

## Prayer and Fasting Part 2: Key Points of Successful Prayer; The LORD's Prayer (4/13/2019)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWdHOfTWQHY>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

I want to open up with a quote by Charles Spurgeon, who had a great revelation, packed with power, explicitly in regard to prayer. This is what he said—I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.

Here you have a man who was immersed in ministry. He drew thousands of people who wanted to hear his sermons. He was drawing thousands upon thousands into the kingdom. People were repenting; people were coming for the first time accepting Yeshua as LORD.

His statement blows me away because this man was immersed in ministry. I say that because this is what happens. When you're that deep into it, you begin to see the playing field very clearly. You begin to see things that work and don't work in ministry. You begin to see those things that bear fruit and the things that do not bear fruit. You begin to see certain men for who they really are whether they're true servants of God, or they're not. Being immersed in ministry, the one thing he saw was it would be better—to teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.

What does that tell you about prayer? What does that tell you about the power of it? I absolutely agree with Mr. Spurgeon.

This is where we need to be. This is why we're going through this series. It is better to have only one of you praying versus ten of you going out proclaiming the gospel. God forbid someone go out and preach the gospel who doesn't know how to pray. How can you preach the gospel of Yeshua legitimately when you're not spending time with Him or are not in true relationship with him? The answer is you can't. How can you go out preaching the kingdom of God, preaching the throne room of God, having never been there in prayer? You can't.

As you get to Acts chapter 6, there is a little kerfuffle, if you will, that breaks out between the Hellenistic Jews and the Jews of the area. The concern is with the Hellenistic Jews, the widows are being neglected. So the Apostles get together and decide they need to appoint men to take care of this business. They need to set men aside for this, and then Peter says something after and you're going to want to pay very close attention to. This is what he says in Acts 6:4—but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Think about that statement. I know what the Apostles' ministry looked like. To see it, all you have to do is read the book of Acts. It was absolutely incredible! Do you want to experience the things that the apostles experienced? Then understand two points. First, you will have to believe what they believed and second, you will have to do what they did. You see, we want to be the Acts church, but we don't want to do what it takes to get there. That's the reality. What Peter says is unbelievable—we will give ourselves continually. They were not going to stop from praying.

You see, Mr. Spurgeon knew what he was talking about as he sounds a lot like Peter. They both agreed on the same thing. This is where we need to be. We need to be immersing ourselves in prayer.

Given that, today we're going to continue to look at prayer. What I want to cover today is how do we pray? How are believers in Yeshua supposed to give ourselves to prayer? You need to understand there are conditions in Scripture that need to be met if we want to pray with any success whatsoever. These conditions are going to have to be embraced. There are things we have to embrace, and there are other things we have to abandon. There are things we actually have to reject that can literally destroy prayer, and we certainly need want to deal with those things. Amen?

Before we get into this, let me preface today's message with the following. The information we are going to cover today, I can say with absolute certainty, the devil is going to come and try to steal from you. I guarantee it! Be aware he's going to try to come and take these things from you because these things connect you to God and bring you into the throne room of God. The devil does not want you to have them.

There is something I've talked about before. Regarding the art of war, when you have one nation coming out against another nation, militarily and strategically speaking, the number one thing that military is going to want to accomplish is to take out communications of their adversary. If you take out the communications, your adversary is left dazed, confused, and totally blind. By the time the enemy fully attacks, it'll be too late.

This is what the devil wants to do to you. He wants to come and take out our communications, which is prayer. Our communication with God is prayer, and Satan is going to do everything in his power to stop that because of what it means to his own kingdom. His kingdom will fall; his kingdom gets destroyed when righteous men and women go to the throne room, go before the LORD, and connect with their God, with their Messiah Yeshua. That's when things really begin to happen. That's why Peter gave himself to prayer.

Don't you find it peculiar that in their ministry they went out and healed the sick? They raised the dead and they cast out demons. How did they do that? They gave themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. We want to be that church. This is what we need to do.

I want to give you the first key to success in prayer. In John 14:13-14, we find the word of Yeshua—<sup>13</sup> **And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** <sup>14</sup> **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it** (emphasis added).

