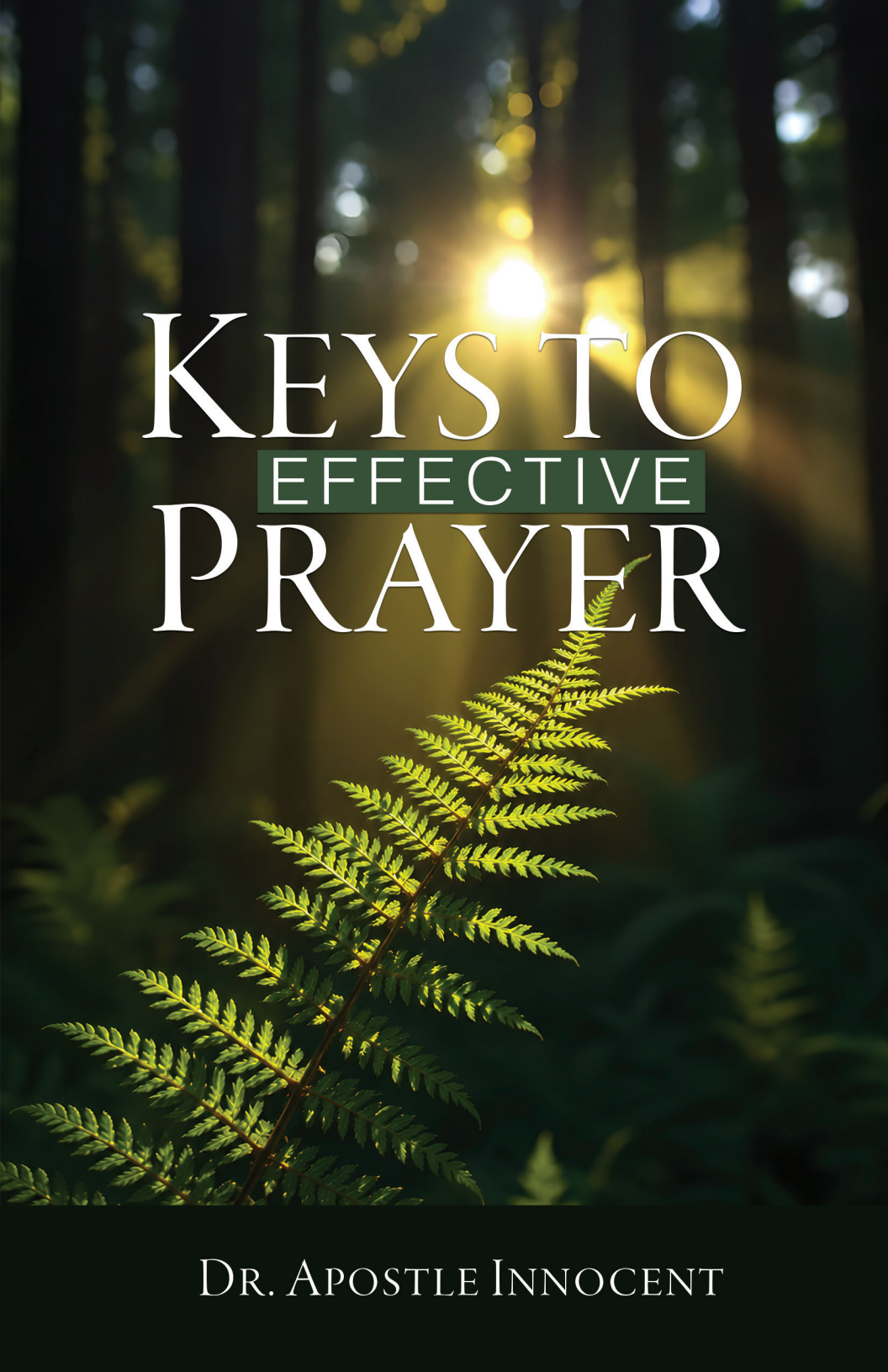




KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION

Many saints pray, yet not all saints see results.

Some have prayed for years about the same issue and still wonder why nothing seems to change.

Others appear to pray and receive answers quickly. This raises an important question: if God is the same for everyone, why do some prayers produce results while others do not?

The answer is not found in how long a person prays. It is not found in how loudly they pray, how emotional they become, or even how many days they spend fasting. Effective prayer is governed by spiritual principles. When these principles are understood and applied, prayer produces results.

One of the greatest mistakes saints make is treating prayer as a religious activity. Many think God only pays attention when they kneel down to pray. Yet Scripture reveals something deeper.

God is concerned not only with what you say during prayer but also with what you say before prayer.

The prophet Isaiah records a remarkable promise from God: “Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” Isaiah 65:24

This means God is listening long before the prayer meeting begins. He hears your conversations. He hears your confessions. He hears the meditations of your heart. He sees your attitude and your conduct. By the time many people begin praying, they have already spent days speaking against the very thing they are asking God to do.

Many prayers fail not because God refused to answer them, but because

the words spoken before prayer contradicted the prayer itself.

Prayer is not a passport that allows a person to receive anything they want regardless of how they live. There is a spiritual foundation beneath every effective prayer. God considers your faith.

