

The world is a dense place now. With the happenings around us, we tend to worry about the news and the workings of darkness and forget that we have God as our father. This very attitude is the reason believers aren't experiencing breakthrough in the matters of their lives and the matters of the Kingdom.

*Luke 18:1 KJV*

*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

In the verse above, Jesus spoke a parable and He said, "**men ought always to pray and not to faint**". This word "ought" implies that men are expected and required to pray and not to faint. This means the opposite of praying is to faint. What does it mean to faint? It means to lose life. One who faints becomes temporarily unconscious of their surroundings. If one is not praying, he is fainting.

Another meaning of the word "faint" is to be weary. When people are faced with different trials, if they are not praying, they become temporarily unconscious of the fact that God dwells inside them. Often, we have the mindset that God is far off. However, in these days, the Lord will make us know that He is not far off, but nearby. God is closer to you and I than the air in our very breath, yet we find it hard to believe this. Why? Because though He is near, we must reach Him. First, we must be conscious and know the fact that He is near and reach Him. If not, though near, He can seem farther than the other planets are to us.

## **WHY PRAY?**

### **1. PRAYER IS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.**

*Genesis 3:8 KJV And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

The first thing to note from this verse is that we can hear the voice of God. He walks and we can walk with Him. He comes to the garden, which is your heart. He comes in the cool of the day. The

word 'cool' is "Ruach" which means Spirit. He comes to your spirit. When the Lord comes, may we recognize that He is around.

Adam and Eve knew when God normally came to them, but on this particular day, they hid themselves. This is the problem. We can actually hide ourselves. Adam and Eve hid amongst the trees in the garden. Ever since man ate the tree of knowledge of good and evil, man began to run from the presence of God, Proverbs 28:1.

For us, the garden of God is our hearts, *Isaiah 58:11, Songs of Solomon 4:12*. In the very garden of God in our hearts, we can have plants that becloud God from having his free will to walk in us, even while being Christians. Once we get saved, He begins to uproot these trees.

Our daily walk with God is just like a tap that needs the faucet turned on to get water. Sin shuts the faucet. Once a person is delivered from sin and born again, we are often weak and like little children we need to wax strong in Spirit. How does this relate with what Jesus said in Luke 18:1?

**The default state that man should be in a state of prayer.** Why? Because of what prayer is. Prayer is not coming to God because you have needs. Prayer is fellowship with God. Of all God's creation, none has His Spirit except man. God can interact with God and man can interact with God via his Spirit, Job 32:8.

## 2. THROUGH PRAYER, WE CAN KNOW THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.

*1 Corinthians 2:9-12 KJV*

*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. [10] But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. [11] For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. [12]*

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

The deep things of God can be passed to man. The things that have transpired from generations, we can know it. We can ask God for it. However, for us to be able to do that, we must fellowship with Him. Your earthly father does not give you something simply because you ask, but because you are his child. The fact that you have the right to ask is because you are His Child, you have a relationship with Him.

Once our Spirit is born again, we have access through the blood of Jesus. His Blood does three things for us: (1) Opens the way to God for us. (2) It cleanses our hearts so we can approach God with boldness and not run away. Proverbs 28:1 says the sinner runs when no one pursues him and so just an open door will not give us boldness to approach. (3) It shuts out and silences the enemy. This prevents the enemy from accusing you.

Jesus's work did not stop at giving us this access. What makes Jesus different from the Old Testament prophets is that He gave us the Holy Spirit. This is a big deal. This means that the things of God can be downloaded to us by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God dwells in me. Through Him, I can get the things of God downloaded to me. This is another reason we must pray.

3. **JESUS HAD THE SPIRIT WITHOUT MEASURE, YET HE PRAYED.** We have portions, but Jesus had the fullness of the Spirit. *Matthew 14:23, Mark 6:45-46, Luke 6:12.*

*Matthew 14:23 KJV*

*And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*

*Luke 6:12 KJV*

*And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

Jesus had the fullness of the Spirit and He prayed to the extent that He would spend all night in prayer. The bible says a servant is not greater than the master, John 13:16. Staying with the Lord is a demonstration of our love for Him.

We hear of men like Elijah who was great in miracles. He was called a man of like passion meaning he also had weaknesses and may even sleep off in a night vigil. Yet, he was able to do such miracles because He prayed. We said earlier that God is closer than the air in our nostrils, but he can be as far as pluto if we do not pray.

#### 4. WE RENEW OUR STRENGTH.

*Isaiah 40:27-28 KJV*

*Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? [28] Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

God gives strength to the faint and even them that have no might, He increases strength. Hence the scriptures say of Asher, as the days increase, so does strength, Deuteronomy 33:25. Caleb said at 80 he could take a mountain, why? He had another Spirit. He had the strength of the Lord.

*Isaiah 40:30-31 KJV*

*Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

The word "renew" here is exchange. We give Him our weakness and He consumes it and gives us His strength. Strength comes as we wait on God. A person can try in their strength to pray and therefore fast, yet when it comes to the time to pray, they get hungry and sleep. Another may eat, feel heavy and sleep. However, those who wait on the Lord will get His strength and will pray with much ease. May we be waiters. May we create time to wait on the Lord.

