



EVEN IN THE **FIRE**

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Isaiah 43:2

² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

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FROM:

DATE:

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CHAPTER 1

TURN UP THE HEAT

Daniel 3:24-28

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

²⁷ And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

When the enemy turns up the heat, so does our God. The Hebrew boys never doubted their God when facing death by fire, because they had a consistent and intimate relationship with Him. When everything around them was

going up in flames, they were able to stand tall on their faith. God kept them alive in the fire while he stood there with them. When Nebuchadnezzar had Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego bound and thrown into the fire, little did he know that their chains would break, that Jesus would walk with them, and that they would not be burned nor carry the smell of smoke.

For many of us, we would expect the miracle to be performed outside the fire. We believe that God will save us before things would get too far. The miracle is in the fire. The miracle is in the storm. The miracle is in your moment of adversity. God is in the midst of your fire.

Every individual has been in the fire at some stage in their lives. If you haven't been there, then I want to remind you, that you are on your way to that fire. The only thing that can keep you alive in the fire is the presence of God. The presence of God surrounds you all day and all night. Everywhere you go, God is right there with you. Acknowledge Him and stay connected to His presence.

You can only remain in His presence by communicating with Him constantly. Communicate with Him. Pray every day. Pray whenever you have a moment. Prayer keeps you in His presence. It nourishes your soul. When you are in the presence of God nothing can harm you. Live in constant fellowship with your Father in heaven. The bond of heaven and earth remain open through your prayer. The lines of communication are open all day, every day. Allow prayer to be the oxygen you breathe in. Praying should become as natural as breathing in.

In every situation, prayer becomes the uninhibited conversation with God, for His leading and direction. When you go through the fire He will be with you. In agony we seek God for refuge from the despair of the world. In the twinkling of an eye, as you commune with Him, that very dark situation becomes crystal clear.

Dropping by whenever it suits you, is not a commitment to your relationship with God. Make prayer a lifestyle and you will experience breakthroughs. The habit of prayer changes the atmosphere you are in. When you have the Holy of holies around you, the atmosphere is filled with the fragrance of heaven. You acquire the likeness of God in His presence. He becomes more and more real to you.

Psalm 66:12

¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

Isaiah. 41:15

¹⁵ Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.

Like the Hebrew boys, I challenge you to dare to be different. In other words, be separated, be holy, be righteous and be sold out to God no matter what. They wanted God to save them from the furnace, but they concede that it might just be possible that God could possibly not grant them what they desire. That indicated the level of their faith and confidence in God. They were given a chance to back down, but they chose God over Nebuchadnezzar.

When you determine in your heart to love, serve and worship God, and to remain faithful to Him, you will certainly spend some time in the fire. The end result is awesome. Fireproof your life by seeking the Lord always. Only when you go through tough times will you know and experience the goodness of the Lord. You will experience the sufficiency of His grace and mercy. In the storm he is your anchor. God is all powerful. He is able and He is amazing. He is the God of the impossible.

Some believers have a vague idea about the power of prayer. Some have not even experienced the power of prayer. Others are still waiting to see the power of prayer manifest in other people's lives and situations. It is just astounding that so many people have not even had a glimpse of the power of prayer because of a failure to tap into that power source. It is a most fearsome weapon that is available to you and I.

The absence of prayer means an absence of power. If you want to stay alive in the fire, then choose a life of prayer. Nothing is impossible in the industry of prayer. Once you activate prayer, you are in effect putting God into the matter. You are consulting with God. You are asking Him for His wisdom. You are putting Him in control. He becomes the commanding force, the commanding force in the midst of the fire.

CHAPTER 2

THE POWER OF PRAYER

James 5:16

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The Bible speaks of many men that had done mighty things in the past, however everyone of them were strong in prayer. They understood the possibilities of prayer and maximized on it.

Everyone of us has the opportunity of approaching God, the Father at any moment or from any location. Prayer is not a religious, spiritual exercise but a talk with our heavenly Father. It is about tapping into our power base. When we pray the world is being progressively shaped. Prayer disinfects the air. It purifies the airwaves. Prayers just strengthen one generation to another. Prayer has an incredible power to effect the purposes of God. God's power is released by the prayers of a righteous man. The wrath of God can be appeased by prayer. Prayer unlocks answers. It is God's desire to have a people that seeks Him, a people that will have a desire to pray and a people that are focused on him.

1 Kings 17:22-23

²² The Lord answered Elijah's prayer; the boy began breathing again and was alive. ²³ Elijah carried the boy downstairs and gave him to his mother and said, "See! Your son is alive!"

Elijah was an ordinary man who prayed earnestly. He prayed for a dead child to arise and the child became alive. He experienced many answered prayers. Even when he prayed for it not to rain, it did not rain for three years and six months. He, through the power of prayer, put a season on hold. He prayed again, but this time for rain, and the heavens let it pour and the earth brought fruit. He saw God manifest His power in every situation.

Genesis 20:17-18

¹⁷ So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children.

¹⁸ For the Lord had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife. After Abraham interceded in prayer for them, God healed Abimelech and his people. The women had been afflicted by a disease that made it impossible for them to have children till it was removed. Abimelech had also been smitten by the LORD with an infirmity that kept him from going near Sarah and defiling her. Abraham prayed and the heavens opened up on Abimelech and his people and they were all healed.

Jonah 2:1

¹ Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly.

Jonah was a disobedient prophet who tried to run from God. He ended up on a ship that was about to sink. He was thrown overboard and God caused him to be swallowed by a great fish. Jonah cried to the Lord out of the belly of the fish. When he lifted up his voice he was delivered. God had purposed to destroy Ninevah but it was saved.

Deuteronomy 9:18-20

¹⁸ And I fell down before the Lord, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

¹⁹ For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the Lord was wroth against you to destroy you. But the Lord hearkened unto me at that time also.

²⁰ And the Lord was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time.

The anger of God waxed hot and he was about to destroy the offenders who had made a golden calf. He said to Moses, Let me alone, that I may destroy this people. However, Moses just prayed for forty days and nights and turned the hand of God.

Isaiah 38:1-2

¹ In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

² Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord,

⁵ Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Hezekiah was threatened with death by the Lord. His prayer gave him 15 more years of life.

There were many people that continuously sought the Lord and experienced the possibilities of prayer. Abraham and Isaac both prayed and their barren wives bore children.

Moses prayed and God opened up the Red Sea and the Egyptian Army was destroyed.

Samson prayed and God destroyed the Philistines. Jacob prayed and God changed Esau's heart so that Jacob would not be killed. Instead the hatred was replaced with love.

Hannah prayed to God and received a son who she committed back to God. He was a great prophet. Jehosaphat prayed and his enemies were defeated. Daniel prayed and the lion's mouths were shut, saving him from being killed. Jabez prayed. God healed him and increased his wealth and his influence.

Jesus prayed and the sick were healed. Demons fled, the lame walked, the deaf heard, the blind saw. He performed miracles through the power of prayer.

These are lessons in what prayer can do. A defeat can be turned into victory, despair can be changed to triumph, and the impossible changes into the possible. The ear of the Lord is always open to those who will seek him. He is willing to do what is asked of Him.

God shut the lions mouth, quenched the fury of the fire, subdued kingdoms, destroyed strong armies and kingdoms all because people prayed. We have the same God today. The same power is available today. Everything that was possible in Bible days is still possible today, if we will pray. Slackening on prayer should never happen especially when we witness the power of God in our lives on a daily basis.

Daniel, Samuel, Hannah, Elijah, Elisha and so many others saw the power of God unfold in their lives, because

they prayed. Continue to pray without ceasing in order to experience victories. The power of prayer does not come from how long you have been a Christian, or how long you've attended a church, or how long you stand or kneel, or how long you have had a church or a ministry, or how many prophecies you have received. The power of prayer is God at work when we engage in Him.

THE SAFE PLACE

Developing a consistent, progressive and strategic system of prayer is what God wants for us. Being committed to developing and executing prayer into our lives can only transform the supernatural plans of God into our earthly realities. Every believer has the capacity to pray in a way that will change their world. When you upload prayer He will download breakthroughs.

Psalm 91

²1He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

⁶ Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

⁷ A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

⁸ Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

¹² They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

¹³ Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

¹⁴ Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

¹⁵ He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

You don't need to call 911 He has already given you a 911. God protects us, He sustains us, He restores us, He rescues us, He watches over us, He cares for us and He blesses us. When you are under his covering nothing can harm you. All of this means that He is with you if you get close to Him. He is in every situation with you, but there is a condition. That condition is, 'if you dwell in the secret place'. In this secret place there is special protection and provision for those who would dare to believe God and trust Him to be their God, in every situation and all circumstances. We enter into a place where we are covered by the glory of God. The Secret Place is not something made with human hands. Man does not have the ability to create such a place. The Secret Place where we are to dwell is built only by the Spirit of God. God is in complete control of the secret place.

The Secret Place is a place of ultimate trust and faith in God. It is a place of life, a place where doubt does not exist. The secret place has no place for fear. It is a place where faith is and where confidence is strong. The Secret Place is a place in God, where we know that God has everything under control. Very few find the secret dwelling place, because they do not seek it. We must desire the presence of God in our lives. God must take control.

Too often people dwell around the edge of worldly desires and wonder why they are unprotected. We have to get close to Him in order to dwell under the shadow. A shadow is never found far from the object of the shadow. It is connected and joined to the shadow. To abide in the shadow is to constantly remain in closeness, in relationship to the presence of the almighty God. His shadow, spiritually speaking, requires us to be very closely connected to Him. God wants to bless and protect us. His desire is to bless His people. You will be able to walk into greatness. It would be sad to just exist and never see the fullness of what God has in store for us. It would be sad to have not lived a life of victory. Challenges are a part of life. It helps us grow, develop and move onto the next level. Many people miss out on a blessed life. They miss their moments with God because they are not in tune with him. They are not in tune with Him because they have no relationship with Him. Most people only pray when they face a challenge.

We have an innate desire to be blessed and live the abundant life Christ died to give us, yet we don't want to get close to God. When we do, it's as if He is a slot machine. You cannot put in the right amount of praise, worship and prayer together with good works and faith,

and expect blessings to fall out of a slot machine. John Lennon sang 'Power to the people' It was just a song for freedom. Power to the people can only come through much prayer. Only fervent prayer can turn the hand of God.