He considers your words. He considers your desire. He considers your lifestyle.

Throughout the Bible, men and women who obtained extraordinary results in prayer understood these principles. They learned how to pray according to God's Word. They learned how to believe. They learned how to remove fear and doubt. They learned the power of right confession. Most importantly, they learned how to align themselves with what God had already spoken.

This book is about understanding the spiritual laws that govern answered prayer. As you read these pages, you will discover that prayer is far more than a religious exercise. Prayer is a spiritual transaction between a believer and God.

A prayerless man is a powerless man. Anytime you stop praying, you become a prey to the enemy.

Therefore, the principles you will learn in this book will transform your prayer life and place you in a position where you can arrest the heavens, and they cannot deny you the answers to your prayers. Remember, God is more willing to answer prayers than men are willing to pray.

CHAPTER 1

THE PRAYER BEFORE PRAYER

One of the greatest mistakes saints make concerning prayer is thinking that God only begins listening when they start praying. Many people have been taught to view prayer as a moment when they finally gain God's attention.

They believe that when they kneel down, close their eyes, and begin speaking, heaven suddenly becomes aware of their situation. Yet the Scriptures reveal something completely different.

In Isaiah 65:24, God says, "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

This scripture reveals a truth that many saints have overlooked. God hears another form of prayer before prayer. Before the prayer is made, before the request is presented, before the believer enters their prayer room, God has already been listening.

This changes the way we should understand prayer.

If God hears before prayer, then what we say before prayer matters. If God hears before prayer, then our conversations matter. If God hears before prayer, then our confessions matter. If God hears before prayer, then the meditations of our hearts matter.

Many saints spend one hour praying for things they have already spent

days speaking against for twenty three hours of the day. They pray for success after speaking failure. They pray for healing after speaking sickness. They pray for breakthrough after speaking limitation. They pray for victory after speaking defeat. Then they wonder why their prayers seem ineffective. The problem is that by the time they enter prayer, heaven has already heard the language they have been speaking throughout the day.

This is why the believer must understand that prayer is more than words spoken in a prayer meeting. Prayer is connected to a lifestyle. Prayer is connected to confession. Prayer is connected to faith. Prayer is connected to the condition of the heart.

Many people assume that God is moved by the act of prayer itself. Yet Scripture teaches that God is concerned with something deeper. He is concerned with what comes out of a person's mouth.

The believer must ask themselves an important question: What have I been saying before I started praying? This question is often more important than people realise.

A person can spend an hour in prayer and spend the rest of the day speaking against everything they prayed for. Such a person creates conflict between their confession and their prayer. Their mouth is moving in two different directions.

The Bible teaches that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Words are not accidental. They reveal what is established within a person. This is why confession is so important.

Your words reveal what you truly believe.

Many saints have developed a language of defeat without even realising it. They constantly speak about what cannot happen. They speak about what will never change. They speak about what is impossible. They speak about their limitations more than they speak about God's promises.

Yet God listens. He listens when you speak about your future, your family, your health, your finances, and your circumstances.

The believer who understands this truth begins to treat their words differently. They understand that their conversations are not separate from their prayer life. Their conversations are part of their prayer life.

This is one reason why many blessings are delayed. The problem is not always a lack of prayer. Sometimes the problem is the language that exists before the prayer. A believer asks God for one thing while continually confessing the opposite. God does not want His people to live this way.

The Christian life is not measured only by what happens in church. It is revealed by what happens outside church. It is easy to speak faith in a service. It is easy to make declarations when surrounded by other saints. The true test is what comes out of your mouth when circumstances become difficult and no one is around to encourage you. That is where genuine faith is revealed.

Many people have adopted the attitude that God only pays attention when they are praying.

Because of this, they are careless with their words throughout the rest of the day. Yet Isaiah reveals that God is listening before they call.

This means that the preparation for effective prayer begins long before prayer itself. The believer who desires results must learn to align their speech with God's Word. They must learn to refuse language that contradicts what God has promised. They must learn to speak in agreement with God's truth rather than in agreement with fear, limitation, and unbelief.

Prayer does not begin when a person kneels down. Prayer begins with the words they speak every day.

The believer who understands this principle has already taken an important step toward developing an effective prayer life. Before they ever enter the place of prayer, they are already preparing their heart, their confession, and their faith for the answer they desire to receive from God.

Chapter 2

Praying According to

God's Word

One of the greatest reasons many saints do not see results in prayer is because they pray according to their feelings rather than according to God's Word. They pray based on what they are experiencing, what they are seeing, or what they are hoping might happen. Yet the Bible teaches that effective prayer is not built upon feelings, emotions, or circumstances. Effective prayer is built upon what God has already spoken.

The Bible says in 1 John 5:14, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Many saints read this scripture and immediately ask what God's will is. The answer is simple.

God's Word is His revealed will. Whenever God has spoken concerning a matter, His position on that matter has already been established. The believer does not need to guess what God wants to do where His Word has already spoken.

This is where many people struggle in prayer.

They spend time asking God for things without first finding out what He has already said concerning those things. As a result, their prayers are filled with uncertainty. They pray and say well. Whatever will be will be. They hope God will do something, but they have no confidence because they are not standing upon a specific promise.

