

# Mid-Week Service

8th November 2023

## Topic: Spiritual Discipline

**Text: Ephesians 6:18** - *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."* (NKJV)

*"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 saints."* (NIV)

### INTRODUCTION

The Spiritual Discipline series is a thorough teaching in five parts: Prayer, Faith, Word of God, Soul Winning, and Obedience. All of these put together with understanding makes us rooted in Christ.

We started with prayer last week and we were taught the different dimensions of praying that works. I will be going deeper today on prayer and what it truly entails.

*"No one can grow spiritually or become anything in life without focusing and understanding what prayer is."*

Christianity is not a routine of religious activities, it is a culture (way of life) involving communicating divinity to humanity. If you see Christianity as a series of activities, you will be unable to access the treasure and packages locked up in Christ.

***"If a man will grow and enter God's purpose, there must be an understanding that Christianity is a lifestyle you are expected to manifest and express."***

As long as you are not expressing the kingdom lifestyle in Christ, you are not yet a Christian. All you carry is a nomenclature related to Christ. The kingdom we belong to by light has a way of life, a culture. It is different from that of the world. Therefore men and women who want to grow must understand that one of the cultures of this kingdom is PRAYER. When you see a Christian who cannot bend their knees and tarry, such a person will continue to struggle and will see no results.

We are used to a dimension where a man of God comes on the altar and proclaims blessing. But you see, there is a manifestation of the spoken words that must be drawn into reality on our knees. I can always come on the pulpit as a sent man of God and declare God's blessing over you but you don't just go home and sleep after saying amen, you draw those blessings into reality in prayer.

***"It is Prayer that makes us travail and enter God's purpose."***

The Yoruba natives understand this concept despite lacking faith back in the day they say: *"Eyi to da, gba adura; eyi to ko da na gba adura"*. The adage translates, "That which is good needs prayer, and that which is bad also needs prayer."

You must understand this culture of prayer as a born-again Christian daily until you become prayer yourself.

Let's take time to dissect the golden text of our teaching today before going proper in the message today. Each word and phrase stated in that verse is powerful and key to our understanding of the culture of prayer.

It starts by saying, "***And pray in the Spirit on all occasions...***". One of the things that makes prayer get answered is praying in the Spirit. Please can I break it to you today that speaking in tongues is not the only way to pray in the spirit? There are several ways you can pray in the Spirit apart from speaking in tongues. However, I would not delve into that teaching today.

Until a born-again Christian understands that our life is praying all through, such a person can't mature. No wonder, Paul said in his letter to the Thessalonians that prays always. **There is no dulling moment, it is always a praying moment.**

The verse continues by saying "***with all kinds of prayers and requests...***" There are five kinds of prayer you must learn to pray and how they operate. There is no kind of prayer a believer should not pray, be it warfare prayer or thanksgiving. So don't judge anyone. I will go into more detail in the next teaching.

The next part of the verse says, "***With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.***" The key word here is 'alert'. After praying all kinds of prayers, be ready to watch your answer come. It is saddening to see many people pray earnestly but fail to expect an answer. How can you pray against accident in the morning of your travel and yet you are the first to shout and seek cover when you hear an abnormal sound? You are not watchful of your prayer. If you have prayed your prayer

in faith then be watchful that it will come to pass. When you pray an intercessory prayer over somebody, be watchful also over that person.

*"Men that pray are always expectant of what they pray about."*

## What is Prayer?

- Prayer is a vehicle of communication and interaction between Divinity and Humanity.

### Jeremiah 33: 3

*"Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know (do not distinguish and recognize, have knowledge of and understand)". (AMP)*

There are several things you can never know except the Lord communicates it to you. Prayer is a vehicle of communication that is being initiated between human beings and deity. If you are not praying, you are not initiating any communication and several things will be hidden to you.

*"You are cheating yourself if you are not praying."*

The reason why a prophet will see a revelation about you whenever you go to seek counsel is because they understand the concept of initiation apart from having giftings. God is not One who will go against His word. There are indeed gifts and office of the prophet but the day Jesus died, is also the day you become a prophet of yourself.

Prayer is a two-way traffic: You speak to God and He also speaks to you as you wait on Him. **Stop rushing out of His presence. When you are praying to Him, you also receive answers via instructions.**

- **Prayer gives us authority and power over every creature**

### **Matthew 18:18**

*"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (NKJV)*

You have the key of heaven in your hands. You have been given authority but you did not use it because you have stopped praying. The more you pray, the more you gain power and authority.

***"One of the things that prayer does is to give you authority."***

When the Bible says He has given us the power to tread over serpents, it is true but you activate it in the place of prayer.

- **Prayer is an interaction that exists between Father and Son**

### **Matthew 6:9**

*"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name." (NKJV)*

You are praying as a son to your Father. However, it might seem hard to enjoy this reality if you do not have a good fatherhood experience here on earth. If you are fortunate to have a good father relationship on earth, it will be very easy to transcend such a relationship with your Heavenly Father. Jesus Christ experienced a good relationship with his earthly father, hence it was easy for Him to use the contrast of an earthly father with our Heavenly Father in describing the personality of God.

When you have an understanding that God is your Father and you want to approach Him, I tell you He will do all things for you. Your confidence in the Father goes a long way. Have you ever wronged a kindergarten girl or boy? Do you notice that one of their reply spoken with all pride is that they will report you to their father or mother? They have a huge confidence that either parent will right the wrong.

How I wish you could become a baby in Father's hands again. You are too mature that is why you are not communicating with the Father. Remain small and cry if you must.

***"Don't be too grown and outgrow God."***

Each time you are in the presence of your Father, remain a babe so He can carry you. I am teaching this dimension because I understand it and I am also living it daily. Be broken and take time to pray. This reminds me of a song by Lawrence Oyor:

*"My Daddy Daddy, your baby is singing.*

*I will be singing and dancing and shouting for the rest of eternity"*

What a powerful song! You hold no position in His presence; talk, sing, and shout to Him. He is not tired of your voice. Don't be afraid. Your prayer is like a sweet-smelling savor to Him.

### **Isaiah 38: 2- 5**

*Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, "Go and tell Hezekiah, "Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. (NKJV)*

Do you remember Hezekiah, the king, who was visited by a prophet? The King wept and faced God, not the prophet. He understood the dimension of God as his Father, so cried unto Him and his situation changed. You are too conscious of men that is why things remain like that. Who said God cannot change His mind over this situation? It is because you have not prayed.

Hannah prayed to the extent that Eli thought she was drunk with wine. But I tell you, she was drunk in prayer. She prayed to her Father and never returned to Shiloh the same way. James said in his book that Elijah was a man like us who prayed that there would be no rain for three years and it was so. Yet when it was time to bring back the rain, Elijah sat and prayed and there was rain.

***"Men of prayer see things before it happens."***

Can you develop a dimension of prayer? The more you tarry, the more you see His hand at work.

**Conclusion:** Take time and talk to your Father about everything that is bothering you. He is waiting to hear your voice. Cry to your Father! He will settle you.