Prayer is the key to your inheritance. It's the key to your success. It's the key to our blessings. When you consistently upload your prayers into the heavens, you will see all of heaven downloaded into your life. All of His glory and power is manifested. The Bible says, "Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". God has good things for us and it must come to pass, but you have to take action. See when you wake up, the alarm bells should be going up in hell. "Oh no she is up again, Oh no that mouth is going to start again, Oh no she is already uploading, Oh no she is going to mess up this day in hell." We should start our days causing chaos for the devil's camp. All of hell trembles when you walk in the will of God. They tremble because they know in you is miracles, favour, blessings and power. We have to call the miracles, blessings, favour and power into existence. Call the things that be not as though they are. You have to exercise those vocal chords. You have to make your voice work for you. Do whatever it takes to get that mouth working again. Some may need chewing gum and others may need mouth wash. Go ahead and be bold. Open your mouth, activate that voice and speak to your Father in heaven. Get close to the One who is the most important person in your life. Get those prayers out with boldness. I am not talking about wimps but warrior people. Claim what the enemy has already stolen. Let God restore what the canker worm has eaten. You are the head and not the tail. You are above and not beneath.

CHAPTER 3

THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE

Daniel's life story always seemed to overshadow theirs, but little did they know that their story would one day become one of the greatest encounters ever experienced. It would be a fiery store of God's hand at work. Hananiah, Mishaël and Azariah are three special men recorded in the Bible. They were captured, but journeyed into Babylon with their best friend Daniel, not knowing that this was a set up for God to manifest his glory. Their encounter with God is nothing but absolutely amazing. They were forced into a new culture and faced the risk of death by fire, if they refused to bow down to the Babylonian idol. They chose death over idolatry and were thrown into the fiery furnace. Even in the fire they were alive, and with the fourth man present. What an encounter! It is an even greater encounter to stand up for what you believe in, when it is your God.

Daniel 3:16-18.

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Hannaniah, Mishaël and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were able to utter these bold words in the face of certain death. They were courageous and bold men. The background to this is that Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon at the time. He requested for noble

good looking youth without blemish, who possessed wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and could serve the king. He would eventually command them to bow down to his idol and they would refuse.

Daniel 1:3-4

³And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

⁴Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

Daniel Hannaniah, Mishael, and Azariah, together with others, were taken captive to be trained in the Chaldean or Babylonian ways. The Bible describes who they already were. When the world needs your skill and wisdom from God, take your spiritual knowledge with you wherever you go. As teenagers they were separated from their families, forced into a foreign country, subjected to strange customs, forced into an elaborate dress code, forced to eat exotic foods, forced into a culture of pagan gods and finally being brainwashed into a whole new system of life. Many people would not be able to survive this, but they did. They knew their God and they had a deep relationship with Him. They believed His word and they believed He was with them all the way.

They had a history to prove the wonderful and amazing work of the God. They would have been taught and would have read all about Abraham, Noah, Moses, Joshua, Joseph, the wonderful miracles and the power of God.

They were brought up in the ways of the Lord. Their mothers and fathers played a great part in their connection and relationship with God. When captured they chose to stay with their God at all odds. The Bible says if we train up our children in the ways of the Lord they will not depart from it. These boys were a perfect example of that. They chose in their hearts to continue to trust and rely on the same God who brought their forefathers through. They relied on the same God that split the seas, so that the Israelites could walk across it.

They already knew that by being consistent in their relationship with God they had nothing to fear. If it were not for Him they would not be alive. If it were not for Him they would not be standing before this earthly Nebuchadnezzar. If it were not for Him, you and I would not be alive today. He is a mighty God that shows up just when you need Him. God was with Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah throughout their journey, every step of the way. As they stepped into this foreign land they had already purposed in their hearts not to be defiled. Little did they know what really awaited them. The Babylonian king had a plan of action to wipe out any memory of their God and their culture.

CULTURE CHANGING

The first attempt at brainwashing began with them being stripped off their identity. They were given names of Chaldean idolatry in an attempt to get them to forget about their God, since their names honoured their God.

Daniel 1:7

⁷ Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to

Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

- Daniel - God is my judge.
- Belteshazzar -Bel is my judge. Bel is the name of a god.
- Hananiah - God is gracious.
- Shadrach - Illuminated by the sun god.
- Mishael - Who is like God.
- Meshach -Who is like Venus.
- Azariah -The Lord is my helper.
- Abednego -The worshipper of Nego -Babylonian god of wisdom.

In their Jewish culture, a name was not just given as a fancy title. A name indicated the full extent of a person's profile, character and personality. Knowing a person's name meant that you would already know who they were even before you met them. You were able to learn something about a person just from their name.

- Abraham means father of a multitude. He was the father of the Jewish nation.
- Jacob means deceiver. He was a deceiver until God changed his name to Israel.
- David means beloved – He was loved by God.

The purpose of the new names, which were tributes to Babylonian gods, was meant to destroy their loyalty and allegiance to their own God. The Babylonians believed in false gods and goddesses. They believed that their gods

were in control of the world. To them, their military victories were an indication that their gods were the most powerful gods. Every city had a pagan god with a temple, including scattered shrines. The name changes for Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were created to make them forget the God of their fathers, the guide of their youth.

Their diets were also changed, but they chose not to defile themselves with Babylonian culture. They refused to break God's dietary laws. They refused to defile themselves with Babylonian royal food and wine. The food was prepared by Gentiles therefore making it unclean. Most of the foods were forbidden by Mosaic law. The food was generally offered to pagan gods before being served. This was the king's food and yet the Hebrew boys refused it. They purposed in their hearts to abstain from Babylonian food. They were strong in their conviction. They simply rejected the Babylonian luxurious lifestyle. Most people would say God understands and then go ahead and eat it. Some would say nobody is watching, so its ok to consume the food. Others would say, it does not matter as long as I pray over that food. The level of your loyalty to God will determine what decision you would make. Their loyalty and commitment to God was just amazing and they would eventually be rewarded for it. Daniel and his friends found favour with the unbelieving eunuch in charge.

1 Chronicles 16:9

⁹For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

I Samuel 2:30

³⁰ Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Daniel did not need to go against the chief eunuch in a rebellious way. He was calm and used good judgment. Daniel, Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah came up with a creative method whilst remaining faithful to God. The King's official and guards were challenged to feed them only vegetables and water for ten days. Vegetables were a safe choice of food since it could not be defiled. Daniel challenged the eunuch that he and his friends would come out looking better by not eating the king's food. God was certainly at work behind the scenes because of their commitment and faithfulness. They found further favour with God when they were found to be healthier in appearance by the eunuchs. Thus the vegetable diet became permanent.

Their education system was changed. They were introduced to a whole new learning system and literature. Babylonian teachings would include astronomy, astrology, law, mathematics, languages and other subjects. As Moses was trained in Egypt so were these young men. Nebuchadnezzar wanted these men to be assimilated and enculturated into the Babylonian society. However, God gave them divine ability in learning and in skill. They were fully equipped with intelligence, wisdom and reasoning ability.

It would have been relatively easy for them to have reasoned that since they were now captives in a foreign land, they could just go along with the king's program instead of trying to retain the standards of conduct they had followed while in Jerusalem.

Nobody was watching them so it would have been easier to just do what they were told to do. Their consistent relationship with their Father in heaven kept them on the right path. They could've easily comforted themselves into thinking that they needed to follow Babylonian protocol in order to survive. They could've comforted themselves into thinking that God would understand since they would not be giving tribute to the Babylonian gods and culture. They could've used survival as an excuse, but they resolved that even though they now lived in a foreign land, they would continue to follow the commandments of God. They may have been forced into Babylon, but they maintained their Godly culture and the love for their God. Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah together with Daniel did not back down.

They did not back down even a little, but instead they stood their ground. Instead of being influenced, they greatly influenced Babylon to their God. Look at your own situation and figure out whether you are an influence where you are. At your work place do you inspire and influence others? When you keep your focus on God you can be an influencer.

They just placed their lives in God's hands. They didn't abandon their faith, but trusted in their Maker. They remained faithful whilst living in a pagan society. Most people would say that they are surrounded by the ungodly

at work or at home. This gives them the excuse to live like the ungodly. It should be the other way around. Our God is stronger than any other, making us the influencers. Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah knew God was with them every step of the way. God honored Daniel's trust and moved the guard to agree to changing their diet. When God moved, the Babylonian protocol moved.

Nothing can stand in the way of a Powerful God. Ten days later when they were evaluated Daniel, Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah "looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. They remained on that diet. Three years had passed and it was time for inspection. The king examined them himself and acknowledged them as being the wisest, brightest and most capable among all the wise men.

God came through for them in such a way that their faith surely strengthened even more. Real faith means obeying God even under the most intense and difficult circumstances. This relatively small test of faith laid the foundation for more difficult ones that would soon follow. When you are able to trust God in little things, He will surely be there for the big things.

1 Corinthians 15:18

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

They were stripped of everything. They were stripped off their names, their identity, their stature, their beliefs, their meals, and also cruelly stripped of their masculinity and

forced to become eunuchs in order to make them more subservient to their new master. They were required to serve the Babylonian king with all their heart, mind, soul, body, and strength. They were to immerse themselves in Babylon culture so that they would be cut off from their own culture and belief in God. Everything was designed to force them into conforming to the Babylonian mould and serving at king Nebuchadnezzar's pleasure.

When the king built the statue and requested them to bow down to it, they simply refused. It takes a special kind of boldness to stand up. You can only have that level of boldness when you have a strong, consistent and intimate relationship with God. They risked their lives once again. They risked being thrown into the fiery furnace. Yet once again they stretched their faith and stood their ground, and their breakthrough came around in full force.

Today I ask you, are you in such a strong relationship with God that you will be willing to face the fire? We often give up long before we even hear about a fire that we will have to endure. At great risk to themselves, over and over they maintained their undivided trust and devotion to God. They were surrounded by a hostile nation.

They were surrounded by jealous enemies. They were surrounded by people waiting to get at them at every corner. These young men faced the odds. but they served with excellence and distinction. Will you serve God with distinction?

Strong people, weak people, holy people, all people go through testing. Just when we think we are strong, we soon find out that we are weak. When God shows us that

we cannot trust in our own strength, then only do we realize how weak we are. Times of weakness is not about being exposed or being embarrassed. It is all about God. It is all about our total dependence on Him. It is about securing our relationship with Him.

CHAPTER 4

POWER OF ASSOCIATION

Proverbs 13:20

²⁰ He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

One of the secrets to victory is the power of association. Friends spend time together, doing things that are common to them. The Hebrew boys kept their associations godly and tight. Their commonality was that they stayed focused on their God. They prayed consistently.

People that you spend time with, have a tremendous impact on your life. When you take a closer look at the people that are in your lives, it is not so difficult to know what direction you are heading in. If your friends are alcoholics or social drinkers, you will become desensitized to that behavior. You will eventually find excuses for those who are alcoholics. You will find reasons as to why you should not reprimand them. You will condone their behavior in a subtle way. In the end it will eventually become your lifestyle. The choices that you make are greatly affected by the people around you.