The Bible says that confidence comes when we ask according to His will. Confidence is impossible where there is uncertainty. A person who does not know what God has said about healing will struggle to pray confidently about healing. A person who does not know what God has said about provision will struggle to pray confidently about provision. This is why the Word of God must become the foundation of prayer.

One of the most powerful revelations a believer can receive is the understanding that God is a Judge.

Isaiah tells us that the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, and the Lord is our King. This means that when a believer comes before God in prayer, they are not approaching an emotional ruler who changes His mind from one day to the next. They are approaching a righteous Judge.

A judge does not make decisions based on emotions. A judge makes decisions according to what has been established. This is why the Word of God is so important in prayer. The believer must learn to approach God with what He has already spoken. Instead of presenting opinions, they present promises. Instead of presenting human reasoning, they present God's Word.

Many saints spend their time praying prayers that are not built upon Scripture. They say many things before God, but they never establish their case upon what God has spoken. Yet throughout the Bible, those who obtained results understood the importance of reminding God of His Word.

The children of Israel repeatedly approached God based on what He had spoken to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When they found themselves in difficult situations, they did not merely describe their problems. They reminded God of His covenant. They reminded Him of His promises.

They reminded Him of what He had already declared and this principle remains true today.

If a believer is praying for provision, they should know what God has said concerning provision. If they are praying for healing, they should know what God has said concerning healing. If they are praying concerning their children, their family, or their future, they should know what God has spoken concerning those matters.

Prayer becomes powerful when it is connected to revelation. This is one reason the enemy fights saints who know the Scriptures. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, the battle centred around what had been

spoken. Satan quoted scripture. Jesus responded with scripture. The battle was not won through emotions. It was won through the authority of God's Word.

Yet there is an important lesson in that encounter.

Many people know what is written, but they never move beyond knowledge. They know verses, but they do not speak them. They know promises, but they do not stand upon them. The enemy is not troubled simply because a believer owns a Bible. He is troubled when a believer begins to believe and speak what God has said.

This is why prayer must be built upon Scripture.

A believer should not approach prayer wondering what God thinks about a matter when God has already spoken. They should find what is written, believe it, and present it before God with confidence.

The Word of God gives substance to prayer. It removes uncertainty. It strengthens faith. It creates confidence because the believer is no longer relying upon personal opinions or emotions. They are relying upon the integrity of God Himself.

Many saints have developed the habit of speaking more about their problems than about God's promises. They spend more time describing the mountain than declaring what God has said about the mountain. Yet Jesus taught that mountains move when faith speaks.

This is why the Word must fill the believer's heart and mouth. The more a person knows God's Word, the more effectively they can pray. The more they meditate upon God's promises, the more confidence they develop before God.

Prayer was never designed to be separated from Scripture. The two work together. The Word provides the foundation and prayer becomes the means through which the believer agrees with what God has already declared.

The believer who desires results in prayer must therefore become a

student of God's Word. They must learn not only to read it but to believe it, speak it, and pray it. When prayer is built upon the Word, faith begins to grow. When faith grows, confidence increases. When confidence increases, the believer approaches God differently because they know they are standing upon something that cannot fail.

God watches over His Word to perform it. For this reason, the strongest prayers are not necessarily the longest prayers or the loudest prayers. The strongest prayers are those that are firmly established upon what God has already Spoken.

CHAPTER 3

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

One of the most challenging statements Jesus ever made concerning prayer is found in Mark 11:24. He said, “Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

The word that immediately captures attention is “whatsoever.” Jesus did not say some things. He did not say certain things. He said whatsoever.

This means that God never intended saints to live defeated lives, constantly wondering whether prayer can produce results. The promise is broad, and the promise is powerful. Yet many saints read this scripture and still struggle to understand why they pray without seeing results.

The answer is not that God’s Word has failed.

The answer is that there are principles that govern effective prayer. Jesus did not simply say pray. He said, “When you pray, believe.” The missing ingredient in many prayers is not activity.

The missing ingredient is faith.

Many saints have developed a routine of prayer.

They pray because they have always prayed.

They pray because it is part of their Christian life.

They pray because they know they should pray.

Yet faith is not produced by routine. Faith is produced by confidence in what God has spoken.

This is why the Bible speaks about different dimensions of faith. The Apostle Paul refers to a faith that can move mountains. This reveals that faith is not static. Faith grows. Faith develops.

There are situations that require a greater level of faith than others. A person cannot approach every challenge with the same expectation and obtain the same results.

Many saints are trying to move mountains with the level of faith that was only sufficient to move smaller obstacles. Yet Jesus taught that there is a faith capable of dealing with mountains. This kind of faith does not come through wishful thinking. It comes through hearing and receiving God's Word.

Romans 10:17 says that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God". This is why the Word of God occupies such an important place in effective prayer. The believer who spends time in God's Word is continually feeding their faith. Every promise of God strengthens confidence. Every testimony recorded in Scripture strengthens expectation. Every revelation of God's faithfulness builds conviction within the heart. Faith is not blind. Faith is confidence that what God has spoken is true.