The number one thing, if you want to enter into the throne room, is there's only one way. Yeshua is the door. His name is the key to that door. You cannot enter into it any other way. It is only by His name. This is the name that is above all other names. There's no other name given among men by which we

must be saved, except the name of Yeshua. It is by this name every knee will bow and every tongue will confess. This is the name by which the Apostles went out. They healed in the name of Yeshua.

In Acts 3:3, we find Peter and John going up to the temple. They see a man born lame from birth; he can't walk. The doctors can't do anything for him, and he is begging for alms. Peter tells the man in Acts 3:6—**“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”**

That man was perfectly healed. He rose up leaping and praising God. We also find in Scripture stories of Paul confronting demons in the name of Messiah Yeshua. When this was done, the demons came out and fled. The power is in the name of Yeshua. If we are going to have power in prayer, if we want to be successful, it has to be in His name.

Another point to make is found in Matthew 21:18-21—<sup>18</sup> **Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. <sup>20</sup> And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" <sup>21</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done”** (emphasis added).**

The first point I want to make here is regarding the statement I have highlighted—**if you have faith and do not doubt**. You need to understand the number one public enemy of prayer is doubt. You had better believe the enemy is going to come and attempt to sow doubt. If you doubt in any way as you are praying, do not think for a moment the LORD is going to receive that prayer. To back up that statement, you can go to James 1:5-7 and see what it says—<sup>5</sup> **If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.... <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the LORD.**

He will never receive anything from God if he's praying a prayer that contains doubt. It's contamination. It's total perversion. It's the opposite of faith.

The devil is so good at sowing doubt into us. I can personally tell you of times in past years I have travailed praying against the spirit of doubt. I have been on my knees praying against the spirit of doubt. We covered this last lesson in Isaiah 36:5 where we found the Rabshakeh saying— **you speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words.**

So you are praying and the enemy comes in and sows seeds of doubt, “Well, you're not really praying to anyone. God doesn't really hear you. He doesn't love you. Look at yourself. Look at the sins you have committed in times past. Do you really think God is going to listen to you? Do you really think any of this is going to make any difference in the world?”

So he keeps sowing doubt, and you get up from prayer thinking, “What a waste of time.” Do not let the enemy sow doubt. Do you understand how much power is available to you? This is true power through faith to the point Yeshua says in Matthew 21:21—**“ Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.”** In other words, Yeshua is making a simple point; you

will accomplish the impossible. **“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible”** (Matthew 19:26).

Until we go to prayer in this context I’m scared because what good are those prayers of doubt? We need to be men and women of faith, praying and tapping into that power. Do not get off your knees until you have.

Yeshua ends the statement in Matthew 21:22—**And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive** (emphasis added). He doesn't say, “There are only some things I'm willing to do. There are only some things that can really be accomplished in prayer.” No. He says—**whatever you ask in prayer believing**. Yeshua is so clear; it takes faith. This is how it has to be done.

I want to help you appreciate this a little more bit by giving you real life examples. I want to take you back to 2 Chronicles 14:8-9—**8 And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor. 9 Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah** (emphasis added). The bottom line was; in the flesh, Asa was outnumbered. In the flesh, he didn’t stand a chance against Zerah’s army.

How does he respond to the impossible? This is the key thing just coming off the heels of what Yeshua said. 2 Chronicles 14:10-11—**10 So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. 11 And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, “LORD, it is nothing for You to help** (emphasis added).

The first thing I want you to notice is, this is Asa in prayer. You want to pay attention because this is what real prayer looks like. He continues—**whether with many or with those who have no power**. Does Asa say, “We can totally handle this, God? We got this.” No! He is humble. He knows he does not have what it takes to win this war. This is why Asa has turned to God.

So Asa continues—**help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You**. Isn't that interesting? Where is his faith? In God. So this key element we just talked about that unlocks and ensures successful prayer was faith. Asa expressed his faith, “LORD, it is You that I trust. You're the only one we rest on.”

What is the second thing Asa says? **And in Your name we go against this multitude**. What's the very first thing we looked at? If we go to prayer, we must go in the name of the LORD, the name of Yeshua. So these elements to have a successful prayer are found right here. Asa is doing it.

