

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.”

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Yes, prayer is continual, but we will not have the kind of communication with God He desires if we do not purpose first a place of prayer

- That way we direct the rest of our day towards Him
- 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

Jesus didn't start praying at the moment of urgency, instead He walked in constant prayer and out of that prayer flowed the supernatural

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

It is so much more than acquiring information about God. He wants us to know Him intimately and living in His love now and in the age to come

- Prayer goes way beyond our earthly happiness in this age
- As we grow in prayer we experience new facets of His love

Ephesians 3:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

In fact, to know God's love is to know God

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- The way God thinks and feels flows from His unwavering, passionate, infinite, wholehearted love
- We were created to express a measure of God's all-consuming love
- It is foundational to walking in the Kingdom of God

John 17:23 (NKJV)

²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- Jesus is saying that the Father loves us with the same intensity as He loves Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- In turn, He enables us to love ourselves as well as others with the same love that He loves us with

Matthew 22:37–39 (NKJV)

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

The Lord loves us with all of His heart and wants us to respond to Him with all of our love

- He wants us to bring our “all” into the relationship because He is wholehearted love
- He is worthy of our wholehearted love

Notice that the command to love God with our whole heart doesn't begin with us

God created us not only to receive His love but to respond in return through that same great love

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

It is impossible to love God and others if we don't first love ourselves the way God loves us

- We are to love who we are in Christ
- Our new identity is in Him

When we hate ourselves because we don't see who we are in Christ, we experience deep rejection that damages our ability to love and receive love

- God desires to liberate our hearts from self-hatred

When we love ourselves, we will stop wishing that we were someone else and we can flourish with the giftings and call that is unique to us!

- Our appearances, natural abilities, personalities, families, parents, nationalities, and so on

Once we love ourselves we can accept and love others

John 15:12 (NKJV)

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

If we receive God's love and love Him in return, it's only a matter of time before we will begin loving people more deeply

The same love that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love one another and us with is available for us to draw on and pass on to others

- We can only have a revelation of this love through purposeful, passionate prayer

Psalms 27:4 (NKJV)

⁴ One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek... To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

- The Lord knows that when we have His heart it will change the way we see others and respond to them

John 15:9 (NKJV)

⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

- We can even love fellow believers who mistreat us because God loves them just as He loves us
- We will delight in one another the way God does in us
- We will be empowered to extend this love to others who don't yet know His love

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