This is why Abraham remains one of the greatest examples of faith in the Scriptures. God promised him that he would become the father of many nations. Yet when Abraham looked at his circumstances, there was nothing that appeared to support the promise. His body was old. Sarah's body was old. The years continued to pass without any visible evidence that the promise would come to pass.

Yet the Bible says that against hope, he believed in hope.

This statement reveals the true nature of faith.

Faith does not depend on favourable circumstances. Faith depends on God's Word.

Abraham chose to believe what God had said even when there was no natural reason to believe it. He refused to allow circumstances to become

greater than God's promise.

This is where many saints lose their breakthrough.

They begin by standing on the Word, but after a period of waiting they start examining circumstances more than they examine the promise. They begin to calculate possibilities according to natural reasoning. They begin to measure God's ability according to visible evidence.

Faith does the opposite. Faith measures circumstances against God's Word. Faith does not ask whether the situation looks possible.

Faith asks what God has said about the situation.

This principle can be seen again in the life of Elijah. After praying for rain, he sent his servant to look toward the sea. The servant returned and reported seeing only a small cloud the size of a man's hand. To most people, that report would have sounded insignificant. Yet Elijah responded differently because he was operating by faith.

While others saw a small cloud, Elijah heard the sound of abundance of rain.

He understood that God had already spoken concerning the matter. For him, the answer was not determined by the size of the cloud but by the certainty of God's promise. Faith allowed him to see beyond what was visible.

This is how faith operates in prayer. Faith receives before manifestation. Faith believes before evidence appears. Faith remains confident before circumstances change.

James teaches the same principle when he says that the prayer of faith shall save the sick. Notice that Scripture does not simply speak about prayer.

It speaks about the prayer of faith. The distinguishing factor is not the prayer itself but the faith behind it.

Many people pray from fear. Many pray from panic. Many pray from

desperation. Yet effective prayer is built upon confidence in God's Word. It is built upon a conviction that God is faithful to perform what He has promised.

The believer who desires results in prayer must therefore learn to develop faith continually. Faith grows through hearing God's Word, meditating on God's Word, and refusing to allow circumstances to become more authoritative than God's Word.

When prayer is joined with faith, the believer no longer approaches God with uncertainty. They approach Him with confidence because they know that the God who made the promise is able to fulfil it. Such a believer understands that faith is not merely part of prayer. Faith is the force that gives prayer its effectiveness and positions the believer to receive what God has promised.

CHAPTER 4

THE POWER OF YOUR

Confession

Many saints think God only listens when they pray. Many prayers are being delayed not because God is unwilling to answer, but because the words spoken before prayer are contradicting the prayer itself.

A person spends the entire week speaking defeat, then enters prayer asking for victory. Another spends days talking about lack and limitation, then asks God for abundance. Others constantly speak about sickness, weakness, and failure, then wonder why their prayers for healing and breakthrough seem ineffective.

The problem is that they have separated confession from prayer, yet God has not separated the two. What you say matters. Your words reveal what you truly believe. It is easy to make declarations during prayer. It is easy to speak faith in church. The real test is what comes out of your mouth when there is no congregation around you, when there is no worship music playing, and when circumstances are working against you. That is where faith is revealed.

Many saints are waiting for God to answer prayers that they have already cancelled with their own words. Every time a person declares that something cannot happen, they are speaking against the very thing they are asking God to do.

Every time they confess defeat, they strengthen the atmosphere of defeat around them. This is why the tongue must be brought under the government of God's Word.

The Bible teaches that life and death are in the power of the tongue.

This is not merely a statement about speech. It is a spiritual principle.

Words carry authority because they reveal the condition of the heart. Whatever consistently fills the heart will eventually appear in speech.

God listens to both.

Many people are waiting until they see evidence before they speak positively. They say they will speak faith after the breakthrough comes. They will speak victory after the battle is won. They will speak abundance after the money arrives.

Yet faith speaks before the manifestation appears.

The Bible says that “God calls those things which are not as though they were.” He speaks according to what He intends to produce rather than according to what presently exists. As children of God, saints are called to learn the same principle.

This does not mean pretending that problems do not exist. It means refusing to allow problems to become the highest authority in your life. God’s Word must remain the final authority.

Many saints have developed a language that works against their future. They constantly speak limitations over themselves. They speak failure over their businesses. They speak weakness over their families. They speak fear over situations that require faith. Then they wonder why progress is slow. The issue is not merely what is happening during prayer. The issue is what is happening before prayer.

A believer’s mouth should not be producing faith in prayer and unbelief outside prayer. There must be agreement between the confession of daily life and the prayer being offered before God.

The enemy understands the power of words. He is not afraid of routine prayer. What troubles him is a believer who has aligned their confession with the Word of God. Such a believer becomes difficult to stop because their mouth, heart, faith, and prayer are all moving in the same direction.

This is why saints must become careful about the language they adopt. The words you speak concerning your future matters. The words you speak concerning your children matters. The words you speak concerning your health matter.

The words you speak concerning your finances matter. Your confession is not a small matter before God.

The believer who desires results in prayer must learn to guard their tongue. They must learn to speak in agreement with God's promises. They must learn to refuse language that contradicts what God has spoken.