Take a look at the associations in your life. Look at the people you spend time with. It will help you determine where you are heading. You cannot ask God why you are not where you should be, or why you do not have what you should have, when in reality, you have put stumbling blocks in your own pathway. The power of association is a real thing and not something just made up. We become

like those with whom we closely associate with. Those who don't increase you can only decrease you. Those who are positive can only influence you to be positive. When you tolerate negativity you become negative. When you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your level of mediocrity. Your life can improve if you spend less time with certain people. As you grow, your associations will change. Some of your friends will not want you to go on. They will want you to remain where they are. They won't want you to climb. They want you to crawl. Your associations can help you stretch your vision or kill your dream. Take a closer look at your friends that have reached their career goals or continue to study. You will find that they motivate you to reach your goals and dreams. They motivate you to continually study. Then look at the friends that have no motivation in life. They sit around doing nothing. They have no desire to even have a goal. They live in comfort zone. When you spend time with them you end up in comfort zone. You will go to a place called "nowhere" at the pace of a snail. It becomes your residence.

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were totally out of their comfort zone. God puts us in uncomfortable places to stretch our faith in Him. That is when we need to adapt to the new situation and find a way to still be faithful and committed to Him. Like Daniel and his friends, we have to be willing to serve God in every situation and circumstance.

Your closest associations are an important part of your life. You make the final decision to choose who you spend time with. Most people make that decision based on circumstances and convenience. These people have a

great impact on how we live our lives. If they are negative, we become negative. If they are positive, we become positive. They affect our thinking level. Take time to note your behavior around negative people. You will find that you tend to agree with all their negativity. Their thinking and behavior affects your thinking and behavior. If Daniel, Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah received counsel from negative people or people that did not pray, those people would have told them to give up. They would have told them that prayer does not work. Those same people would be incapable of contributing to a solution or praying with them. They would never have been like the three Hebrew boys, standing in agreement.

Don't follow people who are going nowhere. People create great titles, large associations, amazing pictures, and beautiful video clips in an attempt at creating an impression of who they are. It is more important to look at whose they are. It is likened to having titles with no function. How often we see people who have titles in organisation and yet do not function in anything. They end up as "silent partners". We have a role to play. We have purpose stored up on the inside of us. Popularity is not what you need. The Hebrew boys were wise and no one of their likeness could be found. Yet, they did not run around boasting with that title and picture. Instead they spent more time in their relationship with God. What the world thinks of you is unimportant. Associate with eagles and you will soar to heights that God wants you to be at. Work hard and smart at finding the right associations in your life. Find people who pray, pray and pray. Surrounded by prayer warriors you become a prayer warrior. It is a matter of choice. The Hebrew boys chose to be around Daniel, a man of prayer. It pushed them into boldness and

courageousness. They did not require Daniel's strength and were able to stand their ground even in his absence. They did not need him to be at their side to help them. They had One who is greater than any man. God used them and that situation to show the Babylonians the greatness of His power. Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah became God influencers instead of being influenced by Babylonians.

The Hebrew boys were hated because God had put his hands upon them. They were hated because they were a special people. They were hated because their God protected them. It was a "such a time as this" moment for the Hebrew boys. Your haters will come to you just when you are about to get your breakthrough. They know that you are right on schedule. They know that you are within the timetable of a mighty God. Your haters are usually close by your side.

When God has your name on something, nothing and nobody possesses the ability to change it or to stop it.

God calls you to another, higher level of accountability. You don't need to justify or defend yourself in any situation. In order for God to show himself off, He needs someone to come against you. He needs someone to put you in the fire. When you are in that fiery furnace, then He can take you out, so that he can reveal His power, His glory, and His work. There is no point in saying that the Lord has called you to do something special, until you have gone through the fire. People want to be preachers in this day and age, but very few are willing to make the sacrifice. People want to stand behind a pulpit and preach but they know nothing about trusting God, stretching their faith,

taking the risk and starting their own church. It is easy to hide behind the pulpit of someone else's church. It is time to get out there and make the sacrifice and be willing to take the risk. You can only stretch your faith and take the risk when you really have an intimate relationship with your heavenly Father.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Because we belong to Christ, we can pray with authority, and trust that God will answer our prayers. We will never accomplish what God wants us to do, until we put our confidence in Him. God doesn't want us to go through life with fear and doubt, wondering if He'll respond to our requests.

Isaiah 54:17

¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Joshua 23:6

⁶ Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

Proverbs 2:11 King James Version (KJV)

¹¹ Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

Become more conscious of who you are spending time with. Intentionally look for people who will add value to your life. People that place value on themselves and have high morals and value systems can only affect you positively. People who pray consistently will help you develop your prayer life. People who invest in themselves will motivate you to do the same. The dominant habits of people that you associate with will affect your thinking level and lifestyle. People that are godly will help you stay within the path God prepared for you. You will never waiver in your faith nor will you turn to the left or the right. Use your discretion and choose your companions wisely. The Hebrew boys chose wisely in having Daniel as their best friend. They were able to stand up for their God, whilst risking their lives. Daniel had a great and positive influence and impact on these young men.

CHAPTER 5

PRAYING THE WORD

The Bible is an incredible book. It contains facts and a history that will prove that there is a God. It has the instructions for life. Spend time in it and you will find answers and solutions.

Joshua 1:8

⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Soak yourself in His Word. Let your life marinate in it. You will be able to absorb its truth and wisdom into your heart. It strengthens you to a point where you live in uncompromising obedience to Him. The Word is your life's manual. Don't allow the manual to collect dust. When you buy cars you never seem to get to read the manual. Soon enough when it is about to be sold you find features you never knew existed. Then you wish you had known before, but you would've if you took the time to read it. It may have had a trunk that could open from the inside of the car yet you never knew that little gadget was there. Then you feel saddened that a new driver will have the benefits of that

car. Read your life's manual. The Word of God never returns void but it accomplishes the purposes of God.

People often say they don't know how to pray. Take the Word of God and pray it into your life. Use it back to God. Look at what the Word says about the situation you are facing at that very moment. Find and apply Bible verses to your particular situation. Then pray that Word into that situation. You will be praying according to God's promises. Trust that God will do in your life what He promises in His Word. Use principles from the Word of God in your prayer because God honours His word. There is a distinct connection between the degree to which our minds are shaped by the Word of God. There is also a direct connection to our prayers being answered.

John 15:7

⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1 John 5:14

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Praying the Word means reading the scripture in a spirit of prayer and letting the meaning of the verses become our prayer and inspire our thoughts. God's Word will challenge you to avoid anxiousness and moments of despair. The Word challenges you to pray consistently and faithfully. It is very easy to fall into a rut with repetitive prayer, however when you start to pray more specifically the Holy Spirit will guide you.

Psalms 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

The Word is certainly a source of guidance for our prayer lives. Consider a few of these passages. Underline them in your Bible so that you can easily find them when you are looking for a passage through which to pray. It is best to read your bible and underline the verses. Then make a list of references so that you can refer to it when you need it for a specific situation. Be diligent at identifying these scriptures. Write them down if you feel it is a better form of reference. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. As you pray scripture, pray *“that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe”*. **(Ephesians 1: 17-19)**.

Jesus used the “The Lord’s Prayer” to teach us how to pray. He gave us a pattern to pray. Work out your own prayer around this pattern of praying. It will help you discipline your wandering mind. Jesus did not just command us nor his disciples to pray a certain way, just because they did not have words to pray. He gave us the Lord’s Prayer to shape our hearts, helping us to see and yearn for the things that God himself desires. He wanted us to experience more of God himself in our hearts.

If you study David’s Psalms, they were prayers using the Old Testament Scripture. God considered David as His friend and answered His prayers. Praying Scripture gives us authority over Satan, just as Christ prayed against him. This method of prayer is helpful in extending one’s alone time with God, creating an intimate relationship with the Creator. When we are at a loss for words on how to pray

in any situation we face, praying Scripture helps us to pray in a way that is pleasing to God.

Scripture based praying:

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Father I thank You today for being with me wherever I go. I am strong, brave, and encouraged in you. I will not be afraid or dismayed. I will pray, and go, and do Your will.

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Father in heaven, I am grateful for the peace You give to us. Today I pray that my heart will not be troubled as I receive this peace. No matter what circumstance I face today I know that the peace of God is within me.

Colossians 3:12

¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Dear God we are thankful to be Your chosen people, holy and dearly loved. Today I humbly ask that you clothe me with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, tolerance, and patience.

Everyday ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to pray. He is the best teacher. He promised to draw near to you if you will draw near to Him. Use the Psalms, for it is an excellent guide to praying. Read it out aloud as you walk with David experiencing his moments of joy, despair, and anger. Memorising scripture is fundamental to our spiritual formation. It is a way of filling our minds with what it needs. God wants His Word to remain in us.

When you struggle about what to pray, this will help and guide you. Write out your prayer so that it will eventually become a part of you as you recite them. Memorising scripture will help you during times of temptation. It renews our minds and transforms our lives. It helps you walk according to God's promises and enables you to live in obedience. It encourages us daily and gives us wisdom as we understand God's will for our lives. It is a rewarding practice with great benefits and blessings. Memorising scripture can create a sharper mind and only strengthen your prayer life. Your mind becomes more alert and your faith in Christ is solidified. God desires for us to pray His Word. He knows that His Word is our best weapon against the things of this world.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Scripture based prayer can only increase our faith level. It changes lives and transforms entire communities. It is God's way of inviting us to participate in His work. So move away from a monotonous prayer life to a creative prayer life by using the Word.

Prayer keeps us in constant communion with God. It should be a foremost goal and objective at the start of every day. Without it our lives are without power. We walk around as a target for the enemy.

As you continue to read through the Word, know that the Holy Spirit will lead you to many more powerful scriptures that will inspire a deeper prayer life. When you identify principles in scripture that can be applied to a certain situation in your life, then pray those scriptures and apply them to your situation. Continue to discover what the Bible has for you. Daniel and the Hebrew boys were very familiar with the teachings of Moses. They kept in their memory bank all the wonderful experiences and miracles of their forefathers.

CHAPTER 6

KNOWING GOD

The foundation of knowing God means spending time in His presence. There are no special magical formulas in getting to know God. He wants to be involved in everything we do. He desires to walk by our side, if we will allow Him to. When you make knowing Him your focus, you will trust His promises. The power of prayer will become your lifestyle. Attempt to get a closer relationship with God and know Him more personally and intimately. Spend time praising and worshipping Him.