He continues—**in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!** (2 Chronicles 14:10). It is a confession.

This is what prayer looks like. Understand that this is not when things are going well, Asa is in the midst of trial and tribulation. He is in a situation that looks impossible to the flesh. Make no mistake and think this king of Ethiopia did not have confidence. He probably thought in his mind, “This is going to be a slaughter. We are going to take him.”

So Asa goes to God. How does God respond with this prayer of faith? 2 Chronicles 14:12—**So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled**. That is the power of prayer!

I want to show you something that took place rather recently. This is something that has kind of gone viral. Many different people have picked up the story. This one is from the Federalist. [On January 19, 2015, 14-year-old John Smith was trapped underwater for 15 minutes. First responders pulled him from the icy waters of Lake Sainte Louise in St. Charles, a northwestern suburb of St. Louis, Missouri.](#)

Here is a little background to this story. There were a couple boys who were all from the same Christian school. This boy, John Smith, actually was the one to fall through the ice. He was under the ice for 15 minutes.

As we continue, this is what we read—[The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported a month later: “He wasn’t breathing, and paramedics and doctors performed CPR on him for 43 minutes without regaining a pulse.” Yet, after his mother prayed for him, doctors at St. Joseph Hospital West say Smith inexplicably regained consciousness. They never expected the heart monitor to respond,” says Joyce Smith in an interview. “The first doctor who treated John wrote in his medical records: \*\*Patient dead. Mother prayed. Patient came back to life.\*\*”](#) (Emphasis added. The Federalist. By Josh Shepherd, March 19, 2019). That is power!

Think about how powerful that story is. It was actually recorded—[Patient dead](#). There was no question about it. Then it says—[Mother prayed](#)—and he came back to life.

Now put yourself in that situation. After the fact that he was under the water for 15 minutes. After the fact that the paramedics and doctors tried to resuscitate him. After 10 minutes of this going on, where are you at mentally? If you're in this situation, you're praying, and there is no pulse, and the rest of the people are looking on with complete sadness going, “It's over. How tragic. What a horrible ending. I feel so bad for this family. I feel so bad for this mother.” Where are you at mentally?

The mother did not stop praying after 10 minutes. What about 20 minutes? After somebody is dead for 20 minutes, don't you walk away thinking, “There's no hope”?

How many of you would have walked away at 20 minutes? How many of you would have given up and stopped praying? After 30 minutes go by and the mother doesn't stop praying. After 40 minutes this kid is proclaimed dead. They tried for over 40 minutes and they cannot resuscitate him, yet the mother never stops praying.

Do you want to talk about faith? You want to talk about perseverance? If you want to enter into true prayer with power, you're going to have to persevere.

In Luke 11:5-8, we read this—<sup>5</sup> [And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves;’](#) <sup>6</sup> [for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him!’](#) <sup>7</sup> [and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’?](#)

In other words, quit bugging me. Now's not a good time. I don't want to mess with you. Well, then we read in verse 8—[I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet \*\*because of his persistence\*\* he will rise and give him as many as he needs](#) (emphasis added).

You see, this mother was persistent; she did not walk away. How many of you have ever prayed and thought, "I don't even know why I'm doing this. God doesn't hear. My prayers are not answered. I prayed this three times. I prayed this four times. He is not answering." The enemy sows doubt into you, and you walk away. This is prayer that is totally powerless. Talk about fruitless prayer. What a waste of your time.

It is so sad because doubt is so powerful. The enemy comes in, and he comes in different ways. So we pray for a specific situation. When it doesn't happen, don't stop praying.

Elijah, as he's praying for rain, sends his servant to go look for rain. Elijah asks if the servant sees anything. The servant responds, "No Elijah. I don't." Elijah is a man of God. He is praying, yet he doesn't see anything. Does he say, "Well, I guess God is not going to hear me" and stops praying? No! He keeps praying and sends his servant back to find out what the servant sees. The servant again tells him he sees nothing.