When your confession agrees with God's Word, your faith is strengthened. When your faith is strengthened, your prayer becomes effective.

When your prayer becomes effective, results begin to follow.

God hears prayer, but He also hears the words that come before prayer. For this cause, every believer must understand that effective prayer does not begin when you kneel down. Effective prayer begins with the words you choose to speak every day.



CHAPTER 5

THE SECRET OF DESIRE

One of the greatest secrets concerning prayer is a truth that many saints have overlooked. It is possible to pray, fast, confess scriptures, and yet fail to see results because one important ingredient is missing. “That ingredient is desire”.

Many Christians think prayer is simply about asking. They assume that if they present a request before God, the request alone is enough. Yet when Jesus taught about prayer, He revealed something deeper.

In Mark 11:24, Jesus said:

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

Most people focus on the word prayer and overlook the word desire. Yet the word desire is one of the most important words in the entire verse.

Jesus did not say whatsoever things you casually think about. He did not say whatsoever things you occasionally wish for. He did not say whatsoever things you talk about from time to time. He said whatsoever things you desire.

Many saints are praying without desire. They are praying because they are under pressure. They are praying because circumstances have become difficult. They are praying because they have run out of options. They are praying because they are afraid. Yet there is a difference between pressure and desire. Pressure comes from circumstances.

Desire comes from within.

A person can want something and still not desire it. A person can wish

for something and still not desire it. A person can even pray for something and still not desire it. This is where many people misunderstand prayer.

The Bible says in Matthew 18:19:

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

Most people read this scripture and immediately focus on agreement. Agreement is important, but before agreement can produce results, there must first be desire.

The word translated as “ask” carries a deeper meaning than many people realise. It speaks of a strong desire, a craving, a longing, something that has become established within the heart. This means prayer is not merely presenting information before God. Prayer involves the development of genuine desire.

Many saints are trying to pray things they have never truly desired. They say they want a breakthrough, but they have never developed a deep desire for the breakthrough. They say they want healing, but they have never developed a genuine desire to walk in health. They say they want change, but they have never developed a burning desire to see that change manifest. As a result, prayer becomes weak because it is built upon pressure instead of desire.

There is a difference between a wish and a desire.

A wish is something that would be nice to have.

A desire is something that has captured your heart. A wish can disappear tomorrow. A desire remains. A wish is casual, but a desire is intentional. A wish lives in the mind but desire takes hold of the heart.

This is why many people pray without results.

They are praying from panic rather than desire.

They are praying because circumstances have forced them into prayer.

They are praying because they are tired of their situation. They are praying because people are asking questions. Yet Jesus never taught that pressure produces results.

He taught that desire produces results.

Consider the example of marriage. Some people say they want to get married. When examined closely, however, they are not motivated by desire. They are motivated by pressure. Family members are asking questions. Friends are getting married. Society is creating expectations.

The desire is not coming from the heart. The pressure is coming from outside.

Prayer built upon pressure struggles because pressure does not have the strength that desire possesses. The same principle applies in every area of life. Some people want a business because they see others succeeding. Some want a house because they are tired of renting. Some want a car because they are comparing themselves with others.

These things may create wants, wishes, and expectations, but they do not necessarily create desire.

True desire is different because desire is connected to purpose. Desire carries conviction.

Desire survives opposition. Desire remains even when circumstances become difficult. When a person truly desires something, their actions begin to align with that desire. Their thoughts align with it. Their words align with it. Their faith aligns with it. Everything within them begins moving in the same direction.

This is one reason Jesus often asked people what they wanted Him to do for them. It was not because He lacked knowledge of their situation.

He wanted them to identify and express their desire.

Desire brings focus, clarity and expectation.

Without desire, prayer easily becomes routine.

With desire, prayer becomes alive. This principle becomes even more powerful when two saints come together in agreement. Agreement is not simply two people saying the same words.

Agreement is two people sharing the same desire.

One person cannot carry the desire while the other remains indifferent. True agreement happens when both hearts become aligned concerning the same outcome.

When genuine desire is present, faith begins to grow naturally. The believer stops praying from obligation and begins praying from conviction.

They stop speaking from fear and begin speaking from expectation. Prayer becomes the expression of a heart that has become fully persuaded.

Many saints need to develop desire. The believer who develops genuine desire according to the will of God has already taken a significant step toward effective prayer. Desire prepares the heart for faith, and faith prepares the believer to receive what God has promised.

This is why Jesus said, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

The order is important. First comes desire. Then comes faith. Then comes manifestation. Many people are waiting for manifestation while neglecting the desire that should have existed from the beginning.

Effective prayer begins when desire takes hold of the heart.

CHAPTER 6

REMOVING FEAR AND DOUBT

One of the greatest enemies of faith is fear. Many saints know how to pray, know how to fast, and know how to confess scriptures, yet they still struggle to see results because fear remains in their hearts. The problem is not always the prayer.

Sometimes the problem is what happens after the prayer.

A person prays and believes God for a breakthrough. They stand on the Word. They declare God's promises. Yet after they finish praying, another voice begins speaking within them. "What if it does not happen?"

