and the West Africa Journalists Association.

Currently, he is Ghana’s High Commissioner to Sierra Leone.

AGONA SWEDRU CRUSADE

Dr. Prince Baah Head Pastor at Calvary Crusaders Ministry, Swedru noted the following in October 2001.

The Lord used Bishop Charles Agyinasare during the recent Swedru Crusade to His Glory.

The first day of the crusade recorded about eight deaf and

*dumb mutes healed and many cripples walking and other
outstanding miracles.*

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Twelve-year-old girl who walked by crawling with her hands and feet Denu crusade (Ghana) 2001

Mother of Twelve-year-old girl who crawled demonstrating how her daughter came to the crusade, whilst daughter demonstrates she can stand on her own now. Denu Crusade (Ghana) 2001

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The most memorable event took place on the second day of the crusade. Just about the time the Bishop was introduced to preach, it started drizzling and many people started retreating to seek shelter because there was a threat of a heavy downpour. But the Bishop, gazing into the heavens, commanded the rain

to stop until he preached the Word of the Lord. In a matter of seconds, the weather was clear and he preached. That day was really anointed with many thousands receiving Jesus as Lord and Saviour when they saw the power of God demonstrated in such a manner.

Among the notable healings was the case of a nurse who had been sick for years; she had to be carried to the meeting but she walked home completely healed.

He never prays for the sick like many others do by shouting and screaming; he only commands the demons and the spirits behind the ailment come out, and the healing of God to flow into their bodies and miracles happen.

Charles is a man approved of God with signs, miracles and wonders.

THE LIMP

Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord. He ended up limping. If you knew Jacob before he wrestled with the angel, he was walking normally but when he wrestled with the angel, he asked for the blessing and told the angel he would not let him go till he had blessed him. The angel touched him and Jacob was transformed. (See Genesis 32:24-31 .)

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When you saw Jacob the following day he was dirty all over and limping but he was also carrying the blessing. That is the joy of wrestling with God in prayer. You might be affected but you will

come out with the blessing.

I remember in 1994, God had been speaking to me to move from Tamale (Northern Ghana) to the city of Accra for two years. I was quite established in the north and besides I was looking at all the giants in Accra and wondering whether I should move. I had also always believed there were more preachers in Accra than any other part of Ghana, and so the cutting edge preachers should be evenly distributed in the nation. However, God had His own plans.

While I was struggling, war broke out in the north and many people were killed. I had to go around preaching to raise funds to enable some of our pastors in the north to be paid. In the midst of these challenges, I knew I had to relocate to Accra. When I moved to Accra, I did not have a place of my own and had to stay in just one room in my father's house. I had to stay there with all my kids, my wife and all my belongings. The place was so crowded that some of my things were on the corridor.

In the midst of this, I saw what looked like the end of my ministry. So every night, instead of sleeping, with all my children in that one room, after they had gone to bed, I got out of the house and prayed until the wee hours of the morning. I kept on praying

“God you cannot allow the Word Miracle Church to go down.

This ministry has to come up again,” I prayed night after night. We needed money to be established in the city. Nobody was willing to loan us money to establish the church in the city because there was nothing that showed that we could pay back the money. Night

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after night, I sought the face of God. By His grace, God opened the door and I was able to sell some of my books on a trip abroad.

I used the money to turn an old dilapidated warehouse into an auditorium. I needed at least \$10,000 to fix the place up.

It took a miracle for me to get the \$10,000 but God gave me

favour. I had written the first edition of my second book *Rooted and Built Up in Him*. God put His favour upon that book so that some African Pastors overseas invited me and bought a great amount of

books for their church and church workers. My honorariums on those trips were also wired back together with the sales of my book immediately for us to work on the property. I was with my wife and baby on that trip. One day my wife asked me for money to buy a simple necklace (she hardly asks me for money so I try my best to provide for her when she does) and I said we could not afford it lest we would not have enough to renovate the property. When she blinked, tears began to run down her face. I could understand her feeling. She had toiled carrying a little baby, traveling and praying with me on that trip. From Germany to London we had to go by ship instead of by air so we could save money. It was our first trip by sea and both my little girl and my wife fell sick on arrival at London. It was part of the price we paid to put the building in order.

This meeting place was in the centre of the city. God gave us the favour we needed but I developed a severe headache because of my sleeplessness. When we began on our first Sunday morning

service, we had 70 people. At the end of the year we grew to 3,000. By the end of the second year we were 5,000. By the end of the third year we were over 8,000. After that we began to plant other churches in the city of Accra and by the end of seven years, we

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had 13 churches in the metropolis. After six years when we all came together, we were over 20,000 people. By the time we started growing, I was carrying a severe headache, which showed itself anytime I pushed myself but I carried a blessing of church growth our nation had not experienced before then. God being so good, after about two years, the headache was healed. However, whenever I push myself beyond a certain point, it shows itself as a reminder of my wrestling for the blessing.

Church history abounds with men and

Church history

women who prayed themselves sick for a **abounds with men** revival to breakout, like David Barinerd

and women who

who kept lying in the snow to pray that **prayed themselves** he would have a breakthrough amongst

sick for a revival

the native Americans until he coughed

to breakout.

blood. Finney prayed, rising every morning at 4 o'clock to go out into the

country and pray until 8 o'clock. Epaphroditus also prayed and worked himself sick for the Philippians. (See Philippians 2:25-30.)

When we began in Accra, one of the things that helped us get the results that we have had apart from my personal prayer was that every month I would take my associates out to fast and pray for three days. We fasted and prayed at least eight hours non-stop asking God to give us breakthroughs. As we returned, the multitudes just flooded in, eager to experience God's miracle touch and His power.

We experienced that kind of revival from 1994 through to 1998 when we had to move from where we were to Dzorwulu. The Revival has continued. The workload and time spent in prayer took its toll on me so greatly that I broke down in health but after some 102

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rest I recovered. I realized that I needed time to rest and recover if I should stay alive and continue praying.

History proves that one of the things that destroys revivals is the lack of rest. So I realized that with all the results we are getting, I need to take a rest and let things move at a certain pace that God wants it to move. But beloved I know by experience that the key to revival is prayer.

THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

There is a story in the New Testament of prevailing prayer in

Luke 11:1. "***And it came to pass, that as he was praying in a certain***

place, when He ceased, one of his disciples said to him, Lord teach us

to pray, as John also taught his disciples." Now the disciples used to see Jesus pray and He prayed long. They told Jesus to teach them

to pray. They did not say, “Teach us how to pray” but “Teach us to pray. That is, show us how to stay at it.” So Jesus taught them the pattern of the Lord’s Prayer (vs. 2-13).

Now Jesus told them a story to illustrate His point thus, “That which of you shall have a friend and shall get to his house at midnight and say “Friend.”

Now God is our Friend and Jesus was saying which of us would go to God and say “I have another friend that has visited me at midnight.” Do not forget that when the Bible uses the word “midnight” at times it means your darkest hour or your times of problems and challenges.







The Impact of Prayer

Twelve year old girl who crawled on hands and feet, clapping

hands for being able to stand and walk on her own. Denu
Crusade 2001

A wheelchair that carried a crippled man lifted after his healing
as a trophy of God's power. Ukraine Crusade
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In the kingdom of God there is always darkness before daylight.
At creation, the Bible always says, "The evening and the morning
were the first day" or "the second day" or "the third day," etc.
So Jesus asked them, "which of you here shall have a friend
visit him at his midnight hour, (at the time of his challenges and
problems, when he is going through lean times, and when he is
going under) and you will go to your Friend (who is God) at
midnight and God will say He is probably doing something
or He probably does not want to listen to

God is looking

you." He says that, "if that Friend does

for people who

not want to give, merely because he is his

will bring His

friend, because of his importunity,

solutions to their

persistence or prevailing in that situation,

hurting world.

that Friend would give him even though
he is sleeping with his children."

Imagine you are in a house and a friend comes to knock at your door at midnight persistently and you tell him, “I am sleeping” and he keeps banging at the door saying, “I am in trouble, I need your help.” When this continues for a while, you will be fed up, arise and help the person.

In the same way when we come to Him with importunate prayer, God, being our Friend, will listen to us and give us everything we need in times of need so that we might be a blessing to the world. The bread the world needs is the Word of God. God is looking for people who will bring His solutions to their hurting world. This world is hurting and what will save and help it, is God’s Word and God’s power. It will take the hand of God and He has nobody but you and me as friends of God to be able to reach out to be a blessing to the people in dire need in this generation.

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In the Oxford dictionary, importunity is defined as making persistent, pressing request. It also means getting to somebody at an inconvenient period. The Bible is saying that if you are asking, God might not give it but because of your importunity, He might give it to you. The Amplified Version renders the verse this way. ***“I tell you although he will not get up and supply anything because he is his friend, yet because of his shameless persistence and insistence, He will give him .”*** In Luke 11:9 it says, “ask and it will be given unto you.” The verse 9 of the Amplified version puts it this way, ***“so I say to you, ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you, seek***

and keep on seeking and you shall find. Knock and keep on knocking and it shall be opened unto you .” We should keep coming to God in prayer because your persistence will always break every resistance.

