

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

Abiding in Christ

John 15:5 (NKJV)

⁵ “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- This passage of scripture is the essence of Jesus’ foundational teaching on prayer
- He is declaring that if we are establishing a dwelling place in the Spirit through prayer we will bear fruit
- As we “abide in Christ” not only will we bear fruit, but it will remain
- God remembers our fruit forever because it lasts forever
- Jesus links eternal rewards to the fruit we build in our lives
– 1 Corinthians 3:9-15
- He remembers our small acts of obedience!

We bear fruit in two ways

- Inwardly in our character
- Outwardly in our ministry or service

Bearing fruit is not only for a select few with the right education, training or connections

- It is for anyone willing to cultivate a life of abiding in Christ
- No matter what your circumstance or status, you can bear fruit that will last!

What is Abiding in Christ?

Talking to Jesus

- Our relationship with Jesus is an ongoing dialogue with a real person
- This person is fully God and fully man
- Jesus has much to say to us, but He allows us to set the pace
- He will continue the conversation as long as we do
- He responds to the degree to which we communicate with Him

Again, even though it is a conversation through out the day we will “pray on the run” more consistently when we have a focused, purposeful place of prayer each day

“Behold I stand at the door...” – **Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)**

Applying His Promises

The word of God is full of promises that He loves us, forgives us, and provides for us

- Emotions such as shame, guilt, fear, or rejection will often rise up and challenge these promises
- The enemy will come and challenge these promises as well
– **Revelation 12:10**

Romans 10:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ But what does it say? “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):
⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- We take a stand against our emotions and the accuser by confessing what the word says about us
- The lies will not go away by themselves we must confess truths of God’s word

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

- Don’t live under the lie that you are worthless and have been forgotten or rejected by God

Obeying His Leadership (Lordship)

John 14:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

- Our obedience and love for the Lord are closely related
- Those who sets their hearts to keep Jesus’ commands are the ones who truly love Him
- Obedience is our expression of love for Jesus
- Here we see that Jesus promised to manifest Himself to those who obey Him
- He will release the grace of His presence to minds and emotions in a way that we can feel it
- Its in the context of obedient love that He releases the deeper things of His heart
- It is impossible to love the Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength while ignoring obedience

Those who love God in truth will set their hearts to live in obedience in every area of their lives – including their use of time, money, words, and what their eyes look at

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Ongoing, willful compromise will greatly hinder your spiritual growth and capacity to agree with God in prayer

- Sin hinders our love for Him
- We need to call sin, sin, repent and receive God's forgiveness
- He will remove our sin as if we had never sinned before

Walking in obedience is not about earning the answers to our prayers it's about enjoying God

- Both what we neglect to do positively as well as what we do negatively deeply affect our prayer lives

James 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

- Earnest prayer comes from a heart that is engaged with God
- It's not just routine or going through the motions
- We are to focus our mind and attention toward the Lord
- Earnest prayer is also persistent – **Luke 18:1-8**
- We must refuse to be denied answers to prayers that are in agreement with God's will

Luke 11:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- Ask, Seek, Knock – used in the continual present tense
- Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking
- Pray with all perseverance – **Ephesians 6:18**
- Labor in fervent prayer – **Colossians 4:12**
- We find God when we search for Him with all of our heart – **Jeremiah 29:13**

Ephesians 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

- There are two aspects of Christ’s abiding in us
- First, He abides in our spirits instantly when we are born again
- Second, He abides in our hearts progressively as He manifests His presence in our mind and emotions
- The second “*abiding*” is what Paul is praying for

When Christ is abiding in our hearts there are at least three primary results

The Spirit Teaches Us

John 14:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- The Spirit desires to teach us many things about Jesus' heart, Word and will
- He will do this by giving us wisdom and creative ideas for every area of our lives
- Handling of money, managing our schedules, prospering in relationships, functioning in ministry
- As well as walking in purity and health, both physically and emotionally

The Spirit Inspires Us

- The Holy Spirit will motivate us not to draw back or quit
- We all need to be motivated from time to time
- One of our greatest temptations is to “coast” in our relationship with God

The Spirit inspires us to recommit time and time again to living in the fullness of God

Hebrews 10:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 6:12 (NKJV)

¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

The Spirit Empowers Us

Hebrews 10:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ *“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,”*

- The Spirit of God writes God’s word on our hearts and minds
- This empowers our emotions with new, holy desires so that we love what God loves and hate what God hates
- He also gives us insight into our own hearts
- The spirit of revelation causes our cold, dull hearts to become fiery and alive

Ephesians 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

One of the most essential aspects of growing in prayer is cultivating a right view of God

- The word of God tells us the truth about who God is
- He is a tender, loving Father
- Jesus is the Bridegroom King
- We are to delight ourselves in relationship with Him

Our prayer life is transformed when we come to know God as someone we can approach confidently, knowing that He enjoys us and is glad to be in relationship with His people

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.

Romans 8:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

- The truth is Abba-God enjoys us even in our weaknesses
- As sons and daughters, we are able to approach His throne with confidence
- Without shame or hesitation

Our prayer lives will not grow until we come to a place of confidence in God

Ephesians 5:29–32 (NKJV)

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ “*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*” ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- Christ loves His bride
- He cherishes and nourishes her
- Before the return of the Lord the church will see herself as the bride crying out for the return of the Bridegroom King
- As sons of God we are positioned to experience God’s throne
- We are heirs to His power
- As the bride of Christ, we are positioned to experience God’s heart
- Jesus’ commitment to His bride is to share His heart, home throne, secrets, and beauty with them

The Lord is raising up a multitude of men and women, singers, preachers, evangelists, writers, intercessors, people in the workplace to proclaim that God delights in His people

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.