This happens seven times. Elijah never stopped. He persevered. He never got off his knees. He continued to pray, and because of it the rain came.

If we're going to pray like the Apostles prayed and like Elijah prayed, you're going to have to endure and persevere. This the fruit of faith. If you're going to persevere that's only going to happen because you actually believe that you have access into the throne room through the name of Yeshua and through faith in Him knowing He has unlimited power to do the impossible things.

We can't do things. The paramedics couldn't resuscitate a boy that had drowned, but with God, all things are possible. Until we get to that point, we are not warriors. We are not engaged in the battle, and we're not making any impact against the kingdom of the devil. This is where we need to be.

I want to give you a little perspective by taking you to Matthew 7:8-11—<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Do you want some real perspective on prayer? This could radically change your prayer life! In other words, you need to know the Father's heart. You need to truly understand the Father's Heart. If you're a mother or father, and your children come and ask you for something, your immediate instinct in your heart, within reason, is to supply your children with what they want. When they come to you and say, "Daddy; Mommy; I would like this," you want to give them that. If you're evil, and you have the ability to do this, and you have the willingness in your heart to do this, how much more our good Father who is perfect?

Understanding this is huge because now you're going to prayer knowing "I have a Father who loves me. He cares for me even more than I care for my own children." Do you know what kind of faith that builds? Why do you think Yeshua is expressing this to His disciples? He's trying to instill faith. He's building faith into us to really understand who the Father is and His heart. It's much easier for me to go into prayer knowing the Father wants me there. The Father wants to hear from me, and the Father wants to give me those things that I asked of Him, within reason. It's His desire, and things specifically that are impossible for me to obtain on my own are the things God loves to glory in. He's the expert in

this. Moving on to our next key to successful prayer, which is obedience. 1 John 3:22—**And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

This is a key that is often times overlooked in regard to having a successful prayer life. You want to have power when you pray, but do you keep His commandments? This is huge!

In fact, what did we look at last week? There is something I want to revisit again—**Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much** (emphasis added, James 5:16). James is specific. He doesn't just say, "The effective, fervent prayer of a man." He's very specific. It's—**of a righteous man.** This is somebody who is walking in the footsteps of Yeshua. This is someone who is in close proximity with the Living God. It says in 1 John 2:3—**Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

When you're walking with the LORD, when you're keeping His commandments, it's an indicator you're in relationship with Him. There's a legitimate relationship between you and God. You speak to God; God speaks to you, and you listen and hear.

Psalms 34:15—**The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.** Again, the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous. It is not the wicked, the wishy-washy, or the pseudo Christians. His eyes are on the righteous. These are His children, and He has His ear bent to them.

Proverbs 15:29—**The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayers of the righteous.** This is who He hears.

Have you ever given yourself to prayer on any level and walked away thinking in your mind, "Is God even listening? Look at my situation. Is He even listening?" Let me tell you something; that is not the question to ask. The question to ask is, "Am I listening?" If you want power in prayer, are you listening? This is something you need to deal with so you know when you hit the deck, and you're on your knees, it's not all in vain.

Going to Isaiah 1:15—**When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.** In actuality, there were many other sins that were going on in Judah at this time. It's not just this, but I want to point this out. God will not hear the prayers. No matter how many prayers the wicked give, He will not hear their prayers.

This is something we don't want to hear because it means you have to change; and the delusion goes away.

Isaiah 59:1-2—<sup>1</sup> **Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.** <sup>2</sup> **But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear** (emphasis added).

One thing I do not want to blow by so quickly that you do not see, and the LORD establishes it first—**Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that He cannot hear.** The LORD is saying, "This is not on Me. The fact that you're praying and nothing is happening; that doesn't fall on Me.

God is basically saying “I'm able to do anything. Make no mistake; I'm not deaf. It's on you. Do you want to know why things aren't happening? It is because you're not walking with Me. Your sins have separated you from Me.”

Sin will directly affect your prayer life. I absolutely promise you that; there is no question about it. If you want to take away the glitz, glamour, seduction, and the alluring nature of sin and how it draws so many to their death, just read that. I say this because the most terrifying thing that should be in any Christian's life is “God doesn't hear me anymore. He has left.”