If you are going to prevail in prayer then it means when you start seeking you do not stop until you find. When you start knocking, you do not stop until the door is opened for you. It simply means that when you start asking, you do not stop until it is given unto you. At a point like this in the history of this world, God is looking for people who can pray until they see results. This world is going through challenges and God raised you so that you can pray and change the tide and turn situations round.

Countries have gone for elections and they have ended in confusion. Before our elections in Ghana in 1992, 1996, and 2000, the Christians prayed that there would be no violence and it was so. Do not forget that prevailing prayer gets answers from God.

There are certain times that when we come to God, we cannot just pray the prayer of petition. In the prayer of petition, all you do is to say that “God this is my desire. I have prayed for it. I have not seen 106

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it. I believe I receive.” There are times the kind of prayers that will get us the answers we need are the fervent and prevailing prayers.

PRINCE OF PERSIA

In Daniel 9:2, Daniel says he understood by the books. He had been reading and studying (the Word of God) and he found out that through the prophet Jeremiah God had prophesied that Israel would be in captivity for 70 years, and now the 70 years had come to pass and Israel was still in captivity in Babylon. When

he understood by the books, (Word of God) he set himself to fast and pray according to Daniel 10. When he began to fast and pray, the Bible says God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel. (See Daniel 10:12-13.) When the angel came, this is what he said, ***“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”***

Now Daniel had set himself to fast and pray for 21 days. He was doing this that the name of God be manifested in the nation Israel and that God would get them out of captivity in Babylon. So the angel told him that, “The first day you began to pray God heard you and God gave me the answer for you, but when I was coming the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me.”

This is not a physical prince. If the prince of Persia stopped the angel Gabriel, then you can understand what happens to our

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prayers. In 2 Kings 19:35, the Bible tells us one angel slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. So the prince of Persia being spoken of here is not a physical human being because then the angel would have been able to kill him. In this world, we have two kingdoms. There is the natural kingdom and the spiritual kingdom. A lot of the times, the decisions that are taken in the natural are influenced

from the spiritual. So the angel Gabriel was saying to Daniel that when you started praying, the answer was given to me but there was a resistance in the heavenlies.

We have more than one heaven. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 12:2 that Paul said he knew a man in Christ more than 14 years ago who was caught up to the third heaven. There are three heavens and that is the reason why the people who have gone into space have still not seen God, and they are never going to see Him just by going to space.

1. The First Heaven — is just above us, we call it the “atmospheric heaven that surrounds the earth.” The primary meaning of heaven is “that which is above.” This is the blanket of air around the earth which is approximately 20 miles in height. Rain, hail, thundering and lighting etc. come from this place. The Bible calls the sky as “heaven” in Genesis 1:26, Deuteronomy 11:11,17, 2 Chronicles 7:13, Isaiah 55:9-11, Psalm 147:8, Matthew 24:30.

2. The Second Heaven — where the sun, moon, stars and the planets move; or celestial heaven. This is where the astronauts go to (as far as they can go). This is higher and larger than the atmospheric heaven. It extends for light years showing the greatness and majesty of God. Genesis 1:14;15:5, Psalm 33:6, Isaiah 14:12, Jeremiah 23:24.

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3. The Third Heaven — This is where God is seated, where

the throne of God is. “***Flesh and blood shall not inherit the Kingdom of heaven***” (1 Corinthians 15:50). You cannot see God physically and live. Exodus 33:20. You either have to

die first or have to be translated into the image of Christ to do that. It is the highest heaven or heaven of heavens. Paul was caught up here. It is from here the angels are dispatched by God on specific missions and return for further instructions. Exodus 20:22, Deuteronomy 4:36, Isaiah 57:15; 63:15, Matthew 3:17; 18:10, Luke 2:13-15; 22:43

All three heavens are spiritual spheres with different degrees of unseen inferences.

Satan rules in the first two heavens and so is called the “***prince of the power of the air***.” (See Ephesians 2:2.)

The angel told Daniel that when he was bringing the answer, the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood him. Even though there was a physical ruler of Persia, there was also a spiritual ruler in Persia. That spiritual ruler was making sure that the promises of God would not come to pass. There is a spiritual ruler of the kingdoms of this earth. In Luke 4:5-7, when Jesus was being tempted, the devil took Him to the pinnacle of the temple and showed Him the kingdoms of the world and their glories therein and said to Him, “These kingdoms have been delivered unto me and I give them to whomsoever that I will.” The devil was saying, “even though all these kingdoms are natural I want you to know that I am in charge of them.” Jesus did not argue with him; however, He went to the cross and defeated the devil and gave us

authority to wrest the kingdoms of this world from Satan's hands
so we can rule over them.

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Chapter Six

s

Winning Our Cities For
Christ

For every city or nation, there is a spiritual prince and that spiritual prince also determines and influences what will happen in the city or nation.

The key to the salvation of the nations is in our hands. We have spiritual insight and we have knowledge. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:12, “***For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***”

Prayer here is referred to as wrestling; it is also called warfare according to 2 Corinthians 10:3,4. We have to pray till the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ. (See Revelation 11:15.)

PRINCIPALITIES

I learnt about principalities experientially. When I began my ministry in 1983, I did not know by any book or material that when

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you are going to any city you have to pray and take over the principalities that rule the place. Before I went into my first major crusade in March 1985, the Spirit of God gave me an experience. The Holy Ghost led me into fasting and prayer for three days. As I fasted and prayed one

afternoon, I began to see into the spirit with my eyes opened. I found myself fighting with a python that had 12 heads and another head on top of the rest. This serpent coiled around me and began to squeeze the air out of me. I began to bind the spirit in the Name of Jesus for a time. Gradually, the snake began to grow weaker and weaker till it released its grip on me and fell off.

I came back to myself and immediately the Holy Spirit told me, “That was the principality that ruled Asamankese (the town I was going to).” I therefore went into that meeting without posters or handbills. The town was literally turned upside right for Jesus. We had 21 days of miracles, healings, signs and wonders. The meeting itself was reported in a weekly, “The Mirror,” since the daughter of a journalist was healed and he felt what was happening was news.

The principality that rules a city can at times indwell a particular human being. When I prepared for my Akim Oda (a town in Ghana) Miracle Crusade two weeks later, in a dream, I saw a woman with a very beautiful face but the hairs on her head were serpents. We began to fight till she was overpowered. This made me know that, that was the principality that ruled the town. I went into the town for a 10-day power packed meeting. One afternoon, a lady came to visit me in the mission house where I was staying. She was a very prominent personality in the town. When I came out to meet her, the face was the same as the lady I saw in the dream and the hair was also plaited in small bits. (This does not mean hair plaited in small bits indicates snakes.) When our eyes

met, we both knew we knew each other. We had met in the realm of the Spirit. She requested that I pray for her but the Holy Spirit ministered to me that, she had failed spiritually so she wanted to harm me physically by making me lay hands on her head. Paul said to Timothy, “**Lay hands suddenly on no man nor share in their sins**” (1 Timothy 5:22,23). Nonetheless I should not be afraid, but I should lay my hands on her head to prove to her that “greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.” I did, and nothing happened to me; and from that day it was as if the heavens were opened. We had miracles upon miracles in the meetings.

It was these experiences that explained what happened when Daniel was praying. There was a principality that ruled the place, i.e. the prince of Persia. Before I went to Akim Oda, I spent three days in fasting and prayer. I did not have time to fast again and I went to another city called Ewisa. I had a successful crusade there. After that, I moved to another town. For about two months without another fast, we were going from town to town holding crusades and I experienced the power of God because in every town I would go, I would pray and take authority over the principalities and pull down the strongholds that ruled the place. We saw results and we experienced miracles, signs and wonders like never before.

In a typical crusade or city taking event, we researched and asked for the spirits that ruled the place, checked the state symbol (because there are times it helps you understand the principality that rules the place), the habits of the people, the social implications on the people e.g. in Lome the national capital of Togo before the crusade we found out that;





Winning Our Cities For Christ

a) The people paid homage to marine spirits, or spirits in the rivers, fertility gods and goddesses, gods of divination, rain, protection deities. They also depended on lucky charms, ancestral Some of the trophies of God's miracle working power on the fourth night before (Denu crusade — 2001)

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spirits were worshiped for their daily existence. They worshiped and feared the gods of vengeance and retribution.

b) The state symbol situated at their independence square which was a state monument was the image of a naked woman seated on a traditional throne; they called it the spirit of the sea (Esprit de Sirène des Eaux).

c) The people were discouraged, disappointed because of political and economic challenges facing the country. There was confusion also about Christianity because some people who practised occultism disguised it as church and were exposed.

d) Because there was no fear of God and the people were frustrated, they lied to succeed, corruption was everywhere, prostitution had risen to high levels. Even though a small country of almost 5 million people in West Africa it had the second highest cases of HIV/AIDS. A week before the crusade I had a dream in which the President of the nation had bowed and was kneeling before me. I woke up knowing the principality that ruled the nation was subdued.