That question has destroyed more faith than many saints realise. A person prays for healing and then asks, "What if the sickness gets worse?"

Another prays for financial provision and then begins to wonder, "What if the money never comes?"

Someone else prays concerning their family and then starts imagining every possible negative outcome. The moment fear introduces a second option, faith begins to weaken. Faith does not look for another possibility. Faith stands on what God has said.

This is why the Bible speaks about Abraham in Romans chapter four. Abraham was given a promise by God that he would become the father of many nations. The problem was that everything around him suggested the opposite.

His body was old. Sarah's body was old. Years had passed since the promise was given. Human reasoning could not explain how it would

happen.

Yet the Bible says that against hope, he believed in hope. This is one of the most powerful statements concerning faith. There was no natural reason for Abraham to believe. Hope had disappeared. Time had passed. Circumstances were against him. Yet against hope, he believed in hope.

Many saints say they have faith, but the real question is whether they can believe when circumstances refuse to cooperate. It is easy to believe when things are improving. It is easy to believe when evidence is visible. It is easy to believe when people agree with you. The true test of faith comes when everything around you says it cannot happen and yet you continue believing God.

Abraham did not become the father of many nations because circumstances favoured him. He became the father of many nations because he chose to believe God's Word above his circumstances. This is how faith works.

Faith is not agreement with circumstances. Faith is agreement with God. The believer must come to a place where God's Word becomes more real than the situation they are facing. If circumstances become more real than God's promise, fear will eventually take over.

The prophet Elijah demonstrates this principle powerfully. After praying for rain, he sent his servant to look toward the sea. The servant returned and reported that he could only see a small cloud, no bigger than a man's hand.

To many people, such a report would have been disappointing. A cloud the size of a man's hand does not suggest abundance. It does not suggest a storm. It does not suggest the end of a drought.

Yet Elijah responded differently. While others saw a small cloud, Elijah heard the sound of abundance of rain.

So then, faith sees beyond what is visible. Faith hears what others cannot hear. Faith recognises God's answer even when it appears small.

The natural mind would have said, “How can a cloud that small produce rain?” Faith said, “The answer has already arrived.”

Many saints lose their miracle because they judge God’s promise by what they can see. Elijah judged what he saw by what God had already spoken.

The same principle applies today. A person receives a small breakthrough and becomes discouraged because it is not yet the full manifestation. Another sees only a slight improvement and concludes that nothing is happening.

Faith does not despise small beginnings. Faith recognises that God often begins with something small before producing something great.

Fear always wants evidence before it believes.

Faith believes because God has spoken. This is why fear must be removed from prayer. A believer cannot spend time building faith in prayer and then spend the rest of the day entertaining fear. The two cannot work together.

If God has spoken, believe Him. If God has promised, trust Him. If God has declared it, stand upon it. There will always be circumstances that attempt to contradict God’s Word. There will always be situations that try to produce fear. The believer who desires results in prayer must make a decision that God’s Word will remain the highest authority regardless of what they see.

Abraham believed against hope. Elijah heard abundance where others saw almost nothing.

Both men obtained results because they refused to allow fear to replace faith.

The same principle remains true today. Effective prayer requires more than words. It requires a heart that refuses to be moved by fear and chooses to stand upon what God has spoken.

CHAPTER 7

SEEING THE ANSWER

Before It Appears

Many saints pray, but very few have learned to see the answer before it appears. One of the greatest principles of faith is that manifestation begins long before anything changes in the natural. Before a breakthrough becomes visible, it must first become real within the believer.

This is why the Bible says in Joshua 1:8 that “the Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate upon it day and night. Most people read that scripture and immediately think about reading the Bible. While reading is important, meditation goes beyond reading. Meditation is the process of allowing God’s Word to become so real within you that you begin to see yourself according to what God has spoken.

The Lord told Joshua to meditate on the Word day and night so that he would observe to do all that was written in it. Then he would make his way prosperous and have good success. Notice that success did not begin on the battlefield.

Success began in meditation. Before Joshua could possess the land physically, he had to possess it internally.

Many saints want to see success before they believe. God teaches the opposite principle. He causes the believer to believe first, see it within themselves first, and then watch it manifest in the natural.

This is why faith is closely connected to vision.

Whatever God intends to do in your life must first become established within your heart. If a believer cannot see God’s promise internally, they

will struggle to receive it externally.

The woman with the issue of blood understood this principle. Before she touched Jesus, she had already reached a conclusion within herself. She said that if she could only touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed. Long before the healing manifested in her body, she had already seen herself receiving it.

This is one of the reasons many saints fail in prayer. They pray for success while continuing to see failure. They pray for healing while continuing to see sickness. They pray for breakthrough while imagining disappointment.

Their prayers are moving in one direction while their imagination is moving in another.

Faith requires agreement. Your mouth, your heart, your expectation, and your vision must all move together.

This is why meditation is so important.

Meditation allows the Word of God to replace the images that circumstances have created. Many people have become experts at imagining failure.

They can see every possible negative outcome.

They can see themselves losing. They can see themselves falling behind. They can see every obstacle before it appears. Yet faith requires a different picture.