That should terrify you. That should draw you back into repentance. When anyone is living in sin, and yes, they have drawn away from God, if they turn back and repent, God will be there. He will come back. It's an absolute biblical fact.

Look at what it says in John 9:31—**Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him** (emphasis added). This is what we just read in Isaiah. This is what John is talking about. This is absolutely amazing!

All right. So let's kind of take inventory here. When we are looking at all these keys to successful prayer, this is what we see. This is what we've covered. We need to pray in Yeshua's name. We need to pray in faith, and we need to be perseverant in our prayers. We also need to be praying in the context of obedience. All of these are absolutely critical to successful prayer.



There's another one we're going to add to the list, and it is humility. This one is huge. Look at Psalm 34:18—**The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit** (emphasis added). You see; it's all about proximity. When you're dealing with prayer, the people the LORD is going to be near to, the ones He is going to bend the ear to, are those who are broken before Him. They are absolutely humble.

I want to give you an example of what this looks like in Scripture. If we want to restore power to prayer, pay close attention. We're going to look at a man of prayer, Daniel. In Daniel 10:12, we read this—**Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words"** (emphasis added).

Daniel entered into prayer and the angel is literally telling Daniel the reason he was there was the prayer. The angel was literally sent by God from Heaven to Earth because of Daniel's words, but the reason the angel came is because Daniel humbled himself. That's why his words were heard. That's what I call powerful prayer. When God starts sending angels into your room, into your house, you don't have to question whether or not your prayer is heard. At that point, you know the power of prayer.

I have to add this. I love what it says at the end—**your words were heard; and I have come because of your words**. Daniel is a man of the flesh who has drawn the attention of the Most High God. This is the God who is literally running the universe, yet God doesn't hesitate to respond to Daniel's prayer.

2 Chronicles 7:14—**If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray** (emphasis added). This is amazing! The first thing mentioned in this Chronicles verse, which is filled

with the key to successful prayer, is we need to humble ourselves before God. It tells us how to get God to respond to our prayer.

The verse continues—**humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways.** What did we just talk about regarding the key element of prayer and power? It is obedience. It's turning away from wickedness. It's rejecting it. Then it says—**I will hear in heaven.** This is how we get our prayers answered, but it's on you, and it's on me.

Honestly, your prayers will be as powerful as you want them to be because Yeshua is not limited in power. We're told He can do above all that we ask or think. He has no limitations. This is on us.

If we have lack of power in our life, it's us; it's not Him. Just as He said in Isaiah 59:1—**Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.** Again, the LORD tells us, "This is not My problem."

Let me take you to 1 John 5:14-15. We're going to look at another key to successful prayer. <sup>14</sup> **Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** <sup>15</sup> **And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him** (emphasis added).

I'm going to tell you right now; this is the one element that somehow slips through our fingers. This is the one element that is very difficult for many Christians to grab hold of. In fact, many Christians do not pray His will. What comes naturally to us is to pray our will.

If I were to tell you I have never prayed my own will, that would be a lie. If I'm honest with myself and analyze the prayers I have spoken, there are times I recognize I'm not praying His will. I want my will to be done here on Earth.

So our prayers are structured in such a way to literally strip the power out of them because we pray our own will. For you to pray God's will, you have to crucify the flesh. You will have to fully trust in God that His way is the best way. Then you're going to start to find out how much faith you really have because it says in Proverbs 3:5—**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.** That is easier said and taught than done.

The only way you're going to be able to pray the LORD's will is to literally crucify the flesh leaving nothing else and just start praying His will. You have to empty yourself; there will be nothing, and that is when the power comes. It comes when you start praying according to His will. There is so much power in that.

I want to give you the best example I could give you of what this looks like. This is what we read in Matthew 26:38-39—<sup>38</sup> **Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."** <sup>39</sup> **He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."** (Emphasis added).