We held a four-day Gospel Crusade and three-day School of Ministry for Pastors and church leaders from the 18th to the 21st of December 2001. We recorded over 2,000 leaders daily for the School of Ministry.

The first night of the crusade, we had seven deaf and dumb persons and two blind people healed, four cripples walking and many other notable miracles taking place. On one of the days an HIV/AIDS patient carried to the grounds went back home walking and running by herself.

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BEHIND THE CURTAIN

I knew by precept in the Word that the angel had told Daniel that he had to battle with the prince of Persia. (See Daniel 10:13.) I have also learnt by experience that principalities rule localities.

You can even identify a principality that rules a place by the most prevalent life style and habits of the people.

In the city of Tamale where I was the founder and senior minister in the church, it was said that a church could not grow beyond a certain number. Before I arrived there, I identified the principalities that ruled the city and did warfare with those spirits.

We became the fastest growing church and largest single congregation there. To God be the glory. Today, there are so many independent churches in the city. Thank God.

At times, the principality that rules a particular locality may indwell a river, stream, hills, or even mountains. A typical example is the

principality that rules the city of Koforidua, the capital city of the Eastern Region of Ghana. It indwells the hills of Obuotabiri

and also operates through dwarves. The principality that rules Tarkwa (a town in western Ghana) is also in the stream “Patange” which means “does not accept pacification.” There are times they even indwell trees. Israel went to battle and when they overcame the Philistines, the Philistines said, “*Israel’s God was the god of the hills* ” (1 Kings 20:23).

GATES OF HELL

We can take our cities and towns for God if we would do warfare with the principality that rules the localities dealing with the thrones 115









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Woman

paralyzed for 16

years showing

how she came to

crusade. Denu

crusade (Ghana)

2001

Woman
paralyzed for
16 years healed
and excited,
Bishop lifting
her stick and
other trophies
of God's power
(Denu Crusade
Ghana) 2001

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and dominions ruling the place. O. J. Smith said, "Unfavourable conditions in evangelistic work can always be changed by the power of prevailing prayer." It is said of Charles Finney that, "When things were slack and would not move he and Rev. Nash (popularly called Father Nash) would wrestle in prayer till God poured out His Spirit upon the people and sinners were converted.

God said to Abraham in Genesis 22:17, "***That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy***

seed shall possess the gate of his enemies." Jesus also said in Matthew 16:18, "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

"Gates" means the place where decisions are made, the place of authority. The elders in the Old Testament sat at the gates of

the city. By prayer, warfare and force, we can possess the places of authority as shown by this Scripture. ***“And from the days of John the***

Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force ” (Matthew 11:12).

We can take any city for Jesus. I do not believe that there is any city, which cannot be taken for Jesus. When we apply the needed spiritual pressure, the spiritual gates and walls of the city will fall and we can go in and possess the souls that belong to us.

IMPOSSIBLE ?

Praying men know nothing like it cannot be done, and those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those praying.

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The story is told of William Bramwell that during the Methodist revival there was this city that no preacher could open up to the gospel; already five preachers had gone and returned without success. The leaders of the Methodist movement were contemplating closing that place down when Bramwell said he should be given a chance to try, and if the place did not open up, they could write it off. He was given the green light and it is reported that a few miles to the city was a forest; Bramwell with his horse entered the forest and lay by a fallen tree, praying hours on end. At a point, he was heard saying, “God, you cannot refuse me this city; it must fall to your Spirit.” Later they could hear shouts of “The city is fallen, it is fallen, it is fallen.” Bramwell rose up, rode into the city and experienced a revival, leaving behind him a thriving Methodist Church.

Today, we have very few people who

Today, we have

shed tears for revival. In Psalm 137:1-4,

very few people

the people were grieved when they

who shed tears

remembered the glory of Zion, a

for revival.

burnt-out temple and beloved city run

down by the heathen, who had at times

ravished their women. In despair, they hung their willows, because

they no longer enjoyed the glory of the Lord and had become a

reproach to their enemies. Jesus wept that instead of His Father's

house being a house of prayer, where the blind, deaf, dumb would

come and be healed; it had been turned into a place of thieves. (See Matthew 21:13,14.)

Revivalists have always been public reapers because they have

been great private weepers. Dr. Lovelace of Britain said, "Where

prayer is, revival cannot be far behind." We need a generation of







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preachers and congregants who will pray desperately like Jeremiah prayed, *“Oh that my head were waters and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters*

of my people ” (Jeremiah 9:1).

Woman who
came walking
with steel aid
and crippled
for 6 years.

Swedru
crusade
(2001)

Crippled for 6 years, healed, no need for walking
aid. Swedru Crusade, (Ghana-2001)

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THE ISLAMIC CONNECTION

One of the major problems of the world today is the ambitious plan of Islam. Islam has an agenda to rule the world. One of the places where great numbers of arms are gathered is the Arab world. They also have large amounts of oil money. They also have Islamic fundamentalists. There are six to eight million Muslims in America presently. It is said that over 80 million Muslims live in Western Europe today, many of whom will kill any Westerner to make sure Islam is established. In the month of October some British and American Muslims were interviewed on CNN. They had gone to Pakistan to fight on behalf of the Taliban in Afghanistan. They were asked whether **One of the major** when they came face to face with **problems of the**

American and British soldiers they would

world today is the

kill them; they replied that they would be

ambitious plan

the first they will kill because they were

of Islam.

fighting their Muslim brethren.

According to the Newsweek Nov.19th 2001 Edition “I saw the towers collapse but felt nothing for the Americans inside. I may hold an American passport, but I am not an American. I am a Muslim” — Pakistani-American Muhammed Janaid (26) who left the United States a week after the World Trade Center attack to fight for the Taliban. His mother was on the ninth floor of the World Trade Center when the attack took place and was led to safety by New York city firefighters.”

Muslims migrate to the West and ask for freedom of religion but in 98% of Muslim countries they forbid other religions especially Christianity. Those that even allow Christians treat

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them as second-class citizens. Some are being killed for their faith in Sudan, Libya, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, etc.

Islam today has people who do not love their lives even unto death (suicide bombers), so if they want to take over a place and you don't agree, they don't care to plant bombs on themselves to kill people in any public place to achieve their dreams. And when

they take over a place, they declare sharia law. In Islamic lands like Afghanistan since 1996-2001 for instance, women could not wear skirts, could not work, could not even be examined by male doctors except their own husbands.

People of God, we cannot allow the freedoms and liberties we enjoy to be taken over by Islam. We cannot go to war in the flesh because a lot of the Muslim countries will lie through their teeth claiming Islam is a religion of peace but we know it is not true. Out of the 21 Islamic governments of the world today, 19 of them are violent religious dictatorships.

According to the Hadith (the Traditions of Mohammed), Muslims are permitted to lie on four grounds (i) To defend and propagate Islam (ii) In reconciling two parties (iii) A man to his wives (iv) A woman to her husband. (Abu Dawud, Adab 58; Ahmad b. Hanbal section 6:459,461)

According to Abd-Al-Masih in his book *Holy War in Islam* , he states, “Those who actively and continuously oppose the aims of Islam may receive threats. Some may be taken hostage. Killer squads are dispatched secretly to execute leading personalities who hinder the implementation of the sharia. Stories of public executions in the streets of Istanbul, Cairo, Jerusalem, Beirut, Tehran, Mecca and other cities appear in newspapers.

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“An immediate aim of holy war is the extinction of Christianity in Muslim countries. Christian missions in countries with

Muslim majority are either prohibited or seriously restricted. Any infringement from foreigners upon the faith of Muslims is viewed as an attack upon the state where they live. Therefore those who attempt to evangelize Muslims risk punishment by law, owing to the indivisibility of religion and state in Islam. According to sharia, converts from Islam to Christianity are to be killed after a one month period, if they refuse to repent. During this time, a sheikh is usually appointed to guide the apostate back to the Ummah, the Islamic community. There is no religious freedom for Muslims; they cannot change their religion. The western concept of human rights has no room where Allah's sharia rule, no matter what the prevailing government might say. Indigenous Christians living in Muslim countries face mounting pressure either to convert to Islam or emigrate. Some Muslims marry Christian wives with the purpose of converting them to their faith and making sure the children of these women will be Muslims."

Before the War On Terror, nine Red Cross workers were arrested by the Taliban in Afghanistan because they were accused of trying to convert Muslims to Christianity. On Nov. 15, 2001 they were rescued.

Muslims can write and speak on TV and Radio claiming that some parts of the Bible are not true (which they cannot prove), but woe to you when you also use the same media to say the Koran is false. Immediately there would be a contract on your head. When Rushdie wrote his book on the *Satanic Verses in the Koran* a contract was put on his head.









