

“This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.”

(2 Timothy 1:6, NLT)

You and I are called to constantly stir up the embers and fuel the fire so we will remain a blazing inferno for Jesus

- *“stir up”* (NKJV) – the original language refers to repeating an earlier action or doing something again
- To be enthusiastic, fervent, passionate, vigorous, wholehearted, or zealous

The fact is that when the fuel of any sort is depleted, fire will eventually go out

The biblical pattern of the book of Acts also reveals that if we give the Word of God a preeminent position in our lives we put ourselves in a position for the miraculous to take place

**The Word of God is Fuel and Fire in and of itself
Fire Purifies, Illuminates and Empowers
The Word Produces Wonders**

Never forget that the book of Acts is not merely a history book

“Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.” **(Acts 2:43, NKJV)**

Signs and wonders occurred concurrently with the early believers’ intense focus on the anointed proclamation of biblical truth

Not only was the early church addicted to the Word of the Lord, but they were also steadfast in prayer – **Acts 2:42**

- It was a priority to them
- They were intensely focused on and completely committed to prayer

They understood that when they called out to God He would hear them and show them mighty answers beyond their natural understanding

Likewise, if we are going to see God move mightily among us today, it is essential that we call out to Him in fervent, faith filled prayer

“No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here [in prayer], we fail everywhere.”
– Leonard Ravenhill, Prophetic Minister, Evangelist, Author

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (**Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV**)

- To call unto God is a reference to passionate prayer
- If we do our part in prayer, God will show us great and mighty things
- The task of calling out to God is the glorious assignment given to every believer and the Church as a whole

Early Christians depended on the power of God, and they regularly called on Him to move among them

As a result, they experienced the power of God on such a miraculous level that the forces of darkness were driven back

When we study the book of Acts, we find that the Early Church had no machinery or equipment on which to rely

- Realizing their total dependency on God
- They pressed into prayer
- The result was the power of God enabling them to take the Gospel to the ends of the known world in that day

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” (Acts 1:14, NKJV)

For ten consecutive and concentrated days, those followers of Jesus prayed and waited for the Promise of the Father to be poured out on them

- When the Day of Pentecost came they were filled with power and the baptism of the Holy Spirit

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.” (Acts 3:1, NKJV)

- As they approached the temple the healing power of God manifest through them
- A lame man was healed
- When we are devoted to consistent, passionate prayer the healing power of God manifests in our lives

“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.”

(Acts 4:31, NKJV)

- Prayer is a place
- A place where the saints gather together
- Prayer will give us boldness in speaking the Word of God

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:14–17, NKJV)

- They called unto God and He responded by showing them great and mighty things!

“a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.” (Acts 10:2, NKJV)

As he was praying the Lord sent an angel that directed him to send for the Apostle Peter, who would bring him and his family the message of the Gospel

- He obeyed
- He and his family received salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- God gloriously moved among them!

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.” (Acts 12:5, NKJV)

- They prayed without ceasing
- They called to God, and He answered
- He sends an angel to Peter’s prison cell
- He miraculously unlocks Peter’s chains and opens the prison doors, setting him free

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2, NKJV)

- Here we find the elders of the church committed to intense prayer
- The gift of prophecy is released
- Barnabas and Saul are released to take the Gospel to distant lands

From the beginning to the end of the Book of Acts, we see example after example of believers calling out to God, and God clearly and powerfully answers their prayers

- Whenever fervent prayers are offered from the heart, the results are always mighty

If we want New Testament results we must do what the early believers did as they continued steadfastly in prayer

The apostles learned to pray from the example they saw in Jesus

“We are not told that Jesus ever taught His disciples to preach, but He taught them to pray.” – Evangelist, D.L. Moody

Jesus often withdrew from the company of others to spend time with the Father in prayer at any time of the day or night

- It was the centerpiece of His ministry
- The disciples replicated what they saw Jesus do
- They made prayer a daily discipline in their own lives
- They passed this prayerful emphasis on to the Early church

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

(Acts 2:42, NKJV)

- *“Prayers”* – used 127 times in the New Testament
- The most common word translated as prayer
- Also used in **Ephesians 6:18**

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” **(Ephesians 6:18, NIV)**

- In other words, it’s not *“one prayer fits all”*
- There are different kinds of prayer for different situations
- We have to learn how and when to operate in every one of them

The New Testament uses six different Greek words for prayer

Some sources list more than six; however, those additional words have to do with worship or are prayer words, not specific types

Each one of these forms of prayer is different from the others, and continually at our disposal to use in our fight of faith

The Prayer of Intercession

This is the rarest word translated as prayer and only appears once in the New Testament

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:26, NKJV)

- *Intercession* – to fall in on behalf of someone else and come to their rescue
- Exclusively describing prayer done by the Holy Spirit Himself on our behalf

The Prayer of Supplication

This word is only used five times in the New Testament

- Often translated as *“intercession”*
- However, it does not refer to intercession as most people would understand it
- It carries the idea of *falling into the presence of the Lord or freely enjoying fellowship in the presence of the Lord*

It signifies a wonderful, intimate form of prayer that includes access to freely petition for grace to help in time of need

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16, NKJV)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

This next word describes *wonderful feelings of good sentiments that freely flow up and out of the heart in response to something or someone*

“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NKJV)

- This verse tells us that it is God’s will that we use the prayer of thanksgiving in every aspect of our lives