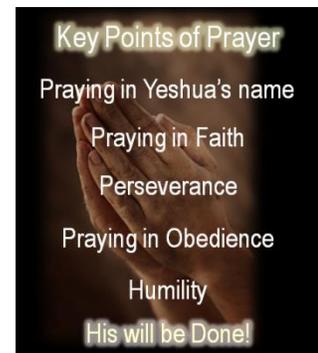
He says—**Not My will be done, but Your will be done.** Yeshua is confronted with the fact He is literally going to be destroyed. We are coming up on the Passover season right now. This is the week we recognize how He was brutally treated. He was beaten past recognition and ultimately killed. Yeshua

knew what He had to do and was traversing so much in the flesh. He says, "If there's any other way, Father, please make it happen." However, He doesn't end this prayer. He says—**not My will be done, but Your will be done.**

This is our Master Yeshua who poured Himself out. We are told by Paul, He emptied Himself. This is what that prayer looks like, but we don't want to pray the LORD's will in our life. Our flesh doesn't want to pray it because of what it will mean. This is why we don't have the power. Until we get to this point where we can start praying His will and can in confidence say, "I trust You no matter what this Earth holds for me, for my family, or for the community. It doesn't matter, LORD. I trust you. May Your will be done." Do you want to radically change your prayer life? Do you want to radically change your life? If so, start praying this prayer—**let Your will be done**—and watch how closely the LORD draws near to you. That will happen because you're showing you have His heart. That's what He's looking for; men and women after His own heart.

So let's look at what we have here for successful prayer. We have praying in Yeshua's name. We have praying in faith. We have perseverance. We have obedience. We have humility, and we have the will of God. These are the keys; these are the secrets to power. These are the secrets to actually having God hear us, and as a result, whatever we ask we have. We will have the petitions we've asked of Him, if we are praying in this way, according to His will.

I want to take you to Matthew 6:5 because Yeshua is going to give us some instructions regarding how to pray. **And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.**



When I think back to my trip to Israel and the experiences of that trip, I find His statement interesting. I know many of you have been to Israel, but the one thing that shocked me are these rabbis in the Ben Yehuda District in Jerusalem who set up these portable tables and spread out their tefillin and prayer books. You can rent from them tefillin to pray. These things are literally set up on the corners of the streets. It blew my mind because I know from Scripture thousands of years ago they were doing the same thing in the sense they were on the corners, and this is where they were praying.

However, Yeshua told us we are not supposed to do it like that. We find this as we continue in Matthew 6:6—**But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

You need to pick up on what Yeshua just conveyed here. Prayer is not a parade. Prayer, in its purest form, is done simply between you and the Father. He wants that relationship with you. He wants you to desire Him and to come to Him behind closed doors not seeking to make a scene or seeking to look pious so other people respect you. You go to your private place because you love Him, want to speak to Him, and want private time with Him.

How many times do we read in the gospels Yeshua left His own disciples to go pray privately? He wanted to have alone time. Now, I want to be clear here. Yeshua is not saying we shouldn't corporately pray because we actually see examples of that very thing happening. However, in no way is corporate prayer supposed to usurp the primary objective in your life, which is to have that private time with

Yeshua. For you to be truly effective, to be a part of a team, and come into corporate prayer in order to offer something, you will have to have a stellar private prayer life. That's a reality.

So Yeshua shares this very important piece to the puzzle regarding how we are supposed to pray. It's not with anyone looking on. It's simply our desire in our heart to want to spend time with Him. I'm going to tell you, and I said this last week, it will completely transform you. You will have a renewing of the mind when you give yourself to prayer. You will have a renewing of the heart because you're allowing the Holy Spirit to change you. This is what's going to happen. It will be a tangible, yet the thing is we don't do it because we don't find the time. You know why? Because we don't value it.

Moving on in Matthew 6:7-8—<sup>7</sup> **And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.** <sup>8</sup> **Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**

This is interesting because Yeshua just got done telling us not to be like the hypocrites. He was referring to the Jewish Pharisees. Now He moved from that to telling us not to do as the heathens do. Don't pray like them. He is talking about the Gentiles. We are not to pray like these pagans.

And so their Yeshua is recognizing, and they would have understood this very clearly, how the pagans pray and how they worship their gods. Our pray is not supposed to be like that. I am to be nothing like that. They're praying to gods of nothingness. They're dead. They don't hear.