Job 22:21

²¹ Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Psalms 42:1

¹As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Hosea 6:3

³ Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Set aside a time every day and focus on Him without distractions. Hannaniah, Mishaël and Azariah stood by God's principles. They did not disobey God on any matter pertaining to their relationship with Him.

MAKING SENSE

Isaiah 55:9

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

They would not bow down to any foreign God and would not forget their godly upbringing. The Hebrew boys stood right by each other. No earthly government was going to stand in the way of their relationship with God. They all encountered trials and tribulation. They all encountered adverse situations, but the promises and blessings of God far outweighed any earthly suggestion.

They went through trials but enjoyed all the promises and blessings. Often times we question God about everything that we go through, yet we are fully aware that His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. Our thinking ability is no match to the power of God yet we question Him. They could've wondered, if God was so great to our forefathers, then why would He allow us to be captured, to live in this foreign culture and then to be thrown into the furnace. That situation did not make sense in the natural. They could've also focused on the blessing, the favour and the doors that continually opened for them. We must make a concerted effort in getting to know God and focusing on His favour upon our lives. Focus on the positive and not the negative. Focus on results, answered prayer, favour, blessings and breakthroughs. Never allow your prayer life to be like a spare wheel. A spare wheel is only used for emergencies and breakdowns. It remains idle and is only taken out at an emergency situation. God wants His people to be connected with Him at all times. You can talk to Him wherever you are.

Don't try to make sense out of a situation. Don't try to question God. The Hebrew boys could have waived in their faith. They could have assumed that if this was the same God who was with their fathers, uncles, grandfathers and great grandfathers then why were they being captured. Instead of worry about why their names were being changed, why they were in this storm, why were they going through this challenge, they simply trusted in God. They were so connected to the source that they knew it was part of the process of building faith, trusting God, having a relationship, praying, praying and praying. God wants us to stay connected and to trust Him regardless of outward circumstances. Situations may change, but He remains faithful.

Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah, including Daniel, had a great connection with God. You have to pray with fervency and tenacity and be persistent. Pray until God gives you answers. Don't give up, because you may be seconds away from your breakthrough. Every believer has the capacity to pray in a way that will change their world. When you look at the state of the world you can come to the conclusion that the world does not need more churches, singers, and entertainers. It does not need more strikes and revolutions. It does not need people who think they are the voice to fix the world. What it needs is more men and women of prayer. When you pray something happens but when the church prays there is revival. When the body of Christ prays it is a weapon of mass destruction in the enemy's corner. Daniel, Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah remained steadfast.

CONFIDENT FAITH IN GOD

A covenant relationship with God is a vitally important necessity in prayer. Your covenant relationship with God will determine whether He will come through in your time of need. You need to have laser-focused confidence and faith in God.

Jeremiah 30:3 (NKJV)

For behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the Lord. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.'

They were promised that word. Their God was a covenant keeping God. He is the same God, yesterday today and forever. So, we have the same covenant keeping God. His Word will never return void. Once God puts a word out, He cannot and will not take it back. Every time we see a rainbow in the sky it reminds us of His covenant with His people. He never goes back on His promise.

Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah knew about that covenant that Jeremiah speaks of. Their exile in Babylon was temporary. It may have seemed a long time but they had a promise from a covenant keeping God. They just kept that promise close to their hearts. The Hebrew boys could've waited for Daniel. It seems odd that Daniel was not present at the time of the trouble. It seems odd that Daniel was not around when the king made the decision for all people to bow down to the statue. Was the king's timing deliberate in using that as an opportunity? Remember that Daniel was his right hand man and yet Daniel was away on business during such an important

time for the king. He may have sent Daniel away knowing that Daniel would not agree to this and would not bow down. He would have known that Daniel would have been an obstruction and a hindrance to this decision. It was also a time for the king to determine what Daniel's level of influence over Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah was.

They served a big God. They were not dependent on Daniel. They may have been his senior management assistants. They may have reported to him. They knew they just needed God for this. They were wholly and fully dependent on God, their creator. They did not need Daniel for this. "He has got my back" is what they said to each other about God.

Psalm 121:2

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. God helps those who trust in the Lord with all their heart, and lean not on their own understanding

They turned to God. They simply trusted him and their faith was activated. They had to have realized by then that something impossible was about to happen. The same God who was at their side from before being captured was still with them. They had the same God that their forefathers trusted with them. They had no guarantee in the natural that they would survive the fire. This was just faith at work. God wants us to break through the storm

clouds of distress and know that He is still there. Like Daniel and his friends, we are called upon to be faithful to God.

WISDOM

Wisdom is one of the most valuable keys for life. Wisdom is defined as skill, cleverness, and scientific knowledge.

With wisdom comes success. The whole book of Proverbs focuses on wisdom. Biblical wisdom is having the ability to live in a godly manner. It empowers you to be successful in every area of your life, from home to work, your family, relationships, finances and more.

Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah received Godly wisdom. In James 1:7 we are reminded that if we lack wisdom we can ask God and He will give it to us generously. Three years had passed on since the Hebrew youth were brought into the king's palace. It was now time for Ashpenaz, the chief eunuch to present his case studies to the king. I am sure Ashpenaz was an excellent tutor but he would have experienced some nervousness since he could be punished in the event of them not passing the test. The king examined the boys and the Bible says that none was found like them. They far exceeded the other trainees.

Daniel 1:20

²⁰ And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Just like Joseph they succeeded where others failed. They walked in the wisdom of God. They stood out because

their God was the source of the skill, gifts and wisdom they possessed. The wisdom of the Babylonian false gods certainly did not exist. God gave Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah special abilities that enables them to serve well, in a foreign country. God used that situation as an opportunity to show the unrighteous that His children will always be the best and possess the highest level of skill and intelligence. We are equipped with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 4 :5-9

⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

⁶ Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

⁸ Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

⁹ She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

¹¹ I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

Wisdom is not about your knowledge or understanding. It is not about your intelligence level. It is the ability to use your knowledge and understanding, and apply it well to practical situations. Knowledge alone cannot give you wisdom. Books alone cannot give you wisdom. Education and books is a starting point. Experience is one of the most valuable tools in acquiring wisdom. We learn daily from our experiences. It begins and ends with the fear of the Lord. We must make an effort to get wisdom. Proverbs states that a man is happy once he finds wisdom and gets

understanding. Solomon also states that if you find wisdom there will be a future for you and hope is not cut off. You have a hope filled future.

The Babylonians already hated the Jews. They were jealous of the Jews. They had made a malicious and serious accusation against these boys. Usually captives were given positions of servitude. In this case they were in elevated positions of authority. God had brought them into these positions because of their trust in Him. Together with Daniel they were governing officials. They were known to be ten times better than any other in every matter of wisdom and understanding. This would have increased the resentment from the Chaldeans. The accuser's refer to them as 'certain Jews', which indicated that the king had appointed them over the affairs of Babylon'. They were therefore already envious of God's people. When Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah refused to bow down to the idol, they were in fact simply following instructions from their God. When you are faced with a choice such as this, it is only fitting to follow the wisdom of the only living God and not that of the world. These young men made a wise choice. They were filled with wisdom. They had it the Word written on their hearts that Isaiah 43:1-2 would be activated. God's word surely came alive. They had the opportunity to stand tall in front of all those that bowed to the false God. They chose their God over the Babylonian king and his statue. They chose not to give in to a Babylonian government and received the rewards. Obey God and His wisdom no matter what presents itself to you. Obeying God requires making a sacrifice, but the rewards are great.

When Solomon dealt with the 2 harlots claiming the same baby as their own, he had no rule book or Biblical command. His wisdom was beyond his own knowledge and understanding. His wisdom was about applying his God given knowledge into this situation that presented itself. It included discernment and mature judgment. The fear of the Lord worked itself in this situation. We have the Word of God to saturate our hearts and minds so that we receive spiritual wisdom in making decisions.

Exalt wisdom, and wisdom will promote you. When you embrace wisdom, wisdom will bring you to a place of honor. It will bring you promotion and blessings. Wisdom in the Bible working teaches you everything about life. Without wisdom we work three times, or more harder than we need to work with far less productivity. Wisdom brings success to every area of our lives. It brings success to our families, our marriages, our careers, and our ministry. When you ask God for wisdom He will put wisdom in you. Many people in the Bible received wisdom but I am sure they prayed and prayed until wisdom came. When God puts wisdom in you, you will have the ability to know how to do whatever is required at the time. God has wired you up in a specific way, and He has given you wisdom to know how to do certain things.

Deuteronomy 34:9, Imparted wisdom.

“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

Joshua learnt from the best. This was the power of association that worked for him. He just served and

observed. This was the wisdom that was imparted to Joshua through the laying on of Moses' hands.

Deuteronomy 4:5

⁵ Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

⁶ Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

The Hebrew boys remembered Deuteronomy 4:5-6 when they faced the fire. They put it into action. They activated their faith and wisdom. When you embrace it, wisdom brings you to a place of honor. Wisdom will exalt you.

James 1:5

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

God gives wisdom to whoever asks Him. You need to have a consistent relationship to get to that level. Wisdom is a window of opportunity for a great life. It allows you to differentiate from good and poor decision making. Wisdom makes you grow stronger. Wisdom takes you to new and higher levels. Wisdom takes you to a higher mindset.

CHAPTER 7

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Matthew 16:19

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Prayer is an absolute necessity in the life of every believer.

- Without prayer we are ineffective.
- Without prayer we are irrelevant.
- Without prayer our angels are on standby.
- Without prayer We place limits on Him.
- Without prayer we are disabled.
- Without prayer we are crippled.
- Without prayer we restrict God.
- Without prayer we cannot bring down the spiritual blessings assigned to us.

Prayer is our weapon. It is our secret weapon and our only weapon. It is the weapon given to us to move mountains and remove obstacles in the realm of the spirit. Prayer is the power that make things happen, and the power that prohibits things from happening. It opens doors that need to be opened and shuts the doors that need to be shut.

CHARGED TO THE SOURCE

A prayer life must be alive. It must stay charged. It must stay plugged into the power source in order to have power. You can relate it to your phone or a laptop. The more it is

recharged, the more power it has to stay alive and produce.

Likewise, in our lives, the more we pray, the more power we make available for ourselves to effect a shifting in our lives, in our jobs, in our families, in our health situations and in every area that will demand a supernatural intervention. Your power source is God. When you stay connected with Him, you have more power for breakthrough, and more power for the impossible to be changed to the possible.

Having no prayer life is like having life but not breath. The more we pray the more powerful we become in the realm of the spirit. Our prayers become more effective and fervent. We begin to live more effective lives when we make prayer a daily part of our lives. Prayer must be a consistent effort and choice in order to maintain a powerful victorious Christian life. One of the setbacks in life is not that of unanswered prayer, but no prayer or unoffered prayer.