In Luke 5:16, Jesus withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed. Some people pray only in the church assembly. However, we must come to the point where our coming together to pray is only a reinforcement of what is in the secret place. Jesus spoke of talking to your Father in the secret, Matthew 6:5-6. This is the secret place of the most high. This secret place is not necessarily in the physical closet. Jesus prayed every and anywhere. Pray always. If you need to excuse yourself and go to the bathroom at work to get yourself back to shape spiritually, that toilet is your secret place.

*Mark 1:35 KJV*

*And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*

If you are a disciple of God, waking up in the middle of the night to pray is not a huge deal. Jesus did it. He is our example. He had the Spirit without measure and yet He prayed. Why? **Because though we are filled with Spirit, prayer activates it. It is not the Holy Spirit in you that makes you spiritual. You need to walk in the Spirit by prayer.**

*Luke 3:21 KJV*

*Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,*

Many of us want open heavens. How do we get open heavens? By prayer. Elijah was a man of like passion and he prayed to open the heavens. Being a man of like passion, means that we can be like Him, James 5:17. Do you want to grow in the Spirit and get ranking? It is by prayer. Joshua and Caleb stayed in the presence of God and remained there and when there needed to be a new leader, Joshua was there. God made a boast of Him.

## 5. BY PRAYER WE LEARN THE WILL OF THE FATHER AND CAN DO IT.

*John 5:19 KJV*

*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

The verse above speaks to Jesus' humility. However, when did Jesus see all that the Father did? It was in the place of prayer.

*Exodus 19:5 KJV*

*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

The verse above is the foundation of priesthood. The first part is God saying Israel was special to Him. Why are they special to him? Because all the earth is His. He does not plan to leave any of the earth to the devil, Psalm 24:1. He planned for Israel to be used to reconcile the earth to Himself. This earth is the Lords. This is why when a law is passed that our Father does not approve of, we go in the place of prayer and we reverse it.

If you bought 10 Oz of gold at \$5k per Oz and you left the store, only to get home and find out it is not with you. What will you do? You will go find it. In the same way, we should be jealous for our father's name. We should preach because all souls belong to God. Satan should have no right over someone he did not create.

*Deuteronomy 10:8 KJV*

*At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.*

The Levites were the priesthood tribe who bore the ark of the covenant. What is the ark of the covenant? It was a chest that carried the presence of God. We have this treasure in the earthen vessel. We are earthen vessels, *2 Corinthians 4:6-7*. However, we do not just carry it, but we stand before the Lord to minister unto Him. Elijah always spoke of the God before whom he stood, *1 Kings 18:5*. Where was he standing? In the secret place. It is in the place of ministering to God, that we can be empowered and set to minister and bless in His name. If you do not stand before God to minister to Him, you have no

right to go and minister in His name. If you choose to do so, He will not honour you. This is why we go out and preach and many do not give their lives to God, because we have not stood before God.

Jesus ministered to God and as He did, the heavens would open, and God would show Him what He wanted Jesus to do. So, Jesus in John 5 went to the pool of Siloam and healed only one man, rather than everyone there. As we begin to grow in God, we will understand that as we minister to Him, our spiritual ears and eyes open. In 2 Kings 6: 17, Elisha who had ministered to God, had his eye opened and he was not afraid of the army of Syrians. His servant boy, however, had his eye shot and was afraid.

Elijah, in 1 Kings 18, haven been told that there will be rain, went to the King of Israel and told him that there will be rain. Next, because he was sure there will be rain, he prayed and continued until the seventh time, and he saw the cloud like the arm.

In prayer, we become true witnesses.

*John 8:17-18 KJV*

*It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. [18] I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

We see here, two witnesses. Jesus saw what the Father was going to do and bore witness. The second witness was when God did it. Many people of God see and testify that God will do something. It is because they have seen it in the secret place.

A man of God had a dream that a woman will come to him to say that her husband had died and that he needed to pray for him. He was told that he should not pray until he sees 5 people sitting on a chair. He was also given the colour of clothes these people will wear. God told him that when he sees them sitting, he should just call the name of the dead man to come out and the man would arise.

The man of God woke up and two hours later, the woman came just as God had shown. She spoke

to the man of God to pray for her dead husband. She believed that her husband would rise and he agreed to come.

The man of God came sat down in the house of the lady. People came and went. The woman watched him not knowing what to do. He did not pray for her husband like she expected, he just sat. People came and consoled her and the man of God would console her too, but did not pray. An hour turned to two and three and then midnight and nothing happened. At 1 am, a man came and sat down apologizing for a late flight. He began asking for burial plans and the man of God asked him to sit still. When he looked again, there were 5 and he called the husband of the woman. The dead man came out and the man of God left.

Prayer also teaches us humility and so we ask, knowing we do not have what we are looking for. There are conditions for prayer, but the burden is **why pray**. God loves it when we make time to pray. Pick a time and stick to it. You will find that as you make it a consistent practice, God will help you to keep it. May the Lord teach us and show us the need to develop a life of prayer.

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 NASB95*

*Pray without ceasing.*

*The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with Your Spirit. Amen.*