The believer must learn to see themselves succeeding. They must learn to see restoration because God has promised restoration. They must learn to see victory because God has already declared victory in His Word.

This is not imagination separated from Scripture.

It is imagination governed by Scripture. The difference is important. Faith does not create its own reality. Faith embraces God's reality.

Many saints spend years meditating on their problems. They replay negative situations repeatedly in their minds. They revisit disappointments.

They revisit failures. They revisit fears. Then they wonder why faith remains weak. Whatever occupies the mind eventually influences belief.

Joshua was instructed to meditate on the Word because the Word produces the correct image.

The more a believer fills their mind with God's promises, the more those promises begin to shape their expectations.

This principle can be seen throughout Scripture.

Before God changes a person's circumstances, He often changes the way they see. Before He changes their environment, He changes their perspective. Before He changes their situation, He changes their vision.

The believer who desires effective prayer must learn to see beyond present circumstances. They must learn to see what God has spoken. They must learn to see victory before victory appears, restoration before restoration appears, and success before success appears.

Faith is not blind. Faith sees. It simply sees through the eyes of God's Word rather than through the limitations of circumstances.

This is why effective prayer requires more than speaking. It requires seeing. When the Word of God becomes so real within a believer that they begin to see themselves walking in the promise, faith grows stronger and expectation becomes established.

The person who sees according to God's Word will eventually begin to speak according to God's Word, act according to God's Word, and expect according to God's Word. When these things come together, they create an atmosphere where Faith can produce results.

Success begins long before it appears. Victory begins long before it manifests. Breakthrough begins long before it becomes visible. Everything begins with seeing what God has already said.

CHAPTER 8

THE LIFESTYLE BEHIND

Effective Prayer

One of the greatest misconceptions concerning prayer is the belief that prayer can compensate for a wrong lifestyle. Many saints assume that if they pray long enough, fast hard enough, or become emotional enough before God, they can obtain results regardless of how they live. Yet the Scriptures reveal that there is a spiritual foundation beneath every effective prayer.

Isaiah 65 contains one of the most powerful statements concerning prayer. God says, “Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” Most people focus on the promise of answered prayer, but they fail to understand what God is revealing. God is not waiting until you enter prayer before He begins listening. He is already listening before you pray.

This means that your life before prayer matters.

Your conversations before prayer matter. Your confessions before prayer matter. Your conduct before prayer matters.

Many saints think God only examines their prayer life. God examines their entire life. By the time a person kneels down to pray, God has already seen what they have been saying, what they have been thinking, and how they have been living.

This is why some prayers struggle to produce results. A person spends an hour praying for victory after spending an entire week speaking defeat. Another asks God for breakthrough after continually confessing limitations and failures.

Others ask God to move in their lives while continuing to live in ways that contradict the very principles they are asking Him to bless.

Prayer was never designed to replace obedience and was never given as a substitute for character.

Many saints have become more concerned about learning how to pray than learning how to live.

Yet God is concerned with both. The same God who listens to your prayer is the God who watches your conduct.

This truth can be seen throughout Scripture. God consistently responds to people whose hearts are aligned with Him. The issue has never been the religious activity itself. The issue has always been the condition of the person standing before Him.

Many people place tremendous confidence in fasting. They believe that because they have denied themselves food, heaven is now obligated to respond. Yet fasting by itself does not move God. A person can suffer physically through fasting while continuing to speak unbelief, live carelessly, and ignore the principles of God's Word.

The power is not in suffering or in losing weight.

The power is found in faith, obedience, and alignment with God.

The believer must therefore ask an important question before prayer. What have I been saying before I came to pray? What has been filling my heart before I came into God's presence? Have my words agreed with God's Word, or have they been working against it?

Many people underestimate the importance of the tongue. Yet Scripture repeatedly teaches that words reveal the condition of the heart. The things that come out of a person's mouth often reveal what they truly believe. A believer who consistently speaks fear, defeat, and impossibility cannot expect those words to have no effect on their spiritual life.

God hears those words too.

This is why a believer's language must be transformed. It is not enough to speak faith during prayer and unbelief throughout the rest of the day. There must be consistency between confession and prayer. There must be agreement between daily life and spiritual life.

The danger of separating prayer from character can be seen in the life of Solomon. Scripture tells us that his heart was eventually turned away. His problem was not a lack of wisdom. His problem was not a lack of spiritual experience. His problem was a heart that gradually moved away from complete devotion to God. This serves as a warning that spiritual experiences alone are not enough. The condition of the heart remains important before God.

Jesus also taught the importance of dealing with personal issues before attempting to address the issues of others. In Matthew chapter seven, He spoke about removing the beam from one's own eye before trying to remove the speck from another person's eye. The principle is clear. God desires sincerity, integrity, and truth within the believer.

Effective prayer cannot be separated from personal transformation. This does not mean saints must become perfect before they can pray.

If that were true, no one could approach God.

Rather, it means that prayer functions most effectively when there is a genuine pursuit of alignment with God's will. The believer who continually allows God's Word to shape their conduct creates an environment where faith can operate freely.

Many people want answers from God while ignoring God's instructions. They want promises without principles. They want blessings without alignment. Yet throughout Scripture, God consistently honours those who honour His Word.