WARRIORS

We were created to be warriors.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

We come into this world as warriors. We act like warriors. We talk like warriors. We walk like warriors and we pray like warriors. We activate our God given warrior voices. There is no time to be afraid of the enemy. We stand up to

the enemy. We are not weak and we are not born as wimps. When His Word is hidden in our hearts we have no fear. The Bible says that we must stand in our God given authority and power and start commanding the heavens and calling those things that be not as if they are.

When you can walk in your God given authority the atmosphere changes. Things starts happening in the atmosphere. Strongholds are pulled down, burdens are lifted, people are delivered and victory is won.

POWERED FOR THE ENEMY

One of the most spectacular examples of spiritual warfare is recorded in the book of Daniel. The Hebrew boys made a choice to wage war against the enemy. They were not willing to bow down to a golden image set up by the king. They may have been thrown into the fiery furnace that was made seven times hotter, but they were not consumed by the power of the enemy. They came out without even the smell of fire on them. He sent His Son as the fourth man to save them because they stood the test of time. They stood on their belief and were faithful to God.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus has many encounters with demons. They knew that the power of Jesus would overcome them. They begged Him not to send them away. They knew that they would be confined in chains in the abyss.

Satan is forever causing the saints of God to stumble. He thwarts the plans and purposes of God. As long as you carry the purposes of God on the inside of you he will make every attempt to bring it down. Satan has already been

defeated at Calvary and we have the power of God at work in us to overcome the antics of the enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

BATTLE

We are in the midst of a great spiritual battle. Some Christians don't even know that there is a war waging. Every Christian is called to be a soldier in the kingdom. The battle began long before Adam and Eve. Isaiah refers to the enemy as the morning star that has fallen from heaven. Ezekiel refers to him as the one who was full of wisdom and beauty until unrighteousness was found in him. He was the angel that God created, but in his heart he wanted to elevate himself above God.

All too often we are overcome by feelings of powerlessness. It comes from not using what God has provided for us. We attempt to be strong in ourselves. We do not know or have not learned the secret of drawing our strength from God. We may be strong in our physical abilities, character, and personality but it is insufficient to wage war. Our strength comes from above. God desires for us to be strong.

Our real struggle is with the principalities and powers of darkness. Satan continues to oppose the people of God. The battles we face comes in many forms such as bitterness, hatred, addictions, sickness, pride and much more. The enemy weakens you so that you will fall. In this he can keep you under his feet. You have to resist the devil and he will flee. Fight the battle with spiritual weapons. The weapon that God has given us repels the enemy. The enemy opposes the purposes of God and the people of God. Prayer is your weapon against the enemy. Even when the breakthrough doesn't seem to arrive, He wants you to stay in His presence.

Fight the good fight of faith. Put on your faith, righteousness, and salvation. Utilise the gospel which is the Word of God, and persevere in prayer.

Be bold, be strong, be vigorous, and take charge. The power of the Lord is mightier than any of our abilities put together. As you place your reliance on God, your faith is being strengthened. You will have no fear of the enemy. Like the Hebrew boys, you just risk everything because you know it is about what God is about to do. Make a public declaration of your intent to stand against the enemy.

He walks about as a roaring lion looking for the weak that he may devour them. Jesus Christ is the only one that is far above all the rulers and powers of this world. He is far above earthly dominions. All things have been put under his feet. He has conquered and enables us to conquer through Him.

In 2 Corinthians we find Paul being afflicted with some kind of disease. He simply called it, "a thorn in my flesh". He

was quick to identify the work of Satan. He recognised that a messenger of Satan came to torment him. God denied Paul's request to have this thing removed, but it was just a reminder to Paul, that His grace is sufficient for us, because His power is made perfect in our weakness. Paul remained humble drew his strength from God. He learned that when we are weak, He is strong for us.

In 2 Corinthians 11:22-23 Paul reminds us about the trials and tests along his journey with the Lord. He was prisoned, beaten, stoned, hungry, thirsty, shipwrecked, betrayed, pressured and cold. Yet while in the midst of his sufferings he is still able to say,

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

⁸ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

To the Philippian church he wrote,

Philippians 4:12-13

¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

ARMOUR OF GOD

Paul knew of the secret that lies in having a consistent and intimate relationship with God. That same secret is still available today. He fully understood the power of an

Almighty God. Paul commands us to put on the full armour of God so that we can stand up against the schemes of the devil. Paul was familiar with the armour worn by his Roman captors. In Ephesians he draws a comparison between the soldier's armour and our spiritual armour from God.

We are at war with Satan. He is our adversary. He is hell bent on destroying the people of God. Never become discouraged by Satan's schemes and devices. We have direct access to the power from above. There is continuous war in the spiritual realm. Satan and his demons operate from an invisible status. It may seem like they don't exist, but they surely do. When we put on the armour of God we will never retreat. We will never give in to the enemy.

Threatening the Hebrew boys with fire was his schematic for the time. They had the armour of God so had no need to fear. We fall because we have not put on the armour that He has already given us. It is as simple as a child refusing to put on his raincoat and then getting wet. Make use of the protective gear given to you.

There is a spiritual battle going on, and wrestling against the forces of darkness. We are constantly engaged in spiritual warfare with unseen wicked forces. To overcome our enemy in the power of the Holy Spirit, we must remain resolute in our confidence in God and determine never to accept defeat.

We have a spiritual armour that protects us once it is put on. Spiritual warfare is real. Without the armour of God we are defenseless. The enemy disrupts our lives in Christ.

We become soldiers with holes in our armour. The holes are places of vulnerability. It is the starting point or the point of entry for the enemy. What you neglect he will invade. It is an invitation for him to enter. You have left the door open, whether half or wide open. He waits for a door to be open. No matter how small the hole he will use it as his opportune moment to destroy you. Never allow him access into your life, home, family, career, community or nation. When you put on the armour of God, you will be able to stand firm against all the schematics of the devil. We have been given the victory. Jesus fought the battle and He has won. That victory that we have is the power of the Mighty One.

When we put on the whole armour of God, we are protected from attacks. We are prepared for Satan's attacks that bring discouragement and despair. It helps us stay in alert mode at all times.

Paul uses the image of battle armor to teach us how to dress and be ready for battle. We know the enemy. We know how he operates in his schematic ways. It is time to get our battle gear in place. Our weapons protect us since we, as warriors can continue in battle and not be wiped out. In any battle in the natural it is essential to protect oneself from the blows that present itself. We are weak in ourselves. In God, the weapons of warfare are more than we could ever ask for, in order to remain standing.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

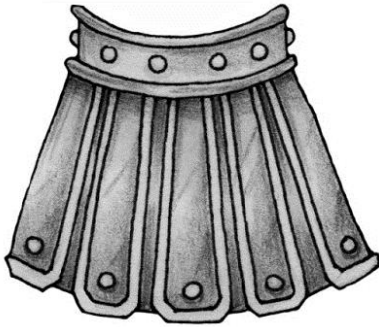
¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



❖ **Belt of Truth**

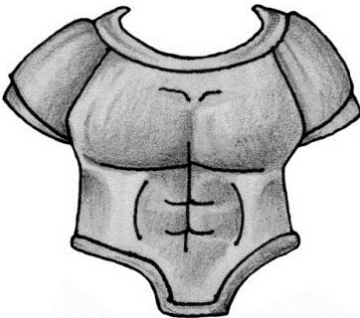


“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth.”

The girdle or belt was a piece of the armour that circled the waist area. It secured all the other pieces of the soldier's armour. Once the belt was in place, it

meant that the soldier was ready for battle. He was ready for action. It stabilized the middle section of the body. Satan is the master deceiver and father of lies. We hold onto the teachings of Jesus which is truth. Jesus said in John 8:32, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free”. The truth surrounds us like the belt would surround a soldier. Once we know the truth we are set free. We are able to stand up against Satan's lies and deceit.

❖ **Breastplate of Righteousness**



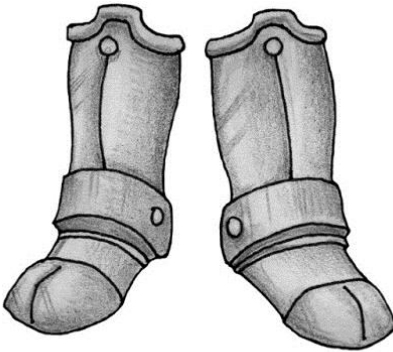
“And having on the breastplate of righteousness.”

Roman soldiers protected their torso with a breastplate made of leather or steel. It was worn to protect the tender areas of their body. The heart is a vital part of the body.

Our protection is righteousness. To be righteous is to first repent and be forgiven of our sins, and then to do what is right in God's eyes. Righteousness means obeying God's

laws. We have been made righteous by Christ's death on the cross. We have been set apart and we belong to Him. His blood covers us. When we walk in holiness and righteousness, we are protected. When we trust in God, we are deemed righteous. Righteousness must become a lifestyle. Living a consecrated life in Jesus makes us less prone to attacks from the devil, since our hearts are guarded.

❖ **Shoes of the Gospel of peace**



“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

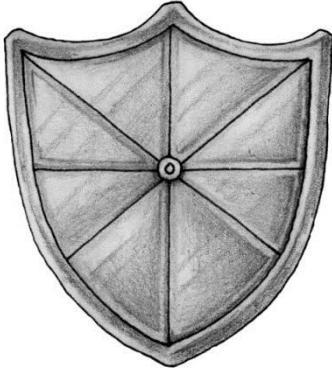
Strong footgear is important in a battle situation. The soldiers proceeded through long and rough terrains at high speed. This would have required the correct footwear. Research

indicates that the sandals of Roman soldiers were often fitted with nails or spikes in order to firmly hold the ground underneath. The army usually issues boots. That prevents feet from being exposed to the enemy. Boots keep you well grounded in the natural.

We are to be well grounded in the things of God. We need to stand on a solid foundation. When the enemy attacks we are well grounded. A soldier's feet are shod in preparation for war. When we have our spiritual shoes fitted, we are ready to spread the gospel of peace. We as children of God must be ready to march forward at the

command of God. Strongly covered feet is an offensive weapon. You are in a position to be ready to run with the gospel and to share this gospel of peace.

❖ **The Shield of Faith**



“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

The shield was large and rectangular in shape and was positioned so that a soldier could be safe from the darts of the enemy. The shield was functional in quenching the fiery missiles of the enemy. A shield

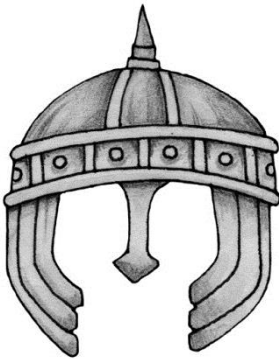
is both a defensive and an offensive weapon. You can hide behind it when being attacked or you can use your sword while still protecting your body with the shield held in the other hand.