The God we pray to has ears. He hears us, and He has power to save us. So Yeshua says in Matthew 6:9—**In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven.**

Right here we see Yeshua training His disciples in regard to what prayer should look like. The very first thing that comes out of His mouth is—**Our Father**. He could have used any other title such as the Tetragrammaton, Jehovah, Yahweh, El Shaddai, Adoni, Elohim, or El Elyon. These are all magnificent titles describing our God. He doesn't use any of them. Instead, He uses the one that shows you the intimacy of prayer, Father.

When you recognize you are His child, it puts prayer in a completely different context. This is something the pagans do not have. They don't have this intimacy. They don't have this love. They don't have family. There is a complete disconnected between them and their gods. Their gods are far off.

We, however, have our Father. So Yeshua brings this into context—**Our Father in heaven**. Then He says—**Hallowed be Your name** (Matthew 6:9). At the very beginning of the prayer, Yeshua conveys an important lesson. That lesson is your recognition that He is Holy. He is pure holiness.

Look at what is said in Leviticus 10:3—**And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.'** "

Again, the key element to successful prayer is recognizing His Holiness. You don't just flippantly go off thinking you are going to say a two-second prayer. You need to recognize you are coming into the throne room, and you're magnifying Him. You are calling Him, Father. Holy is Your name; You Are Holy! Do not think for a second you can approach the King without recognizing this.

In the story in Leviticus 10, you learn something from Nadab and Abihu. These men did not recognize the LORD as holy, and the LORD killed them. They offered what is referred to as strange fire to the LORD. It was, however, a perverted fire, and the LORD killed them because of it. They did not recognize and acknowledge His Holiness. This is something we might want to consider and do when we truly go to prayer.

So looking at this again in Matthew 6:9 and continuing in verse 10—<sup>9</sup> **In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven** (emphasis added).

Isn't it interesting that one key component we need to be praying for—**His will**—is right at the front of the prayer Yeshua is teaching His Apostles? This is how you need to pray. You need to pray for His will to be done, which means you have to crucify your own will. Your will does not belong in prayer.

Now, again, this is not to say you can't ask or petition God for things because you have needs. You should go to God for those because He is the supplier, so I encourage that. However, be careful how you pray. Submit your will to His and watch the power come.

I want to show you an example of—**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**. This example is so powerful, and we actually looked at this passage last week, but we'll look at it differently. Acts 4:29—**Now, LORD, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word**.

The Apostles are getting together, and they're praying. What are they praying? They are praying the will of God. What is the will of God? That His gospel will go forth. What are they praying? **That with all boldness they may speak Your word**. This is the Father's Heart. This is what He wants.

The verse continues in Acts 4:30—<sup>30</sup> **by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus**. There is one thing I know, and that is the Father has ordained that His son is to be glorified because that is how the Father is glorified. So these men are immersed in the will of God. They're praying it.

Well, how does this pan out when they had prayed? Acts 4:31—**And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness** (emphasis added).

What did they just get done praying for? Boldness. They were praying according to the word. Did the LORD respond to that prayer? Immediately. Holy Spirit came down and they went out and fulfilled. That is exactly what they prayed for. That is power. This is how we want to pray; for His will be done.

Returning to Acts 6:11 where it says—**Give us this day our daily bread**. I'm going to tell you this is something we don't pray for any more than we are praying for the will of God because what we pray for is God to set us up. Set me up for the next year. Look after my 401k, IRA, and all my other investments. LORD, put your hand on them and bless them. I am telling you nowhere in Scripture will you find a prayer like that prayed by a righteous man.

Yeshua trains us to pray—give us this day our daily bread. Give us only enough for now. How many of you are praying, LORD, just supply my need for today? I doubt this is what we are praying. Why not? Because we don't trust Him. There's no faith. This is why we don't have power.

As you start to comb through Scripture and learn how to pray, it's embarrassing. You begin to blush. At least I hope you begin to get embarrassed and say, "I'm so far from where I need to be. I didn't even recognize it."