Winning Our Cities For Christ

Man crippled

for 2 years

and carried to

the Swedru

Crusade (2001

Ghana)

Man carried to

crusade healed
by the power
of God Swedru
crusade (2001
Ghana)

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Today for every aid the Muslim countries give, they add mosques; it is dotted all over Africa. In Europe now, there are uncountable mosques. In England they sell churches to Muslims. They would rather sell it to a Muslim than a Pentecostal or independent Charismatic Church.

It is time we prayed taking authority over the spirit of Islam, breaking its hold over the world. The last great power that must come down is Islam.

While we are having parties instead of

We need men and

prayer meetings, over a billion Muslims **women who can put** are fasting 30 days every year and praying

angels on assign-

and bowing to “Allah” 5 times a day and **ment and also rock** bowing to the same 1855 times a year. No **earthquakes in hell.** wonder it is a force to reckon with.

The church today should heed Joel’s call by “***Blowing the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the***

children ... Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar and let them say, spare thy people, O, Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them ” (Joel 2:15-17).

We need men and women who can put angels on assignment and also rock earthquakes in hell. We need those who can travail to win whole communities for God. People with little closet prayer make long ramblings in public prayer. Leonard Ravenhill said, In 1933, a preacher put a notice outside his church, “*THIS CHURCH WILL HAVE EITHER A REVIVAL OR A FUNERAL.* ” The church had a revival.

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THE UNSAVED FOR YOUR INHERITANCE

Friend, God is looking for an intercessor. Isaiah 59:16, “*And he saw that there was no man and wondered that there was NO INTERCESSOR.* ” (Capitals Mine)

He has given us a promise in Psalm 2:8, “*Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen(unsaved) for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession .*”(Brackets mine) When you bind the principalities, you can then claim the souls of the men for their salvation. It takes a

It takes a passion

passion for the people and the community

for the people and before you can pray prevailing prayers for **the community** it. When you look at the statistics of the

before you can

world today it demands praying men and

pray prevailing

women who will ask for the lands to be

prayers for it.

swept over by the fires of revival. Then the

Scripture can be fulfilled that is “...*the last*

days the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Consider these 2010 statistics: The world’s population is approximately seven billion people. About forty percent of the people have little chance of hearing the gospel because they live in places where there is essentially no indigenous church and few witnessing Christians. One hundred and fifty-five thousand people die everyday, many of them without Christ. Where are the missionaries who will evangelize these people? Ninety percent of all Christian missionaries are ministering where a church already exists.

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PERCENT OF POPULATION

REGION POPULATION UNREACHED

South Asia

1.3 Billion

87.9

1.142 Billion

Central Asia

414.8 Million

78.7

326.46 Million

Northeast Asia

1.5 Billion

75.5

1.13 Billion

Southeast Asia

577.6 Million

86.1

497.89 Million

Eastern Europe &

336.2 Million

25.7

86.4 Million

Eurasia

294 Million

61.2

180.05 Million

Middle East &

427.3 Million

25.4

108.5 Million

North Africa East

402.9 Million

82.5

80.6 Million

& Southern Africa

West & Central

Africa

Western Europe

390.3 Million

20.2

78.8 Million

North America &

490.5 Million

10.1

49.0 Million

Caribbean Central

432.7 Million

8.5

36.8 Million

& South America

South Pacific

34.1 Million

1.8

0.613 Million

Total

6.6 Billion

49.0

3.7 Billion

John Knox prayed and cried, “*God give me Scotland or I die.*” It is said that Mary the Queen of Scotland in her days feared the prayers of John Knox more than the armies of Scotland. David Brainerd coughed blood from his tubercular lungs as he prayed in the snow for the salvation of the native American Indians. Jesus wept over doomed Jerusalem. Paul prayed, “I wish I was accursed for my brethren the Jews to be saved.” Moses stayed forty days and nights in fasting and prayer that God would have mercy on Israel and would not wipe them away from the face of the earth. Before we can effectively put in the sickle to harvest, let us saturate the city with prayer and release the spirit of conviction over the people.

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A man who engages successfully in evangelism must be a man who knows how to pray. It is said that the Apostle James at his death was found to have his knees calloused like a camel’s knee because of much praying. Gordon Lindsay said, “*God calls men for different tasks. They should stay by what God has given them to do.*

When a man is called an evangelist in most cases it is going to require his full attention to keep that special

A man who engages *anointing of God upon his life. Moreover of successfully in all men, he becomes the special target of the*

evangelism must be *enemy. As Peter and John he should set and a man who knows*

maintain an hour of prayer (Act 3:1). He

how to pray.

should allow nothing, be it ever so pressing to

interfere with that hour. ” It is said about

John Welch nephew of John Knox “ that his custom was to go to bed at night laying a Scots plaid above his bed-clothes, that when he rose to his night prayers, he might cover himself therewith; for from the beginning of his ministry till his death, he reckoned the day ill spent, if he stayed not seven or eight hours in prayer; and this the boy did not forget even to his old age.”

John Wesley also spent two hours daily in prayer. He thought prayer to be his business more than anything else and E. M.

Bounds says about him, “ I have seen him come out of his closet with a serenity of face next to shining.”

INVISIBLE WAR

Beloved, there is an invisible war out there, that war is won by those who know that things happen behind the curtain. In the book of 1 Kings 22, the Bible tells us how King Ahab invited

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Jehoshaphat to go and help him in battle against the Syrians who had attacked Israel. And when King Jehoshaphat came, he asked whether there were no prophets. Ahab called his prophets who came to prophesy that they should go for the war and that they would win. Jehoshaphat knew that the prophets were not of God. He therefore requested for another prophet and Micaiah was invited. When he came, he gave an exposé of what was to happen in the battle. He said **Beloved, there is an** in 1 Kings 22:19-23, “***And he said, Hear***

invisible

thou therefore the word of the LORD: I

war out there.

saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and

all the host of heaven standing by him on

his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall

persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And

one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there

came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will

persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he

said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.

And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth,

and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit

in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken

evil concerning thee. ”

By reason of this prophetic word, when they went into battle

Ahab decided to let Jehoshaphat dress like the king and he disguised himself.

Meanwhile the Syrian king also told his people not to

fight anyone except the king of Israel. Someone drew an arrow

wanting to shoot Jehoshaphat and he screamed. The Bible says in

1 Kings 22:34,35 ***“And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and***

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smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore

he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry

me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.” The statement “drew the bow at a venture” means someone just randomly shot an arrow. In fact the New King James Version says, “... *Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel...* ”

There was no way the one who shot the arrow would have known that was the king. An unseen guiding hand led the arrow straight into the heart of Ahab. There are things behind the curtain that we have to

Nobody is more

deal with. When Deborah and Barak

powerful than

won the victory for Israel, Deborah being

his prayer life.

a prophetess described how the battle was won. She said, “the stars in their courses fought against Sisera” (See Judges 5:20).

It means Israel did not only win the war by physical means because “*how shall one chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight except their rock had given them up.*”

There are things that happen on the face of this world that do not just happen.

We know that the Bible calls the devil “the prince of the power of the air.” He rules in the heavenlies and we need to deal with him for the

victories we need to chalk.

Nobody is more powerful than his prayer life. The Apostle

Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 1:11, “***Wherefore also we pray always***

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for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and

fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with

power.” I have said that power comes from prayer. You can have a lot of faith but if you do not have prayer power to back it, you

will speak and the things would not come to pass. I have seen so

many people, who can quote the Scriptures, but when they make

declarations, instead of the things coming to pass like they should, nothing happens. They have not sought to pray like they should. I

have seen over and over again that prayer brings the breakthrough

that you desire. Spend some minutes in prayer and daily ask God

to touch your life and make your prayer life more like Jesus’.

I have encountered doctors who told me, “*Bishop, this situation*

you are seeing now is not physical any more. What you are seeing is not scientific anymore, it is more than science can handle.” I am sure you have heard that before? There are times people would go to

the hospital and the doctor would say “*This one, we have done all medical science can do, we don’t have a clue to this thing.*”

There are things that happen from the realm of the Spirit so

when you start praying and you want to see answers to your prayer,

you have to get into prevailing prayer because from the time you

start praying, God gives the answer, but there are princes, there

are powers, there are spiritual wickedness in high places, there are witches and wizards who will like to stop that miracle and breakthrough from coming to you.

If you will stay at it, you will always see a breakthrough. When we get to heaven I believe many will see undelivered parcels with their names on it because the angel sent to deliver them had hindrances on the way and the saints stopped praying so the angel had to return with the parcels undelivered.

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Daniel prayed 21 days with fasting and there was a breakthrough and he prevailed. May you prevail even as you come against every hindering spirit. May you prevail even as you come against every barrier in your life. May you prevail as you come against all the things set against you to stop you from going forward and to frustrate you. May the power of God that causes His people to run through their troop and to leap over their walls come upon you. May God teach your fingers to fight and may He teach your hands to war. May you be seasoned in battle.