Sometimes all hell seems to break loose on us. Everything seems to go wrong and fear and terror can set in. Trust God and hold out the shield of faith. Your faith helps you to stand tall amidst the fiery flames. It helps you in the midst of mind battles. It helps and strengthens you in every situation. It is impossible for Satan to break through our shield of faith. Stay strong in your conviction that God will do what He has promised. Trust God no matter what the circumstances are. Never put your shield of faith down, not even for a moment. Make sure you possess your shield of faith when in spiritual battle so that it can quench the fiery darts of the enemy. Our faith allows us to stand tall in

battle. Without faith we are unable to serve the Living God. Faith protected Daniel from the teeth of the lions. Faith protected the Hebrew boys from the furnace. Faith protects us from physical danger, but also from spiritual danger. The Roman soldiers strategized by putting their shields together for stronger protection. When we can join our shields of faith and strengthen our faith as the body of Christ we are able to take the enemy head on. We will be able to take on any challenge or adverse situation.

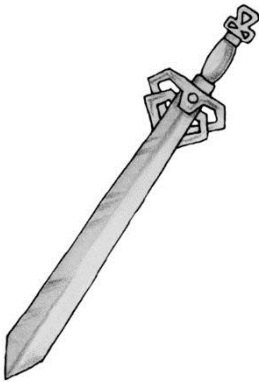
❖ **The Helmet of Salvation**

“And take the helmet of salvation.”



Helmets protected the head. A blow to the brain rendered a soldier ineffective. It protected the brain and the mind. Like a cyclist's helmet it will protect you in the midst of danger. It protected the mind against self-doubt and fear. It gives us boldness and confidence. Salvation provides the helmet that is necessary to protect our minds from the attacks of the enemy. When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and are saved, transformation begins. We are new creatures in Christ. Transformation in Christ develops our minds into right thinking and waging holy war. Focus on the incredible Gift we have been given. Jesus came that we might have salvation. This gives us hope and protects us from any form of despair.

❖ The Sword of the Spirit



“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

The sword was carried by soldiers during times of war. It was both an offensive and defensive tool in battle. It was very effective in hand to hand combat. The sword was an essential tool for the survival of soldiers.

The sword of the Spirit enables us to conquer our enemies. Our sword is God's Word. The Word is our life manual. Hebrews 4:12 says, For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than a two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It contains the principles and truth that we require in order to stand up against the enemy's schematics. It enables us to conquer him in every battle we face, so we need to study and spend time in the Word. It is essential for the survival of the Christian soldier. We are required to use our Bible, the Word of God, to attack the enemy and see him fall.

❖ Pray in the Spirit



“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.”

On the battlefield it was generally impossible to be in communication with the commanding office at all times. This was a common problem on battlefields.

We on the other hand, have the privilege of direct communication with our commanding officer. We have access to Him at anytime. The greatest offensive weapon we have is the ability to call on the Lord in the midst of adversity. He gives His commands and we are able to put it into action.

Prayer is the best form of communication in the spiritual realm. It takes you straight into the throne room of God. It brings you into His presence and it allows God to work through you in a powerful way. Prayer unleashes the power of God in the life of a Christian. Stay in tune with the Holy Spirit. Call Him when trouble confronts you. Fight, fight and fight the enemy or plan to live defeated lives. Fight the good of faith and win the race like Paul did.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Our Commander-in-chief has already won the victory for us. We just need to get into our armour and stand stall as He leads us to victory.

Satan constantly wars with every believer. He comes with an open assault and seeks to devour you. Paul speaks of Satan's cunning schemes and crafty methods and wiles. We will need the whole armour of God to hold our ground against his crafty, and subtle attacks. What are the intentions of Satan? He desires to draw us into sin. He

attempts to steal our blessings and inheritance. He attempts to remove the purposes of God from us. It is often that he chooses to attack when we have just been through a blessed time. He also looks for moments of despair and weakness, in which to attack. He wars with every Christian believer.

Know your enemy, understand how he operates, and put on the armour of God. Be prepared to wrestle and fight and pray. We have every encouragement in the Word of God to do so. Satan will always be on the losing side. We are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ. He is our warrior, but he desires for us to join him in the warfare against the forces of darkness. Be strong, brave, and fierce in resisting and demolishing the works of Satan. This is not the time to be double minded and indecisive. Become a soldier in the army of Jesus. Dare to live by faith. Dare to be that Christian soldier marching onwards. Dare to put fear into Satan. You are a warrior in the Lord, so walk with boldness and confidence in your faith. You have the power of a mighty God at your disposal. Put on the armour and walk in victory.

CHAPTER 8

DIVINE TECHNOLOGY

The current trend now is all about technology. If you don't know technology you simply get left behind. We are in the age of live streaming, smart phones, wireless communication and artificial intelligence. In order to be current with technology we keep up with the current generation. However, we have access to a higher technology. Prayer is a divine technology that we should all be current with. It is a technology that has worked, continues to work and will work for any situation that presents itself.

Prayer gives God freedom to intervene in the affairs of mankind. Prayer brings change to our lives, families, neighbourhoods, communities and change to the world. It is pointless joining the masses and going on strike. It is of no use criticizing the government or the president. It is of no use complaining about your family or friends. It is of no use complaining about leadership and pastors in churches. Put prayer to work. Activate your voice in your prayer closet and see the supernatural explode in front of you. You were not assigned to make changes in the natural. You were assigned to just pray. Prayer causes a shifting in the atmosphere. When you pray you will see change. Things that have caused you grief will start shifting and shaking. You don't need to worry about what everyone else is doing or whether it is right or wrong. Let God take care of His business. He manages and administrates his business perfectly. You pray until there is a shifting. Pray until you see the change you want to see.

- Prayer puts the angels to work.
- Prayer puts us to work.
- Prayer keeps us connected to our headquarters.
- Prayer keeps us connected to our Source.
- Prayer keeps us connected to a High place.
- Prayer keeps us connected to our heavenly government.

The most powerful people on the earth are those who pray consistently. The most powerful people on the earth are not those who just talk about prayer. They are the people who make time to pray. They are the people who prioritise prayer. They are the people who get up early and pray every day. These are the people who put prayer first. They stand in the gap when no one else will. They are normal human beings just like you and I. They also have important things to take care of just like you and I. They also have urgent matters to deal with, but they put it all on hold. They make prayer their priority. They know the value of starting their day with prayer. When you commit your day to God, you won't need to figure out the how to do's and the what to do's. God brings in solutions before the challenge even arises or He walks through it with you.

Start your day with prayer. Just because you are not a morning person doesn't mean you cannot do it. The enemy has already set up his day for you while you were sleeping. He is working continuously to mess up your day. He works through the darkness finding ways to mess up your life. So, you need to get up early and prayer-plan your day. Start with the prayer that is going to carry you for a full day. When you haven't started your day in prayer, you will walk right into the plans, traps and schematics of the enemy.

The Bible says the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

When you pray you experience victory. Attending church, conferences and seminars is great. Programs, beautiful churches, well organized productions, good singing, new songs are all great but unimportant if you don't pray.

Oftentimes people would say, "but I can pray anytime and my God doesn't need me to be structured and orderly." Read your Bible again because you missed the revelation. God is the Master planner and organizer. He is a God of details. He doesn't just do whatever comes to His mind. Creation itself was an organized and well thought out process. Look at the details in your own body and you will understand how detailed God is. Be organized, plan your day but allow the Holy Spirit to be in control. Don't be foolish into thinking God is not a God of order. He expects you to have a plan but flow with Him. He expects you to start your day in prayer. He should be first on your priority list for the day.

PRAYER UNLOCKS THE HEART OF GOD

Prayer is a powerful tool in the life of a Christian. It is the key to everything in life. It is the key that unlocks the heart of God. It is the key that unlocks all of the treasures of the Kingdom of God. It is a key that God has placed in our hands and invites us to use effectively. Prayer is the conduit through which all the power and provision of God flows. It is more than the words we say between "Dear Lord" and "Amen."

Prayer is getting into that attitude and relationship with God. We are not Christians without prayer. Prayer is not something we add onto our Christianity. It is like saying I'm alive but I am not breathing. When we pray, God does not consult his files of information and statistics. He does not drop it in the box of the impossible. He is the Creator of the universe. Nothing is impossible with Him. He takes delight in our impossible requests. He takes delight in our big requests. He takes delight in our small requests. He simply takes delight when we have an intimate relationship with Him.

When we pray, we might look foolish in front of everyone else, but It is the price we pay to see God's Power at work. We may look foolish to others at that moment but when the rewards of that prayer comes flooding into your life, the real fool is watching in astonishment. It is a choice to transition from self-reliance to dependence on God. It may seem difficult at first but practice makes perfect. Your confidence in Him gains momentum. Praying means you are anxious for nothing.

Matthew 18:19-20

¹⁹ Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 John 5:14-15

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Luke 18:1

¹And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

You may be facing a situation that you think is impossible for you to change. We serve the God of turnarounds. We serve the God of shift. We serve the God of the impossible. We serve the God of the breakthrough. You can face the fire. You will remain alive in the fire.

You have to “pray through” to get a breakthrough. When you can commit to an intimate relationship with God you can be assured of walking in victory in every area of your life. You will begin to live in the impossible. You will live in the supernatural. The anointing destroys the yoke. When you are connected to Him your atmosphere shifts. There will be a shifting in your family atmosphere, your social atmosphere, your work atmosphere, your financial atmosphere and your country. Get back what belongs to you by staying connected with your heavenly Father.

DESPERATION

When in desperation we forget about God. Some run to Google and other sources of information. The internet has become the firsthand source for making decisions. We replace God with laptops, desktops and smart phones. It is time to access the one who is the authority on all matters. Don't look for logic and common sense on matters pertaining to God. He is the master architect. He created you so he knows you. He knows the number of hairs on your head. We love our families but we never count the number of hairs on their heads. He knows when you are in pain. He knows when you have financial stress. He knows when you are hurting. God never overlooks anything that

concerns you, no matter how small it may seem. He is absorbed in you.

When He awakens you at night or the early hours of the morning, you don't hear him. Instead, you head out straight to the inbox, checking emails, checking text messages and scrolling through social media, hoping that someone will encourage you and make your day. He got you up because He had a word of encouragement for you already. All you needed to do was to access the direct line to Him.