The Prayer of Authority

This Greek word translated “*prayer*” means *I ask, or I demand*

- It describes someone who knows what they need and authoritatively asks God for it
- Primarily dealing with tangible needs such as food, shelter, and clothing

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19, NKJV)

The Prayer of Petition

This word and its various forms are translated as “*prayer and petition*” more than 40 times

- Essentially describing a person’s cry for help
- A humble recognition and continual need for God
- Translated as “*supplication*” in **Ephesians 6:18**

The Prayer of Surrender and Consecration

This is the most common word for prayer in the New Testament

The word depicts something that is upfront, close, or face to face

- It pictures intimate contact
- Also describes a wish, desire, prayer, or vow

Originally used to depict a person who made some kind of vow to God because of a need or desire in their life

- They would vow to give something of great value to God in exchange for a favorable answer to prayer

We see a perfect example of this in **1 Samuel 1** in the story of Hannah, the mother of Samuel

- She deeply desired a child but was unable to become pregnant
- Out of desperation and anguish, she prayed a solemn vow to God

“Then she made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

“Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD.”

(1 Samuel 1:11, 19–20, NKJV)

In exchange for receiving the precious gift of her son, Hannah vowed that her young boy would be devoted to the work of the ministry

- This was frequent in the Old Testament
- It was a way to offer a gift of thanksgiving in advance
- This was their way of releasing faith in the goodness of God

Quite often, before verbalizing his prayer a person would set up a commemorative altar and offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving upon the altar

- Such offerings of thanksgiving were called “*votive offerings*”
- This was similar to a pledge

A person promised to return to the altar and give an additional offering of thanksgiving, once the prayer was answered

- The idea of sacrifice is also associated with this word for “*prayer*”

Portraying an individual who was willing to surrender everything he owned in exchange for the answer to his prayer

- A place of sacrifice and consecration built in the place of prayer
- A place in which a person entirely yields their life to the Lord

Although the Holy Spirit may convict us of things we need to surrender to His sanctifying power, He will never forcibly take things from us

- It is clearly a place of decision and consecration
- An altar where we freely commit our lives to God in exchange for the fullness of His life
- This shows us that God desires to more than just bless us
- He wants to change us
- This is so much more than offering a simple prayer request
- It is also an act of surrender, consecration, and thanksgiving

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20, NKJV)

“For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3, NLT)

These six different types of prayer specifically referred to in the New Testament are given to the Church to be used at different times for different situations

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;” (Colossians 4:2, NKJV)

- *Continue* – translated as “*steadfastly*” in **Acts 2:42**
- It portrays a strong, robust, *never give up*, type of leaning toward an object

A picture of a person or congregation that wants something so desperate they are pressing toward it and are resolute in their determination to never give up until they have received the answer to their prayers

- Tenaciously pressing into the Spirit realm
- Busily engaged in activities that will help bring the object of his or her desires to fruition

Jesus prayed “*all of the time*”

It was an ongoing way of life for Him – not just something He did before He ate, before He went to bed, or when He attended synagogue

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,” (Luke 18:1, NKJV)

Abiding in prayer releases the supernatural power and presence of God in our lives

- It stamps us with God’s miraculous presence
- If you want to be “*marked by God*”, you must be a person of prayer
- We must do whatever is necessary to cultivate a passion for prayer and stay ablaze with the Spirit of God

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—” (Ephesians 6:18, NKJV)

- “*Every time you get an opportunity, no matter what you are doing, seize the opportunity to pray!*”

What are we to pray for?

“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.”

(Matthew 6:9–12, NKJV)

- For God’s will to be done on earth
- For Physical provision
- For us to be delivered from evil
- For us to forgive those who have wronged us

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.” **(2 Thessalonians 3:1–2, NKJV)**

- Pray for spiritual leaders – Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Etc.
- As well as all who preach the Gospel

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

(1 Timothy 2:1–2, NKJV)

- *Pray for all people in authority*
- *Governmental leaders* – not just the ones we voted for
- This is not an option or suggestion
- It is a command!
- He wants all to be saved and come to the truth – **2 Peter 3:9**
- *To live a peaceful life*

“meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,” (Colossians 4:3, NKJV)

- Pray for open doors for the Gospel

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;” (John 17:9, 20, NKJV)

- Pray for those who part of our Church and have come to the Lord through our ministry

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” (James 5:14–15, NKJV)

- Pray for fellow believers who are sick

“If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.” (1 John 5:16, NKJV)

- Pray for believers who are living in sin

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.” (Romans 10:1, NKJV)

- Pray for Israel to be saved

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.” (Psalm 122:6, NKJV)

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

These are fifteen specific things we are commanded to pray in scripture

- These are all things that will help you pray God’s heart
- This is not an all-inclusive list but a good starting place to develop a disciplined prayer life

As you start to pray these things there will be many things you will supernaturally pray for that are not included in this list, because the Holy Spirit will lead you in your praying!

Prayer is a decision!

“A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God” – Leonard Ravenhill

“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.” (Psalm 63:1, NKJV)

- Is your soul hungry for God?
- If so, it’s time to throw another log on the fire of your heart
- God desires to move!

He is first waiting for us to call out to Him, expectant for Him to show us great and mighty things, beyond what our natural mind can comprehend! – **Jeremiah 33:3, Ephesians 3:20**