May you be called a warrior, a mighty man **May you prevail** or woman of valour, someone who can **even as you come** possess his or her possessions, and someone

against every

who would go on without giving up so that **barrier in your life.**

you can say, “***Blessed be the Lord my strength***

who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight ” (Psalm 144:1).

SPOILING THE STRONGMAN’S HOUSE

When we go into a crusade or church planting effort, no matter how difficult the place is and no matter how the people are deep

into all kinds of things, we can take charge in the realms of the Spirit, move in there and set the people free because we have dealt with the spiritual realm. If you would prevail in prayer, your unsaved ones would be saved. The yokes in their lives would be broken and there would be a breakthrough for them to enter into the kingdom of God. In our crusades, we bind the (strong man) principality that rules the city (See Matt. 12:29.) and go in and get souls saved and the sick healed and delivered. You will notice in the context of the above Scripture that Jesus was talking about casting out devils and healing the sick. In our crusades, we bind some of these

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spirits: sin, unbelief, religious spirits, doubt, opposition, violence, misunderstanding, unconcern, lack of concentration, dullness, sleep, heaviness, witchcraft, occult powers, humanism and apathy as well as the principality that rules the place and its attendant demons. We also bind the spirits indwelling the trees, rivers, and hills depending on their relevance and render them powerless. We then begin to bind the spirits behind various diseases and sinful lifestyles like adultery, drunkenness etc.

We also loosen the spirits of conviction of sin, salvation, healing of specific diseases, faith and expectancy and the spirit of revival etc. When we do this, we go into the place and souls get saved and the sick get healed. Recently we had to go to Ukraine at the invitation of Pastor Sunday Adelaja, who pastors one of the largest churches in Europe. When we went for the visa in Conakry, Guinea, (because that was the only country in West Africa with

a Ukrainian Embassy) we encountered so much resistance but the morning before we went, I sensed the journey would be with much hindrance, so I instructed my team mate and we fasted and prayed for seven hours nonstop. We got to Conakry and on three occasions were refused the visa. Each time we would return to the hotel, call Ukraine for them to call the Embassy and then we would pray and pray; the fourth time, we got it. Space will not allow me to talk about the flight cancellations to make sure we will miss our flight to Ghana en route to Ukraine at the right time.

Finally we got to Kiev, Ukraine, prayed and the power of the Lord was present to heal, save and deliver. According to Ed Dickson, a missionary from Canada to Ukraine, *"I have been in this country for seven years. Within this period there have been crusades but in none of them did we see a cripple jump out of a wheel chair like* 132

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when you came. You have brought a well to fill our cups. " Multitudes of deaf and dumb were healed, many cripples walked to the glory of God. Some preachers from Western Europe who were in the Conference said, "If God could do it in Eastern Europe, He should do it in Western Europe too." So they invited me to speak in their churches in Western Europe.

THE UNJUST JUDGE

Let us look at a woman who got what she wanted because she kept on asking and knocking. She received what she asked for and her door was opened for her. Many of us stop after a little delay, while others totally give up on God. Some even go as far as saying, "God always delays." God does things in His own time, He

is never in a hurry and never late. He is not subject to the tyranny of time.

In Luke 18, Jesus talks about a certain woman. At times, some women feel that the Bible does not mention women much; well it does. The Bible has a lot to say about women who succeeded and women who prevailed in prayer. In the ministry of Jesus, there were two people whose faith astonished Him.

One was an army officer, some also think soldiers cannot be good Christians or they cannot worship God effectively. Jesus, however, commended an army captain. Jesus marveled at his faith when the man showed how faith works in Luke 7:9.

The other one was a woman who was not even a Jew, but a Syrophonecian by birth (See Mark 7:26) who came to Jesus for help. Jesus at the end of their discourse looked at the woman and

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said, "Woman, great is your faith." If you are a woman, I want to assure you that your faith can be great to bring every breakthrough you need. After Jesus died and the curtain in the Holy of Holies tore from top to bottom, God tore the partition between men and women. On the day of Pentecost, 120

were in the upper room and the women

Your faith can be

were counted amongst them. Acts **great to bring every**

1:13-14. Before this time women were

breakthrough

not counted in the Bible. Even on the day

you need.

when Jesus multiplied the five loaves and two fishes the Bible gives the number of the men and continues to say, beside women and children. “In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek; we are all accepted in His sight.

Jesus said, “Men ought always to pray and not faint.” People should not stop praying. When they start praying, they should not give up.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we read, “***Pray without ceasing .***”

If you read the Bible, you will find a lot about praying without ceasing or about prevailing and persistent prayer. Eph. 6:18 says,

“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching there unto with all perseverance.” The Bible is indeed stressing on praying always with all perseverance, which means

you have to persevere till you see the manifestation. Roman 12:12

says, ***“rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer.”*** In Colossians 4:2 it adds that, ***“continue in and watch in***

the same with thanksgiving.” The Bible says explicitly that we have to continue in prayer.

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In Luke 18:1-5 Jesus said, ***“There was a widow who would go to the judge who was wicked and unjust .”*** The Amplified version says,

“this man had no regard for God and no respect or consideration for

any man.” That man did not have any bowels of compassion, and this was the kind of man the woman went to and said, ***“Look I have a case against this man ”.***

The Amplified Bible says the woman said to the judge, “protect me, defend me against my enemy and

give me justice against my adversary. Yet

We have to resort

the Judge would not do anything so the

to prevailing

woman kept on. Then one day the judge

prayer to get

said “The way this woman has been

things changed.

coming to me, if I don’t do something

about it she would weary me, so woman,

this is your judgment.”

Jesus used this to illustrate prayer and said “...*when the son of*

man comes will He find faith on earth? ” (Luke 18:8). Will He find people who are this persistent, insistent, consistent and staying in prayer? God has called us to a place where we have to stay till

we get a breakthrough. We have to resort to prevailing prayer to

get things changed. I believe in the prayer of faith. I believe that when you have to pray for a sick person you do not have to resort

to prevailing prayer; it is the time to pray the prayer of faith and tell that foul devil to leave that person and let him/her go free. But when you are not getting the breakthrough you need, you have to

stay at it till there is a breakthrough. The unjust judge finally gave judgment for the woman; she persisted and did not stop until her

victory came.

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PRAYER AND FASTING

One of the catalysts to prevailing prayer is fasting. Daniel fasted twenty-one days for a breakthrough for Israel. (See Daniel 10:2-14). There are some things that do not budge except by prayer and fasting. Matt.17:21 says, “***Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.***” I am preparing a whole book on fasting.

Fasting is the abstinence from food and pleasure. There are three types of fasting, i.) Absolute — without food and water. This should not be undertaken for more than three days. ii.) Normal — this is only without food but water can and must be taken and it can go for forty days. iii) Partial — not eating all that you want to eat.

In the four major churches that I have been instrumental in planting, I had to undertake a serious fast.

Before we started the Tamale Church (Ghana) in February 1987, I fasted with a team for seven days with water mixed with honey. Before our first Sunday morning service in our Accra Church in September 1994, I fasted with a team with only water for three days and continued alone till the seventh day with only water.

Before we began our Amsterdam Church, I fasted with someone in Amsterdam for two days and I continued for five days alone.

Every January, I spend at least two weeks indoors fasting and praying for part of the time and studying the rest. Before our La Church (Ghana) began in January 1997, I fasted seven days with

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water mixed with honey, went in and held a crusade which saw over 13 cripples healed the second night over 19 deaf and dumb people also healed the first night, a dead person raised and multitudes being saved. No wonder it used to be our third largest church in the city of Accra.

The longest fast I have been privileged to undertake is ten days with only water. This was in 1998 when in January I had to prepare for us to move to our own bought property (Dzorwulu — Accra, Ghana.) because the street in front of our property was believed to carry a curse, where every week there was an accident and somebody died. If our headquarters church which I pastor was going to be there, people could not be dying there like that. Since we moved there in 1998 none of our members have died on that road and the accident rate has dwindled to about 5% which I can attribute to careless or drunk driving.

I have been privileged to fast for twelve days in 1999 with water mixed with honey. I am awaiting the time when God will grant me the grace to do twenty-one days with only water. However I cannot relate here the benefits of all my seasons of fasting and prayer.

I will never forget the benefits I derived after a day's praying and fasting prior to our fund raising towards our headquarters church property in 1997. I was so energized that the fund raising sent ripples through the nation because until then as the newspapers reported, "No one had been able to raise that amount of money

for a church before.” Before most strategic steps in my life, I spend time in prayer and fasting. I have even noticed that all my three children were conceived after my January fasting — Selasie, was born in October, Francis in October and Charlene in September.