As human beings we have this innate or natural desire to be able to help ourselves, or call our friends and family to help us even before we talk to God. We go ahead with our own plans. It gets so bad that even the enemy wonders what we are up to. Just when the enemy thinks he is about to overwhelm you, you have a back-up plan. He is confused because he is wondering why are you coming up with a plan or a back up plan that's not going to work anyway. When we leave God out of the picture in our challenges, He leaves us to do it our way. Our way is headed for failure. He waits for us to stop and call upon Him, then He acts on our behalf.

On Sundays we are overcomers. From Monday to Saturday we are in a mess. Then we get back to church and become overcomers for a straight forty-five-minute sermon again. The same people line up at the altar call week after week. It is time to get your breakthrough. There are times when we are overwhelmed by circumstances and situations beyond our own control. Situations of such magnitude overtake us. We don't know whether we ever have a possible chance of overcoming it. The situations tower us to such an extent, that not only does our problem

become huge but our inabilities, weaknesses and limitations become over magnified.

We don't have the option of fight or flight. The only option is prayer. When we pray something extraordinary and powerful happens in the heavens. We put the angels to work. We unlock the heart of the father. Never underestimate what God can do. Never undermine what He can do. Never under estimate His power. If he can come through in the midst of the fire for Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah, He can turn any impossible situation into the possible. Prayer is a natural source of help in any difficult situation. In times of trouble you must run to God instead of running away from Him.

Proverbs 18:10

¹⁰ The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

When you run to the Lord, you are running to His authority and His power that is at work within you. Be patient in the midst of your challenge. The Hebrew boys could have given up in an instant. They not only faced persecution but imminent death by fire. God requires us to be patient when we face storms.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 1:12

¹² Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

To take a stand and publicly refuse to bow to the king's golden image was a bold and courageous act. It certainly had its reward. This public defiance would have certainly had them thrown in the furnace. The king was enraged and humiliated at the same time. Nebuchadnezzar had just begun his contest with God. He assumed he was the greatest person alive. The Hebrew boys had nothing to fear since their commitment to God was solid. They knew that the God that they served would deliver them. Being in a foreign country and being forced to live in the culture did not mean that they had to be a part of it. They only served one God. They were fully knowledgeable that the power of God is stronger than any other power. They did not have to consider the outcome since they just trusted God. No matter what happened, they were willing to just stay committed and faithful. They knew that deliverance from the fire was a possibility, but they also knew that their martyrdom was also possible. Either way they were not willing to bow down to any other God but their God. It was a no go area for them to bow down to a foreign God.

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Their faith in God remained intact. They remembered the words of their fathers and their forefathers. They remembered the promises of God. They remembered the stories of the previous generations.

Your faith in God must remain intact too. Never allow circumstances to dictate the level of your relationship with God. If you have an intimate relationship with God, you will never waiver in your trust in Him. You need to have unbending faith and courage in the face of fire or in the face of a storm. Storms come for a short period and always pass. They never remain forever. The rainbow shows up after the storm to remind you of God's covenant. You can only be bold and courageous if you have a consistent prayer life.

Deuteronomy 31:6

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

They were ready to be bound and thrown into the fiery furnace. This was no ordinary furnace. It was heated seven times more. The king's men were killed instantaneously just by being outside the door. But their God was already in the fire to receive his faithful servants. The fourth person was already waiting in the furnace. Nebuchadnezzar was still coming to terms with the death of his men, and the fact that these boys were still alive when he saw the fourth man. The same king who earlier told the boys, 'who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands' had trouble seeing the real King. God has absolute control over everything, everyone and every situation. He is in control. He controls the fire that attempts to burn us.

He controls the storms that attempt to drive us away. No harm can come upon you when He is in your midst. Not even the smell of fire will be upon you when you're in the fire. The Hebrew boys are a testament to that. Continue to honour God and remain steadfast in Him, knowing that He will carry you through every situation.

CHAPTER 9

JESUS AND PRAYER

The gospels do not provide a detailed biography of Jesus Christ, the son of God. However, the focus is on His prayer life. Jesus was passionate about His prayer life. Jesus was a commander of prayer. His leadership was about prayer.

He prayed that we should look up to Him as an example and mentor. He prayed that we would know about the power that moves the Hand of God. He prayed because He wanted to be in constant communication with His Father. Jesus told us to pray and He himself prayed.

He always arose in the early hours of the morning to pray. He taught us to pray and He commands us to pray. Prayer is our link and channel to the power and presence of God. The greatest men and women in the Bible valued prayer. They knocked and knocked on the doors of heaven until all of heaven was rendered open. They had great tasks ahead of them and would not let go of God. They didn't pray a quick prayer, instead they spent hours with God. They waited patiently in His presence. Jesus often withdrew to quiet, lonely places when he could've spoken to the masses of people that were looking for Him. In spite of the immense demand on His ministry, He prioritised prayer. The intensity of the demands of ministry pushed Him to pray more. He knew that unless he prayed, He would be of no use to the people in need. He also understood the need to pray alone. He also understood what alone time with His Father meant.

Luke 5:16

¹⁶ And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Luke 9:28

²⁸ And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

Luke 6:12

¹² 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.

The gospel of Luke majors on the prayer life of Jesus.

- He prayed before His baptism.
- He prayed before choosing His disciples.
- He prayed before he asks His disciples who the crowd thought He was.
- He took Peter, James, and John with Him to a high mountain to pray.
- He prayed before Lazarus was raised from the dead.
- He gave His high priestly prayer at the last supper.
- He prayed three times at Gethsemane while he was under great stress.
- He prayed at the cross.
- He prayed at other occasions, sometimes all night
- He prayed for children.

You have to desire uninterrupted moments with your Heavenly Father.

Mark 11:22-24

²² And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

What Jesus was telling his disciples was that you have to believe. Even before you pray you should already see the answer, the miracle and the breakthrough in the spirit. He taught that we can face and conquer great difficulties by communion with and faith in God. You have to have faith for that miracle. Don't ask God for something you do not believe that He will do. In order for our prayer to be effective we must get out of ourselves and allow the Spirit of God to direct our prayers.

Our will must bow down to His will and power. It is beyond our limited human reasoning and emotions. When you speak to God and have a consistent and intimate relationship with Him you will know His will for you.

Jesus put prayer into the hands of his disciples. They were His apprentices. It is absolutely essential to invest in our lives in order to fulfill our aspirations. A builder doesn't become a builder overnight after dreaming about it. A doctor doesn't one day just wake up with knowledge and skills to become a brain surgeon. An attorney doesn't talk all night in his sleep and then becomes an attorney the next day. Yet, with spiritual things people just expect that

somehow God will just download a sudden blast of power that will catapult us into a deep spiritually empowering experience.

Prayer was a huge part of the life of Jesus while he was on the earth. It was His daily discipline. It was His morning discipline. He went to prayer for every situation. He prepared his day with prayer. Prayer brought him immeasurable power throughout his ministry. He prayed with passion, because He knew the magnitude of the power that could be released, if only we would pray.

Mark 6:45-46

⁴⁵ And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

⁴⁶ And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Jesus modeled a lifestyle of prayer. He prayed often and His prayers were intense. Prayer requires a wrestling in the Spirit with passion and fervency. Jesus never gave up, and He doesn't want us to give up in prayer. Jesus is more than a model of faithfulness to God. He teaches us that when we are faced with temptation, when we are in despair, and when terror strikes in any area of our lives, we must turn to God in prayer. When we humble ourselves in the presence of the Lord and call on Him for help, He is ready and waiting to lift us up and to sustain us.

God waits to hear from His children. He waits to put His angels to work. He wants to activate the forces of heaven upon the earth. God's purpose depends much on our communication with Him. His hand halts or advances

according to the level of our commitment and our prayer. Our prayer rests in Him. Not to pray is disobedience in the sight of God. When we leave God out of the picture there can be no progress in our lives. There can be no progress made in our difficult circumstances.

The book of revelation gives us a clear picture of God's position and stand on prayer. Angels are involved in our prayer.

Revelation 8:3-5

³ And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

⁴ And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

⁵ And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Our prayers go up but come back to earth with flaming power. Its power changes the atmosphere. God's plan and purpose is in our hands if we will only pray. You can listen to sermon after sermon, but it is of no value unless you get on your knees and pray. God can only intervene when we are in direct communication with Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

The church needs more men and women praying. The church needs to pray like never before. The church is in

dire need of people who will pray and continue to be consistent in prayer. Praying people are able to endure difficult situations. Prayer can never play a secondary role in one's life. God has made himself available to us. He has obligated himself to answer the prayer of His people. We have the power to move the Hand of God. He has put His power in our hands in the form of prayer. If we don't pray, then we do not give God the opportunity to move His hand upon the earth. Prayerlessness leaves us at the mercy of the enemy. It leaves us in helplessness. Our problems and difficulties stand still and continue to keep us in despair because of prayerlessness. When we wait in our weakness for something to happen, we find that nothing happens, only because we fail to pray. Prayerlessness stands in the way of God's word being fulfilled. Prayer-less people are a hindrance to God's purpose.

Praying people never need to beg for anything. Praying people follow the heart of the father and do His perfect will. Praying people never have to ask people to fund their mission trips. Praying people never need to ask people to fund their evangelism. Praying people seek God and He provides miraculously. They allow God to use His influence. The Holy Spirit descends on praying people, creating an atmosphere filled with prayer. Your strength and faith level can only rise in an atmosphere of prayer.

Never allow your family, friends, jobs, education and skills to infringe on your prayer time. We must go where He wants us to go and do what He wants us to do. We must aim to please Him. We represent an all powerful and mighty God.

CHAPTER 10

PRAYER ENGAGES GOD

Prayer is an open door that no one can shut. Not even Satan can shut the door to our prayers ascending into the heavens. We are a barrier to our own prayers at times. Anxiety, despair and disbelief can stop the power of God from manifesting. God eagerly awaits our prayers. He is never too busy for His children. He is not occupied with running the galaxy. Our prayer level determines our reliance on God. When we are self reliant it means we are prayer-less. We must depend on God in everything in order to know his power at work in and through us.

When you pray do you feel that God is not around? Do you feel that He is not even listening to you? Do you neglect prayer because you become discouraged and feel no connection with God? There is a way to strengthen your relationship with God.

Pray that God will increase your desire for Him. Make a concerted effort to spend more time in your prayer closet with God. People talk about their prayer closets so often, yet never make time to get into it. Bragging about praying or prayer closets that never actually materialise is simply foolish. Some believers are visitors in their own prayer closets.

Be willing to make adjustments to your daily schedule. Make Him your priority before you even begin your day. Build your life around Jesus. Never allow the distraction of your daily living to overcome your relationship with God.