Prayer is powerful, but prayer was never meant to stand alone. It was designed to work together with faith, obedience, right confession, and a heart that remains surrendered to God.

The believer who understands this will stop viewing prayer as an isolated activity and begin viewing it as part of an entire lifestyle. They will understand that what happens outside the prayer room influences what happens inside the prayer room.

When faith, confession, character, and prayer begin moving in the same direction, effective prayer becomes a natural result rather than an occasional experience.

The God who answers prayer is the same God who watches over the life of the person praying.

For this reason, every believer must understand that the foundation of effective prayer is not merely what happens during prayer. It is the life that exists before the prayer ever begins.



CHAPTER 9

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF PRAYER

Many saints approach prayer from a purely natural perspective. They see prayer as something that begins when they kneel down and ends when they say amen. As a result, they fail to understand that prayer is connected to a much larger spiritual reality.

One of the reasons saints struggle in prayer is because they have forgotten who they are. They think of themselves only as human beings living ordinary lives on the earth. Yet the moment a person comes into Christ, they become connected to a kingdom that is not of this world. Their citizenship is no longer limited to the earthly realm. There is a supernatural dimension attached to every believer.

This is why prayer cannot be understood only from a natural perspective. There is always something happening beyond what physical eyes can see. There is always a spiritual reality operating behind visible circumstances. Many people focus entirely on what is happening around them while remaining unaware of what is taking place in the spirit.

Prayer is a spiritual transaction that flows from a relationship with Him. This is why God is concerned about far more than the moment of prayer itself. He is concerned about the words spoken before prayer, the faith present during prayer, and the life that surrounds prayer.

The value of prayer is not found in the suffering of the person praying. The value of prayer is found in faith. The value of prayer is found in

agreement with God's Word. The value of prayer is found in a heart that is aligned with God's will.

This is one reason many saints become discouraged. They assume that because they have invested time, effort, and sacrifice into prayer, results should automatically follow. When the answer does not come in the manner they expected, they begin to question whether prayer works at all. The issue, however, is not whether prayer works. The issue is whether the principles that govern effective prayer are being followed.

The enemy understands this better than many Christians realize. This is why one of his greatest weapons is fear. Fear causes a believer to focus on circumstances instead of God's promises. Fear causes a believer to magnify problems instead of magnifying God. Fear causes a believer to surrender ground that was already won through faith.

Many people speak constantly about what the devil is doing, what witches are doing, what circumstances are doing, and what people are doing against them. In doing so, they unknowingly give greater authority to opposition than to the Word of God.

The believer must understand that the enemy often operates through suggestion, intimidation, and influence. His objective is to convince a person to accept defeat before defeat has actually occurred. This is why fear is so dangerous. Fear persuades a believer to cooperate with failure before failure ever arrives.

When fear gains influence, faith begins to weaken. A person starts speaking negatively.

They begin expecting the worst. They start preparing for defeat instead of preparing for victory. Eventually, their confession, their expectation, and their actions begin agreeing with the very thing they have been fearing.

This is why the battle for faith is often a battle for thought, expectation, and confession.

The believer who understands their position in Christ responds

differently. They understand that they are not merely reacting to circumstances.

They understand that they belong to God and that His promises remain true regardless of what is happening around them. Instead of allowing fear to shape their expectations, they allow God's Word to shape them.

A believer may spend hours in prayer and still remain ineffective if nothing changes within them. The enemy is not afraid of a person simply because they are praying. What he fears is what emerges from that prayer. He fears the believer who comes out of prayer filled with faith. He fears the believer who comes out of prayer convinced of God's promises. He fears the believer whose confession has been transformed by the Word of God.

The Lord Jesus provides the perfect example.

After fasting for forty days and forty nights, He was immediately confronted by the enemy. The temptation did not come before the fast. It came after the fast. This reveals an important principle.

Spiritual activity attracts spiritual opposition. The issue is not whether opposition will come. The issue is whether the believer will remain established in what God has spoken.

Jesus overcame every challenge by standing upon the Word. He did not rely upon emotion. He did not rely upon circumstance. He relied upon what God had said.

The same principle applies to every believer.

Victory is not produced by fear. Victory is produced when a believer learns to stand upon God's Word, believe it, speak it, and refuse to be moved away from it.

This is the spiritual dimension of prayer. Prayer is not merely about presenting requests before God. It is about developing a life that is governed by His Word, strengthened by faith, free from fear, and anchored in spiritual reality.

When a believer understands these truths, prayer becomes more than an activity. It becomes a way of life. The believer begins to understand that every conversation matters, every confession matters, every thought matters, and every response matters because all of these things contribute to the effectiveness of prayer.

The person who understands this no longer approaches prayer as a desperate attempt to persuade God. They approach prayer as a confident child of God who understands the principles of His kingdom. Such a believer is not easily shaken by circumstances because they know that God's Word remains true regardless of what is happening around them.

The greatest victories in prayer belong to those who understand that the battle is not merely about speaking to God. It is about living in agreement with what God has already spoken.

“Now go ahead and release those words of faith and power. Put to remembrance and use all the basic principles that govern an effective life and never live a life of defeat ever again”.