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At our Denu Crusade, I had the privilege of fasting for less than twenty four hours before the meeting. On the first night we had twelve totally deaf and dumb people healed, three people deaf in one ear, two stammerers, four cripples and other people with incurable diseases were also healed. One cripple who crawled on her hands and feet was made every whit whole and stood and walked upright. The third day we had 10 cripples walking and so many other healings. This reminds me of my early days in ministry when one day in my prayer God changed my understanding about why I should pray. I was complaining in my prayer when I said, “God, why do I have to fast and pray before you heal the sick and save the lost” and the Holy Spirit said to me *“Charles, you don’t have to fast and pray before I heal the sick, Jesus already died for the salvation and healing of the people. I allow you to pray so that you can feel a part of what is happening.”* Thank God for making us partners with Him. I have preached in healing services I did not have time to pray before and during the meetings, yet I have seen incredible and notable miracles, because God works even when we are not faithful to meet our appointment. However prayer makes all things possible. During our crusades, we see basically three things; the airport, the hotel and the crusade/

conference hall (except when I have to pay courtesy calls on leaders in the land). I spend sometimes three to five hours everyday in

prayer asking God to meet the needs of the people. Note that I

do not fast during my crusades for I need the physical strength

to preach, teach, pray and cast out devils; therefore, I do my fasts before the crusade. After lunch I lock myself in the room, from

2:00 p.m. I rest, study and pray till the crusade and when I get unto the platform miracles just take place at the mention of Jesus name.

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Unction our Greatest Need

Chapter Seven

s

Unction Our Greatest Need

A preacher can become famous and popular without prayer.

He may run a successful ministry without the fuel of

prayer, with scarcely enough to fuel a little mobilette but he cannot have the God kind of impact which cuts people to the heart.

A praying preacher, however, has passed the region of popularity and entered the realm of spirituality where all things are possible.

True men of God have been distinguished

A praying preacher,

by only one mark and that is they have **however, has passed**

always been people of prayer. They may

the region of

have different operations but they all have

popularity and

one pivot of attraction (where they are **entered the realm**

one) and that is the point of prayer.

of spirituality

A praying preacher does not mount **where all things are**

the pulpit to impress his audience with

possible.

his flashy clothing or his grammatical

accuracy. Having heard the Word of the Lord in his closet, he does

not fear any devil or human institution. They are known in hell as

combatants, not entertainers or sermonizers. They wrestle against
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principalities and powers for the souls of men, because they know
eternity stands in the balance.

God's preachers are people who pray like Jesus with "strong
crying and tears," (Heb. 5:7) wrestle for the blessing like Jacob,
earnest and persistent like Paul and stay in prayer "***praying always
with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching
thereunto with all perseverance.***" No

ministry can succeed without much

No one can do a

praying and this praying must be the

great work for

foundation, consistent and ever increasing.

God who is not a

man of prayer.

Those who have by their character

shown Christ and affected their generation

mightily have been people who spent

much time with God in prayer. It is said that John Fletcher "*stained the walls of
his room by the breath of his prayers.*"

Luther said, "*If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets
the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without
spending three hours daily in prayer .*"

Joseph Alleine arose at four o'clock for his business of praying

till eight. Payson bore the hard wood boards into groove where his

knees pressed often and so long. No one can do a great work for God who is not a man of prayer, and every man of prayer spends much time in prayer.

No preacher should attempt to preach without unction and unction is only derived in secret communion with God. Unction vitalizes God's revealed word, causes it to be alive and entering in the heart.

Truth without unction is the letter. The letter killeth but the Spirit gives life. Unction produces life. Unction is one thing, which 140
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cannot be manufactured, and when you try to counterfeit it, you will be exposed sooner than later.

An old Christian divine, Dr. Samuel Chadwick said, "*The world will never believe in a religion in which there is no power. A rationalized faith, a socialized church and a moralized gospel may gain applause, but they awaken no convictions and win no converts.*"

The more you pray, the greater you experience the power and presence of God. In the presence of God, there is fullness of joy; in His presence yokes are destroyed. The

Bible says, "***The anointing breaks the yoke,*** " **With the anointing** (Isaiah 10:27). If there is anything I have

when you work

been afraid of (reverential fear), it is losing

hard with little

the anointing. In my prayers I constantly

effort you secure

tell God, "*Whatever will make me lose the **maximum results.***

anointing, Lord take it out of my life. For me

to lose the anointing, Lord, call me home. ” When you experience the anointing, you will know that it makes all the difference.

It is only because of the anointing that several thousands of people sit down and listen to me. It is the anointing that makes things happen and makes the church grow. It is the anointing that has brought me to minister to presidents and people who matter.

Without the anointing, life is only a struggle because “If the Lord does not build the house, the builders build in vain.” If God should take away the anointing, we will be building in vain. I know of churches that have experienced the anointing and have lost it.

When you go into such churches, everything feels dry. Everything they do is irritating; everything they do is boring. It is the anointing that makes the difference in our ministries, lives and our businesses.

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With the anointing, when you work hard with little effort you secure maximum results. Unction is the sign of God that one has His Majesty’s credentials as an Ambassador of Heaven. It is his equipment and marching orders.

I know of Christians who have lost the anointing and their lives have become so wretched. They go from one frustration to another.

As a believer, when the anointing is on your life, you may go through problems, but you are assured that you will come out of them.

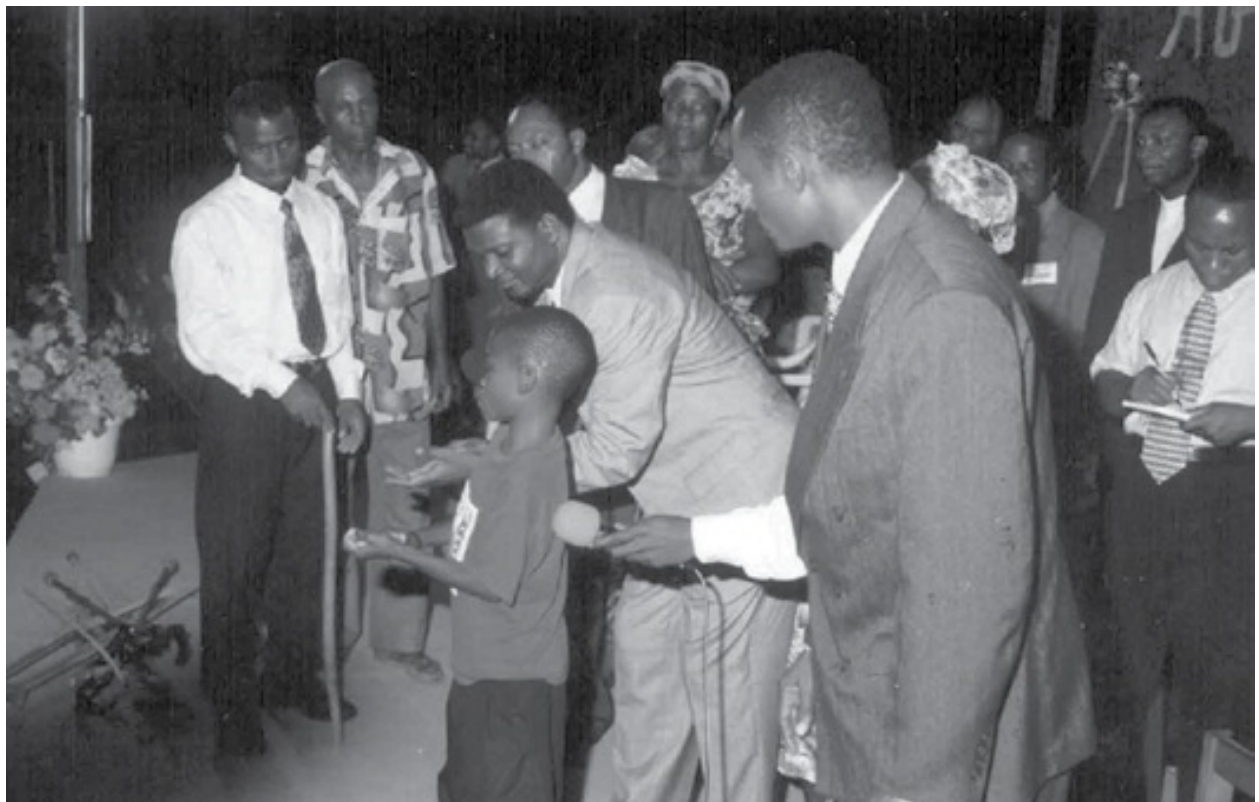
Problems will definitely come in this life but it is the anointing that will see you through them all so that they do not destroy you.

Without it, you will be frustrated. May the anointing upon your life never leave you; may the glory of God over you never be taken

away. May you have a desire to continually walk in His power and experience His oil.

It takes unction to make the Word of God “quick and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of bone and marrow.” For the preacher’s voice to be sharp and carry power which can stir the heart, he must have unction. This is what differentiates and distinguishes talks and human address and the communication of divine truth which is called preaching. This unction is imperative for everyone called of God because without it you cannot fulfill your purpose in God.