The enemy continuously works to ensure that you don't start your day in prayer. You will feel cold, tired or just sleepy, but you have to push yourself to get to your prayer corner so that you can start your day with your Maker.

Paul says, "Continue earnestly in prayer," When translated it means "persist". He is calling us to be devoted in prayer and it is not an option but actually a command from Jesus. Keep that voice activated until the heavens are rendered open. Don't give up. Don't quit. Your breakthrough is on its way. The more we pray the more we trample the enemy and get closer to what God wants for us. When you pray, pray from your heart and not your mind. Prayer is not a magic solution. It is not something you need to recite everyday. It is about your relationship with your Father.

GET THE PRAYER ENGINE RUNNING

Sometimes we get stuck and don't know where to begin. I would say, begin with the Lord's prayer. It is a great place to start praying. It helps you get that prayer engine started. When you don't feel like praying, is when you have to pray. A vehicle stands still until you start the engine. If left too long in the cold, it needs a longer time to warm up. Start to pray and see how the Holy Spirit will help you, and you will end up praying longer than you ever thought you could.

There are so many things you can pray for so start with anything and watch God take you to the next level. Every challenge is an opportunity to pray for. Even if the challenge doesn't affect you, you can still pray for someone else. Opportunities for prayer are all around us. Tap into that opportunity and see God at work. See His glory made manifest. The Bible is filled with words of

encouragement. Write your prayers until you become comfortable just speaking to God. Stay focused on Him.

When you're discouraged by challenges you're facing, don't give up on praying. When you don't understand what's going on, keep trusting God. Ask God to give you more faith to help you hold on through the challenges. Continually confess and repent of known and unknown sin. Pattern your life after His life and principles. Ask God to lead and direct your path so that you do not get tempted by the works of the enemy. Allow your struggles in life to become your testimonies. Trust in Him as you become more Christ-like through your trials. Trust in the Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit guide your prayers, empower you, and connect directly to your spirit as you're praying. Yield to Him and Allow Him to transform you.

As you go about your daily activities, family schedule, and work schedule remain in the presence of God. You can talk to God at any time, even during your daily activities. There are so many opportunities even if it is for a few minutes during the day where you can make time to just give God praise or just talk to Him. Praise God no matter what the circumstances in your life are. He is a God that is above any challenge we face. Lift your voice up when you are alone. Let Him hear your heart beat.

When you spend time with God you will be able to discern His voice speaking to you. Most times our own thoughts and voices drown out God's will in our lives. Make time to hear His voice speaking to you.

Fasting together with prayer is like the atom bomb. It gives you power to pull down the stronghold of the enemy. When

you take yourself away from the distractions and mundane things of daily living you can focus on your spiritual growth. Fasting requires growing and developing those spiritual muscles.

Find a quiet place to pray at home. Let it become a daily habit and time for God. Schedule a regular time to pray every morning. Get up an hour earlier like you would if you were going to a gym every morning. Ensure there are no distractions. Guard that time of the morning with your life. It is the most important part of your day. Forget about anything else that will attempt to distract you. When you shut down those distractions God will ensure that you do not neglect anything that was to be done during your day. So focus your attention completely on God when you're praying and if your mind starts to wander then change to fourth gear and go back to praying.

When your prayer is not answered, don't spend hours being distracted by that. It's not about your desire but the will of the Father. Jacob wrestled with God until he received his breakthrough. Have the faith and tenacity to say to God: "I won't let you go until you bless me." You keep praying until it is your time. While God works with you, He will change your desires so that they line up with His purpose. However, ensure that your desires are in line with the will of God. God knows the right time for your breakthrough. He wants you to be a success not a failure, so His timing is absolutely essential. When you pray and don't see anything happen, keep on knocking and knocking, louder and louder until heaven opens up on you.

Pray with others so that more power is released into the atmosphere. When we pray with others we pray for things that we may have never thought about. We possibly pray for things that need urgent attention yet we are unaware of these situations. Prayer opens our eyes, enabling us to see what God is doing. It enables us to see the things we are blinded to without prayer. We speak to God and He rains down His blessings. Pray in agreement so that you can put more than a hundred thousand to flight.

Pray for others. When you pray for others, your prayers will also be answered. Focus on others and watch God help you grow in leaps and bounds. We should never be selfish in our prayers. Its not only about me, myself and I. Its not about me, my spouse and my 2 children. It is when we pray for others that we will become more and more like Jesus.

In 1952, Albert Einstein delivered a lecture on at Princeton University. One of the attendees, a doctoral student, asked Einstein "What is there left in the world for original dissertation research?" Einstein was one of the greatest scientists that ever lived. After considerate thought Einstein replied, "Find out about prayer. Somebody must find out about prayer."

The world knows that there is something in prayer. They just wont engage in it because they do not know the truth or refuse to believe the truth. Prayer engages God and it enables us as God's people to be power houses. When we have not prayed we can do nothing, but when we pray we can accomplish anything in Jesus name. Someone once said, "The greatest tragedy of life is not in unanswered prayer, but in un-offered prayer".

We often only go to God in prayer when crisis and tragedy hits us. Prayer is never a daily part of our lives. Most times it is just a back up plan. When all else fails then only do we go to God. Prayer should be like the breathing and walking that we do every day.

- We depress the alarm emergency button when we are in danger.
- We call the control room of the airport when we are in danger or unable to land the plane.
- We call 10111 because something bad is happening.

We rarely go to the real resource. We hardly ever call up God. We talk about it so often yet hardly engage in it. Prayer opens our eyes, enabling us to see what God is doing, to see things we are blinded to without prayer. That's because prayer is communication. We speak to God, God answers us, speaking to us, and showing us. Nothing delights Satan, but when people give him too much credit. We allow ourselves to believe that he is just as powerful as God. Exercise your authority on the enemy. When he attempts to bring in destruction, you go ahead and use your weapon of mass destruction. Prayer is your weapon of mass destruction. God gives you the power and strength to wage war against the enemy.

CONCLUSION

God wants to have an intimate relationship with us. He wants to be involved in our daily lives. He wants to communicate with us.

He wants you to experience His power and His glory. He has so much more for us. We need to be wholly reliant and dependent upon Him, in order to experience breakthrough moments.

God has a destiny for for each and everyone one of us. He has already equipped and anointed us to accomplish our assignments. No adverse circumstances can hinder the promises of God, if we have a consistent relationship with Him. He fights your battles while arranging everything in your favour. He makes a way when you don't see a way. Pain and struggle only come for a reason. When you trust Him, he will reward you, so never give up on Him. Worrying about something should force you to pray. If you have the time to despair, then you have the time to pray.

He has done it for the Bible people years ago but He is still the same God. He will do even more than what He did then. He sees your tears and hears your cries and He will deliver. When you think there is no solution, then turn to prayer because it is the only solution.

The Hebrew boys were captured and taken into a foreign country with foreign customs. They never gave up on their faith in God. They were thrown into the furnace risking their lives and yet refused to bow down to the Babylonian God. Would you be able to stand tall in the midst of adversity? With God at your side, nothing is impossible. God is with

you through the storms and the fire, if you will allow Him to take control of your life.

The fire may be your greatest test in life, but the end result is worth all the trouble. The fire refines and strengthens you. The end result is blessings, breakthrough, favour, promotion and answered prayer.

When the fires of life are threatening to consume you, call on the name of the Lord. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah lived through the fire to see their miracle come to pass. Your furnace may be getting seven times hotter. You may be dealing with anything from hostile people to a hostile work environment, or a hostile marriage to a hostile family situation, but when the fire comes, honour Jesus above all.

God will commit to a man's crisis if only he will call Him up. Believe the promises of God and activate your relationship with Him, in order to see your miracle come alive. Your miracle is in the fire. He is able to deliver you from the furnace of your situation.

...NO FIRE CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD...

JEHOSHAPHAT'S PRAYER

2 Chronicles 20:5-12

⁵ And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court,

⁶ And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

⁷ Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

⁸ And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

⁹ If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

¹⁰ And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

¹¹ Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

¹² O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

⁷ Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

⁸ Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

⁹ Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

¹⁰ Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

¹¹ Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

¹² And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant.

DAVID'S PRAYER

Psalm 143

143 *Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.*

² *And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.*

³ *For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.*

⁴ *Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.*

⁵ *I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.*

⁶ *I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.*

HEZEKIAH' S PRAYER

Isaiah 37:15-20

¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed unto the Lord, saying,

¹⁶ O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

¹⁷ Incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear; open thine eyes, O Lord, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

¹⁸ Of a truth, Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries,

¹⁹ And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

²⁰ Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord, even thou only.

DANIEL'S PRAYER

Daniel 9:4-19

⁴And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

⁵We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

⁶Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

⁷O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

⁸O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

⁹To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

¹⁰Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

¹¹Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

¹²And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by

bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

¹³ As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

¹⁴ Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

¹⁵ And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

¹⁶ O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

¹⁸ O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

¹⁹ O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-15

⁹ *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

¹⁰ *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us this day our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

PAUL'S PRAYER

Ephesians 1:17-23

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

²² And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Other books by Sandra E. Gopaul

1. *His Appointed Time*
2. *Light up your Day*
3. *Children's Bedtime Prayers Vol. 1*
4. *Children's Bedtime Payers Vol. 2*
5. *Financial Handbook*
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7. *My Story World*
8. *Teen Prayer Power*
9. *You've got Mail*
10. *Precious Moments*
11. *Employee handbook*
12. *Trapped on the streets*
13. *Something Blue, Something Borrowed*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sandra is an inspirational woman who leads with wisdom and excellence. She has authored several books and is dynamic teacher and speaker. She is passionate about women in leadership and disadvantaged children and has made tremendous contributions to it. Those in contact with her have benefitted from her disciplined management, administration, financial, music and educational expertise. Sandra is a practical resource as a life coach and mentor.

Do you long for an intimate and devoted relationship with God and to feel His transcendent touch in every area of your life? The feeling is mutual. Against life's constantly raging storms, God desires a relationship with you—His prized creation—so you can experience His marvelous power, comfort, and everlasting peace. With God's Spirit locked with yours, you'll be fully anointed and equipped to accomplish your divine purpose and give meaning to an otherwise inconsequential life.

A deep, consistent fellowship with God will strengthen your faith in trying times and cause you to experience the miraculous. Though the three Hebrew boys were captured and taken to a foreign land with unfamiliar customs, they never let their faith wane. Risking their lives, they boldly refused to bow down to the Babylonian idol, and God delivered them from the blazing inferno they were condemned to.

Would you be able to stand tall in the midst of adversity? Only with a rock-solid relationship with God. With Him, you can weather any storm and walk out of any roaring inferno unscathed as you journey through life. As you read this book, take that journey with God, moment by moment, and experience a supernatural transformation in your life.



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