

The life of a believer is a life that is guided by the Holy Spirit. A key scripture about the ministry of Christ is Matthew 3:11, where John declared that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. This was fulfilled in Acts 1:1-7, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples.

However, when the disciples asked Jesus about the Kingdom in Acts 1:1-7, they were still thinking from a Pharisaic perspective. They expected a physical king to rule over them and all nations. But Jesus had something different in mind. He gave them the Holy Spirit, the power of God, to enable them to live in the Kingdom. He revealed two things to them:

1. The power of the Holy Spirit was essential for them to experience the Kingdom.
2. The Kingdom of God was not a physical realm, but a spiritual one.

God's plan was to spread His power throughout the earth by giving His Spirit to His people. The main message today is about the life of the believer and prayer. We need to take prayer seriously, because without it, we cannot enter into the reality of what God wants us to do. Without prayer, all our efforts will be products of the flesh, not the Spirit. To become a child of God, you need to have the Holy Spirit. But having the Spirit is not enough. You also need to be filled with the Spirit, just like a car needs fuel to run. The engine of the car cannot function without the power in the fuel, and neither can we without the power of the Spirit.

Prayer is the most important factor that will determine the power and the glory of the end time church. The church began with prayer in Acts 2, when the disciples were gathered in the upper room for 10 days, praying without ceasing.

The Bible says that Jesus had the Spirit without measure, but He still prayed more than anyone else. He was the Son of God, and miracles were happening through Him. Yet, He never stopped praying. Why? Prayer has benefits.

Ephesians 6:18 KJVS Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

This verse tells us two things: First, we should pray always. Second, we should watch. Even after being born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, our soul is still being sanctified. We have a battle to fight, the same battle that was fought in Eden. The root of that battle was self.

John 5:19 KJVS 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.

Jesus was not immune from sin; otherwise, Satan would not have been able to tempt Him. The fact that He was tempted showed that He could fall. He needed the power to resist sin. The secret of Jesus was that He never depended on His own life. He said that He was the vine and we are the branches. The branch does not have its own life; it depends on the vine for its life. There is a sanctifying power in God. Christ is a living Spirit, and He comes into us and makes us Christlike. This is where prayer is the key. Jesus overcame every situation because He prayed. We cannot enter into the life of God unless we overcome, and to do that, we must pray.

Prayer is a testimony that we believe that there is only one power in the universe, and that power is God. We need His power to overcome sin and death. Religion is attractive but dangerous. It makes us think that we are with God, but in reality, our actions are of the enemy. The Bible says that when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly. This strength is not physical, but spiritual. It is the life of God in us. That is why Isaiah says that those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

Why Pray?

Praying always helps us to be ready for whatever life brings. God's children should not be surprised by anything. If we are close to God, we should know what is happening. So why should we pray?

We have said that our biggest problem is ourselves. To change ourselves, we need the power of prayer. What God has given us is life.

1 John 5:9-13 KJVS

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. [10] He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. [11] And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. [13] These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

When a baby is born, the baby already has life. But the baby also needs things from the earth to keep living. There is the life inside and the life outside. Jesus said, stay in me and I will stay in you. This means that having Jesus in you is not enough, you also need to stay in Jesus. Jesus had the Father, but he also stayed in the Father. You need to keep the life of God in you.

Prayer is very important. Don't say "I have prayed enough". If you pray for 30 minutes and you still act like the flesh, then you need more prayer. We need to pray more so that we can live by the Spirit. There are different levels in heaven. How high do you want to go?

Why you need to sustain the life of God in you.

- There is an enemy and we need to fight it. Ephesians 6:18
- God's way of giving us things is through prayer. If we don't pray, we will miss out on many things. James 1:4-5
- The apostles knew that prayer was the most important thing they had to do.
- Jesus showed us how to pray and how much to pray. Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12.
- After Jesus came back to life, what was he still doing? He was still praying. Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34. This means we can never pray too much.
- Prayer is how we get God's mercy and grace. Hebrews 4:14-15, Luke 11:8.
- Prayer is how we get full joy. John 16:24
- Prayer is how we get peace when we are worried. Philippians 4:6