The preacher gets this unction in prayer. You cannot get true spiritual and lasting results without unction. Without unction, the gospel has no power just like any other “system of truth.” The mark of the preacher’s separation to God is unction. It is this unction on a preacher that makes the Scriptures alive on his lips and his divine influence felt. This is what makes the preacher bold as a lion, fearless as a bear and daring like a David against Goliath. It is this unction that causes the word to burn like fire in his bones, his utterance released as one whose lips are touched with the coals of heaven







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and makes one sharp as God's battle axe and weapons of war. This unction is not a gift for everyone but a conditional gift which is secured by persistent prayer to God, by carrying a thirst and hunger for God. It is only received from God in direct answer to prayer.

Nine-year-old deaf and dumb boy from birth healed. (Denu crusade Ghana-2001)

Five-year-old blind girl, healed by the power of God, and demonstrating how she can see clearly now. Lome (Togo crusade) 2001

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UNCTION GOES WITH MEEKNESS

The man with unction exhibits meekness because he can

reckon he has no power of his own and that he is only privileged to be used of the Master. The donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem would have been very foolish to think that the clothes being laid down for it to

The man with

walk on was because of its importance. So

unction exhibits

is anyone being used of God.

meekness.

Unction gives you a passion to want to proclaim the Word of God to others.

Paul said, *“the love of Christ constrains me... and woe is me if I preach not the gospel.”*

Unction gives a man courage to conquer. It gives you the power to savingly impress men like happened on the day of Pentecost. The speech made that day did not have much of human eloquence but made a powerful impression on the hearts and conscience of the hearers.

When one carries unction, sometimes a single sentence, a word, a gesture or even a look will convey this power in an overcoming manner. When one with unction enters a congregation, this power sometimes pervades the atmosphere and makes it to be highly charged. It is said that when Kathryn Kuhlman entered her meetings, immediately the atmosphere was electrified.

Many treat this issue as if it was left to the sovereignty of God, without any persistent effort to obtain this enduement. But it did

not just come on the apostles in the upper room, they desired it, sought for it, got it and worked with it.

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STALE MANNA

Only one schooled in the closet of prayer carries this divine approval. Without fervent, consistent and unceasing prayer this unction gets stale like the manna over kept, breeds worms and like oil over kept loses its viscosity. Preacher, with all your getting, get unction and pray, pray, pray.

Jesus in His earthly ministry would rise a great while before day to pray so He could minister effectively. The challenges and problems of our times demand men and women who can beseech God to flow through them like the song sung by an American Evangelist,

“Touch through me Holy Spirit touch through me. Let my hands reach out to others, touch through me.

There is a dying soul somewhere needing just one friend to care

Touch through me Holy Spirit

Touch through me .”

Those the Holy Spirit flows through to affect their generation are those who through prayer, supplication and strong groanings have demanded the touch of the Holy Spirit upon their lives. It is said of Kathryn Kuhlman that before her meetings she would pray, pleading that she would not have to go on stage minus the Holy Spirit. For without Him, she was nothing.

David the king said this about the anointing or the presence of God. ***“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy free holy spirit from me ”*** (Psalm 51:11). Moses said, ***“If your presence go not***
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with me, carry us not up hence ” (Exodus 33:15). In another book, I will deal with how the anointing or spiritual power is lost. I know

of anointed men and women of God who commanded thousands of people and lost the anointing. Today, getting a hundred people to sit and listen to them is a miracle. They have lost their respect and as David said about Saul ***“...for there the shield of the mighty***

is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul as though he had not been anointed with oil ” (2 Sam. 1:21). I dread this kind of experience.

If Peter and John would go to the temple at the various hours of prayer, if Paul could tell his disciples “I speak in tongues more than ye all” then do not minister till you are effectively praying.

Beloved, Jesus Christ is our role model. In His ministry on earth, the sun rose up to meet Him praying, attracting Moses and Elijah at His transfiguration with His praying. Through all night prayer He chose the apostles to continue where He stopped. He invoked heaven’s presence in the Garden of Gethsemane. Everywhere He went

God’s leaders

miracles were wrought because He was

therefore must be

prayed up. Presently, He continues to

judged by their

pray for us on the right side of the Father,

prayers — not elo-

what an inspiration. God's leaders

quence, prosperity therefore must be judged by their prayers **or popularity.**

— not eloquence, prosperity or popularity.

KEEP YOUR GARMENTS ALWAYS WHITE

Just as any foreign matter gets fried out when it falls into oil, so is sin; in the life of one with unction. You cannot pray and live in 146









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sin. That would be hypocrisy. God has said, “***Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear***” (Isaiah 59:1,2).

Mama paralyzed

for 22 years,

demonstrating

how she came to

crusade. Lome

(Togo crusade)

2001

Mama

paralyzed

for 22 years

healed, Lome

(Togo crusade)

2001

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Holiness goes with prayer, and unction is preserved by holiness.

“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness (unction) above thy fellows ” (Hebrews 1:9) (brackets mine). Power and prayer go hand in glove, and prayer and holiness are twins. ***“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead ”*** (Romans 1:4). You cannot regard iniquity for God to hear you.

If you revere the Lord you will not live in sin. “... *them that honour me I will honour ...* ” If you do not live in sin there is no reason why you should not pray; and if you pray you cannot be denied unction or power or anointing. He who keeps his garment white can always cause his head to lack no ointment (anointing) (See Ecclesiastes 9:8).

DESIRE

No one ever received anything from God without a desire, expectation or yearning for it. God does not just bestow gifts, He gives them to those who want and want it bad enough. It says in the Word, “the desire of the righteous shall be granted,” and “whatsoever things you desire, when you pray believe you receive and shall have it.” The Good Book also states, “the expectation of the righteous shall not be cut off.” How badly do you need this unction?

When I came into ministry, I needed this unction so badly that I would not sleep at night but pace up and down my room asking God to give me Acts of the Apostles results, so that like Peter I

would preach simply, make an altar call and the people would be cut to the heart and give their lives to the Lord; and also to just tell the sick, “Be healed” and the cripples will get up and walk.

Fortunately that year on a three day fast, the Holy Spirit said to me audibly, “*I give unto you power over demons and principalities; heal the sick, raise the dead, preach the kingdom.*” Since then in 78 nations, I have seen the power of God at work in saving multitudes of souls

and healing uncountable numbers of people.

Just obeying the call of God does not give this unction; Peter was called as an Apostle of Jesus but until he was endued with power from on high, 3,000 were not saved in a single day. Isaiah was a priest but until he was endued with power from on high when the angels touched his lips with the coals of heaven, he never had impact. Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke came to Africa in 1965 as a missionary and was preaching to twelve and fifteen people until in 1975 when he was baptized with fire and said, “*I*

have tasted honey and will no longer settle for syrup. I have a combine harvester to harvest multitudes and will not want to harvest with a sickle.” There is always a definite time when you experience this touch from heaven.

The early church was asked by Jesus to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. (See Luke 24:49). If those who walked with Jesus in His earthly ministry and saw how the Lord operated needed to be in the upper room till they were endued, you cannot do otherwise than demand this blessing in prayer and not begin ministry till you are clothed with power. Paul said to the Corinthian Church, “When I came to you I came in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power that your

faith will not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God,”

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Unction our Greatest Need

because he spoke in tongues (prayed) more than them all. This unction can be carried in degrees of intensity depending on how regularly you “service your engine” by coming to God in prayer.

Kenneth Hagin says, *“I can make the anointing come on me stronger by doing certain things; a little fasting, a little extra prayer, a little extra waiting on God, although I don’t always have time to do that.”*

... *“That brings me to another thought: I have found that when I have a stronger anointing, I always have instant healings.”* ... *“I have had great success in the past and still do, ministering to people with cancer, but only a few persons over a period of years were instantly healed.*

Even though the power will flow into people and they received it, their healing does not always happen instantly. Sometimes it could be three to ten days before they could tell a difference — but that power drove the cancer out of their bodies .” — Understanding the Anointing (I have noticed that as preachers grow older into their fifties onwards, they are not able to pray and fast like the young ones do and tend to tire more easily and that affects the instantaneous manifestation they

used to have).

When I do not sense the anointing in my meetings anymore and the results of

Ministering

my meetings are not like I know, I cancel

without unction

all other engagements, seek a place to fast

produces

and pray for about one or two days and

frustration.

the anointing comes back on me with
such intensity resulting in souls being saved and the manifestation
of the Holy Spirit witnessed.

Ministering without unction produces frustration. Take out
the frustration in your ministry and enjoy the joy of the Lord.

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Chapter Eight

s

Conclusion

Prevailing prayer is not easy. Only those who have wrestled the powers of darkness know how hard it is but with determination you can climb the mountain of prayer. Extraordinary results are possible and we should expect them. Signs and wonders will follow but only through extraordinary efforts in the spiritual realm. Hence nothing short of continuous, agonizing pleading for souls, hour upon hour, days and nights of prayer will ever avail. Don't give up in the face of opposition.

