

Isaiah 56:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Even them I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *Will be* accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

They key to spiritual breakthrough always has and always will be prayer

- Jesus was, and is passionate for prayer
- The week before He was crucified, He entered Jerusalem
- He went to the Temple which was supposed to be the center of worship and prayer
- Instead He found the Temple had been turned into a marketplace
- Isaiah gives us five keys in being a house of prayer

A House of Prayer

A House of Offerings

A House of Sacrifice

A House with an Altar

A House for all Nations

To become a genuine House of Prayer it will take all of us living with an attitude and spirit of prayer as a state of mind

What is True Prayer?

- Prayer is two-way communication
- Generating a relationship in the here and now
- It is continuous

Communication with God is not so much based on what we say, but what we hear from Him

- Some people claim that they are close to God but the fruit of their intimacy with Him is almost non-existent

Matthew 7:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

The Kingdom of God is built upon the structure of relationship

- Our interactions with God cannot be mechanical
- They can't be based on a formula or ritual
- It is impossible to pray effectively from a position that is not a place of relationship

John 15:7 (NKJV)

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Many people have needs only God can meet, but they don't want to bother developing a relationship with Him

- They treat Him like a miracle vending machine
- They want to put their “money” in and have their desire dispensed
- God doesn't work like that

On certain occasions, because of His mercy He may respond to our prayers even in the lack of intimacy

- The next time we pray we may not get the desired outcome
- More than meeting needs, God desires a relationship with us

1 John 1:3 (NKJV)

³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

- If the relationship exists, God will take care of the needs we have
- Jesus lived a life that exemplified continuous prayer

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

The Purpose of Prayer

Mark 13:33 (NKJV)

³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

- The “Church Age” began with prayer and it will close with prayer
- I believe God is restoring the mantle of prayer upon the church
- The purpose is to prepare us for the challenges we will face in the end times, and enable us to be ready for the return of Christ
- Prayer is surrender, sacrifice, and consecration
- Through prayer God not only wants to bless us but transform us

When the church doesn't pray, it is telling Jesus we don't want to be united with Him and doesn't see the value of prayer

Jesus didn't start praying at the moment of urgency, instead He walked in constant prayer and out of that prayer flowed the supernatural – See [John 11:41-43 Lazarus raised from the dead](#)

- For the church to move in the same way it will flow from a continuous prayer life

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

- Prayer is a place
- A secret place in the Spirit
- Our relationship with God is established there
- Everything we ask from there, according to His will is given to us
- Jesus often went alone to the desert to pray
- You and I can designate a place and dedicate it to prayer

We all need a physical place we go to daily to meet with our Heavenly Father

- The place is not as important as the atmosphere of the place
- Even though it is true that God is everywhere, He doesn't manifest His presence everywhere
- His presence manifests where He is worshiped in spirit and truth

John 4:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The Secret Place is the Place Where God's Presence is Revealed

Hebrews 10:19–22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Jesus' sacrifice gives us access to the presence of God
- We cannot pray without first recognizing we are in the presence of God
- We don't pray for the purpose of entering His presence
- We pray because we are in His presence
- To pray is to recognize that we have a divine appointment where we can speak face to face with a holy God
- It is necessary for us to know that He is present, He hears us and responds to us

1 Kings 9:3 (NKJV)

³ And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

Psalm 139:8 (NKJV)

⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

- Remember no matter where we go God is there with us
- Even if we don't feel His presence, He is there
- Through the fire and the storm
- In tribulations and persecutions, loneliness and fear
- Even till the end of the age – **Matthew 28:20**

Luke 5:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

¹⁷ Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.

- True prayer includes a consciousness of being in the presence of God
- To be in God's presence you need to set all of your affections on Him
- Fixing your attention and thoughts on Him
- Focusing completely on His person
- By doing this we are pulling eternity into the realm of time

Jesus made it a daily priority to be in communication with the Father and filled with His presence

- When He came from the place of prayer He radiated with Power

The Place of Prayer is the Place where We Come to Know God

John 17:3 (NKJV)

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- As we pray, God reveals Himself to us
- Once He is revealed we are attracted to Him in a greater way
- God wants us to see Him as He really is
- He longs for us to become one with Him as He is one with His Son

John 17:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- Jesus is one with the Father by nature, and through Him we are children of God by adoption – **Ephesians 1:4-6**
- Prayer is the place where we see God as He really is and receive His life

John 17:22 (NKJV)

²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

Prayer is the Place Where We Appropriate the Power of God

Acts 4:31, 33 (NKJV)

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

- In the book of Acts every time Christians got together to pray, the power of God manifested
- This is an indication that the Church should never lack power

The reason the enemy attacks the prayer life of believers is because he doesn't want them to access the supernatural power of God

- When we pray we build a spiritual environment in which God can work
- We can then impart some of the anointing, healing, miracles into the lives of other people
- The power of God is not released through acquiring knowledge of the Bible
- We must carry the activity of the Spirit
- The depth of our prayer life will determine the depth of our message

Prayer is the Place Where We Obtain Spiritual Authority

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

- We all have been given authority over the enemy through the inheritance that is in Jesus
- A significant way in which God imparts that authority is through prayer
- Whenever our prayer life diminishes our spiritual authority is weakened
- A believer without spiritual authority is easy prey for the enemy
- We must maintain a healthy fear, or reverence of God and walk in our spiritual authority

Matthew 17:21 (NKJV)

²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

- Having authority over the enemy is not about shouting louder
- It is about being clothed with authority
- This only comes through fasting and prayer

Prayer is the Place Where We Submit to the Lordship of Christ

Luke 22:42 (NKJV)

⁴² saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”

- Prayer is where the Lord accomplishes His will in us

To submit to heavenly authority, we must be people of prayer who live in complete obedience to the Father

- Daily we must surrender our will to the Lordship of Jesus
- Submission is not something that is accomplished instantly
- It is something that happens progressively

The Place of Prayer is the Place of the Sufferings of Christ

Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

- Prayer is a place that requires self-denial
- Our flesh is weak; therefore, most of the time it doesn't want to pray

If want to see transformation in our lives as well as the lives of others we have to voluntarily submit our spirits to God and pray, regardless of what we “feel” like – **Mark 14:38**

The Place of Prayer is the Place Where the Keys of the Kingdom are activated

Matthew 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

- The Hebrew words for bind and loose were legal terms commonly used by rabbis
- They interpreted the law and declared what was prohibited as “*bound*” and what was permitted as “*loosed*”
- We have this spiritual authority here on earth
- When we pray we are declaring, or passing laws
- These laws decree what is or isn’t allowed on earth

We declare to be legal on earth that which is legal in heaven, and we declare to be illegal here on earth what is illegal in heaven

- This is why declaring scripture is so important
- Death and life are in the power of the tongue
– **Proverbs 18:21**
- Our words have the power to create what we speak
- If you declare poverty that is what you’ll have
- Change your confession today!

The place of Prayer is the Place Where We Expand Our Territory

2 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

- Through prayer we expand the capacity of our spirit and the size of our territory
- Your prayer life will determine your measure of influence and government in the Spirit
- When we stop praying we begin to lose spiritual authority we previously had
- Prayerlessness relinquishes spiritual territory
- You cannot be complacent about prayer

The Place of Prayer is the Place Where We Obtain the Favor of God

Psalm 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

- God's favor in our lives allows us access to things we otherwise would not have
- The favor of God is something that is attracted to us through a life of prayer