God has not called you to frustrate you,

Prayer brings

just persevere in prayer. If you have no

you the different

one to help you, God is your help and so

benefits due you.

look up to Him. Those that seek Him in prayer always prevail. There is nothing too hard for the Lord and also to the one who is in touch with God. Mary Slessor, that great missionary to Nigeria of yesteryears said, *"One with God is a majority."*

Prayer brings you the different benefits due you. It is the only thing that secures help from above.

Conclusion

Hebrews 4:16 says, “***Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.***”

Prayer is for the bold, who know that people in our generation are between a rock and a hard place but are willing to get help (grace or divine enablement) to ease their woes. For the enemy of mankind, that old devil is out to steal, kill and destroy lives. Those who win against him in the battle of life are those who resist him till he flees and those who are able to say with Jesus, “***Get thee behind me Satan.***” For through prayer you can do valiantly with God’s help. Psalm 60:12 says, “***Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.***”

Take the accuser of the brethren to the just Judge in the courts of heaven and plead your case. For we have an advocate with the Father to defend our case, the Man Christ Jesus who lives to make intercession for us. (See 1 John 2:1 and Hebrews 7:25).

Secure help from above (angelic assistance) as you call to God. He gave that help to Jesus when He prayed (See Luke 23:41,43), [the Lord Jesus even said He could have had access to a legion of angels if He had asked (Matthew 26:52,53)]. Peter had angelic help when the church prayed for him (Acts 12:5-8). Those who swallow their panacea for affliction are able to get merry and sing psalms because they have prayed. James 5:13 says, “***Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.***”

Those who desire God in prayer have the ability to live a victorious life and can say “***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless***

I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:... ” They also secure help to change the garments the devil forces on them for righteous

ones that the Lord commands to be put on them. (See Zechariah

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3:1-4). They are therefore able to keep their garments white (live holy lives) and their heads lack no ointment (anointing, unction). Man carried on bed to crusade healed by the power of God and standing on his own.(Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE Crusade - 2001)

Patrice was given up to die by doctors and carried on bed to crusade, (Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE Crusade - 2001)

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Conclusion

Praying men don't institutionalize spiritual warfare, for God is a dynamic God and has His way in the whirlwind. Praying men know that the ways of God are secured in communion with Him.

People of prayer have learnt that small prayer means small power and no prayer means no power. The only insurance that pays all the time and is secured is prayer.

David never down played the importance of prayer. After his coronation as king of Israel, he was attacked twice by the Philistines. (See 2 Samuel 5:17-25). When they came the first-time, David enquired of the Lord and the Lord said to him go up to them; he went and had victory. When they came the second time in the same place, David could have just gone to fight them the same way he did it the first time and might have lost. David, however, enquired the second time from the Lord, who said this time, he should attack from behind and he won the victory again.

PRAYING PARENTS

The demands of our time call for prayer; therefore, seek ye the Lord whilst He may be found for it is better to have God on the scene before calamity strikes. The battle for the minds of our children demands praying parents who can pray that Christ be formed in the kids. Galatians 4:19 says, “***that the children will be delivered from the evil one.***” That our children will train themselves to discern good and evil and to have a good conscience (See

Hebrews 5:14, and 1 Peter 3:21). That they will choose companions through wisdom. That their choice will be neither fools, nor sexually immoral, nor drunkards, nor idolaters, nor slanderers, nor swindlers. That these children will remain sexually pure and

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keep themselves only for their spouse, asking God for His grace to keep such a commitment (See Ephesians 5:31-33). That they will honour their parents. ***“But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children ”*** (Isaiah 49:25.)

FAITH

Paul admonished in Ephesians 6:13 ***“... having done all, to stand .”*** I will deal with the armour of God in another book, ***The Blessing of Prayer.***

Having prayed, walk in faith ***“for without faith it is impossible to please Him for He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him ”*** (Hebrews 11:1-6). Believe in your heart that God has heard your prayer.

Faith is simply knowing that God will do what He has said He will do. Faith is having the confident assurance that whatsoever He has promised is Yea and Amen and that He is watching over His Word to perform it. Having prayed, rest assured that He will answer.

Thank Him for answered prayer and make public declarations of what you are believing for; He said, ***“According to what you have spoken in my ears, so will I do ”*** (Numbers 14:28). The Almighty Himself has said, ***“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you ”*** (Jeremiah 29:12).

Having said it, be assured He is ready to answer because you have asked according to His promises. ***“And this is the confidence that***

Conclusion

we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us .” (1 John 5:14).

Therefore, my dear, rest assured that He will come through for you, ***“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom*** (Answer to prayer)” (Luke 12:32) (brackets mine).

Prayer moves God’s hand and faith grabs it from His mighty hand ***“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them ”*** (Mark 11:24).

We are not just discussing prayer but victory in prayer or winning this invisible war. 1 John 5:4 says, ***“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ”***

Fight the good fight of faith, finish the race, keep the faith and get a crown, for with God all things are possible and the praying person knows no impossibilities.

May you make an impact in prayer, and may your impact affect your generation. Let us join hands in the school of prayer around the fire of God where all things are possible. Pray beloved Pray!

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO MEET GOD IN PRAYER

1. Get a place to pray without being disturbed or distracted.
2. Set aside a specific time when you are going to pray everyday. Let your family and friends know that at such a time you are not to be disturbed or interrupted.

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3. Make the time you commune with God in prayer the most important aspect of your life.
4. Make a strong commitment not to allow anything or anyone to take the place of your time alone with God.
5. Shut everything out and bind every hindering spirit.

SALVATION PRAYER

Beloved, before you lay this book aside make sure you put God first in your life.

Ask Jesus to cleanse you of your sins. You don't have to clean up your life — God will do it for you. He will give you a new beginning.

To receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour of your life, sincerely pray this prayer from your heart.

“Dear Jesus,

I cannot save myself from my sin. You rose from the dead that I would be justified before God. Come into my life, and wash my sins with your blood and I confess you as my Lord. Thank you that I am born again.”

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About The Author

Bishop Charles Agyinasare is the presiding bishop of Perez Chapel International and associate independent churches. He is the senior pastor at the Perez Dome, Dzorwulu, Accra, Ghana reputed to be the largest auditorium in Ghana. He is also the president of Perez Ministerial College. He is regarded as one of the national Christian leaders in Ghana. In

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Charles had a divine encounter in 1983 when he heard the audible voice of God twice in four days commission him saying, “My boy Charles, I send you out as I sent Moses; go, and I will put My words on your lips, and reach the world for Me,” and “I give unto you power over demons and principalities, heal the sick, raise the dead, preach the kingdom”.

Since then, he has shared the whole counsel of God in seventy-eight (78) nations, including the following: the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, France, Italy, Ukraine,

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campaigns have recorded over 300,000 people in a single meeting.

He has a mandate to lead God’s people into their breakthrough by preaching the kingdom of God through miracles, healings, signs and wonders, success, prosperity and favour, wisdom, leadership, excellence, integrity (holiness), family life, last days and spiritual impartation. Through his teaching and preaching many people who

once were sick, alcoholics, and drug addicts have been set free in his meetings. Many have also been raised from nobodies to somebodies.

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His television channel Precious TV reaches many across the globe.

He is a graduate of the All Nations For Christ Bible Institute, Benin City, Nigeria (Charismatic Studies); Vision International University, Ramona, USA (Philosophy of Theology); Ghana Institute

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OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

- **FROM SMALL TO MEDIUM TO MEGA**

How to grow your Church.

- **MIRACLES, HEALING, SIGNS, AND WONDERS**

Here is a valuable source that will help you receive healing, and initiate and release you into the supernatural ministry.

- **ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM**

This 487-page teaching manual will help equip you to stand as a Christian and to effectively work for God.

- **IT'S MIRACLE TIME, VOLUME 1**

This book teaches you how to receive your miracle, why some do not receive their miracle, and what divine healing is all about.

- **IT'S MIRACLE TIME, VOLUME 2**

This book teaches you how to maintain your healing and provides keys to help you bring healing to others who are

sick.

- **NOW THAT YOU ARE BORN AGAIN**

Discover how to lead someone to Christ and help new Christians understand what and why they believe.

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- **POWER IN PRAYER**

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- **CELEBRATING THE PILGRIMAGE OF LIFE**

Takes an intimate look at the life of Bishop Charles Agyi nasare. It is filled with never-before-told stories of his first forty years.

- **THE IMPACT OF PRAYER**

Learn how to pray with more fervency and consistency in order to receive answers to prayer. This book is your source to help you win the invisible war.

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- **PASTORAL PROTOCOL**

This book will help the minister escape spiritual disaster and ministerial suicide by equipping him or her with ethics for success.

• **BREAKING THE POWER OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND TOBACCO**

This book will enable you and your loved ones to break the power of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, and find deliverance from these evil habits.

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