Our prayer life and meditation tends to be focused on the future. Are we going to have enough? Are we going to be able to pay for the kid's college? Personally, I don't care anymore. **Give us this day our daily bread.** This is what I need to focus on and trust the LORD for the rest.

You see, when He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, they had no idea where they were going. They were brought into a desolate land without food and water. What did God do? He rained bread down. Manna came down, but only enough for one literal day, and when the people went and tried to grab more, it was cursed. They were gathering their riches of manna, and it was cursed with worms and stunk.

God does not want our hearts focused on the future and how we're going to set up and be comfortable in the future making sure we have everything. Instead, it is—**give us this day our daily bread.** We are talking about transforming your prayer. You will have to submit your will. You will no longer be praying your will, but you're praying His will. That is what Yeshua is doing. He is teaching us how to pray the Father's will. So if you only pray for enough today, guess what that means? You have to pray tomorrow! Oh no! What are we going to do then? Two days in a row you have to pray, LORD—**give me this day my daily bread.** Do you see why the LORD wants this? Because He wants us to spend time with Him.

You know; wives can get very crafty when they want to spend time with their husbands. Let's just be honest about that. (Crowd laughs). They are very intelligent. God is the ultimate intelligence of the universe. He's created this system this way because He desires us. That is an amazing thing. We need to start praying a lot differently than we are. When we ask only for enough for that day, that is an Abrahamic faith. That is faith.

Continuing on in Proverbs 30:8—**Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches-- feed me with the food allotted to me.** I put this up here to give an example of what the actual praying for only enough food for today looks like. Here you have a prayer asking—**give me neither riches nor poverty.** How many of you are praying that prayer? Typically we are praying, "LORD bless me. Let the heavens open, and let it fall down so that I can't count all the money I get. I'll bless other people." Or we have "Don't worry. I'll take care of things. You just get it to me." I cannot tell you how many times you hear that. Get it to them and they "Will take care of everything else."

This prayer is scary! This is the prayer of a righteous man— **Feed me with the food allotted to me.** There is no covetousness in that heart. There's no disbelief. There's nothing but pure faith and reliance upon God.

I'm going to tell you right now what is coming in the future. There's a reason the Holy Spirit has moved me to teach this now. If you don't have this, I'm telling you, you will not make it. You will not survive what is coming.

Going on to Matthew 6:12—**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** The first thing I want to point out here is the epic part of this prayer that stands above all else. That is there is forgiveness of sins. That's what you call hope. What separates us from God? Sin. What reconnects us? Mercy and Grace bring us back into relationship.

This is critical, and Yeshua is telling us to pray this so your sins may be forgiven. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose Spirit there is no deceit. I acknowledged my sin to You and my iniquity I have not hidden. I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

Psalms 32:1-2 & 5-6—<sup>1</sup> **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.** <sup>2</sup> **Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.** <sup>5</sup> **I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"** [This is David crying. He is confessing his sin the way he should] **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah** <sup>6</sup> **For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him** (emphasis added).

Yeshua is giving the ultimate blessing right within this LORD's Prayer, or what we call the prayer to our Father of forgiveness, and we have access to it. It is ours. But again, we must confess our sin; we must turn from our sin. Regardless of what it was, there is complete cleanliness. There's nothing but purity left.

The piece in that verse—**For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to you**—and then it says that—**You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him.** I point this out because Yeshua in Matthew 7:24 says— **Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.** However—**everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand** (Matthew 7:26).

Here is what happened to both of these houses—**and the rain descended, the floods came** (Matthew 7:27). If you are built on the sand, you will be destroyed. You have to be built on the Rock and apply the aspect of forgiveness, repentance, and turning back to Him. Only then are we built on the Rock.

So when we look at Matthew 6:12—**And forgive us our debts**—this is what is being conveyed. This is the hope and the promise. Then it goes on—**as we forgive our debtors.** There is a catch.

You want the most absolute, incredible gift ever given to man, which is given through the sacrifice of the Messiah Yeshua, it is the forgiveness of sins, then there is something required of you. You have to—**forgive our debtors.** You have to forgive those who sin against you.

This is another thing that slips through our fingers because we were wronged and we don't want to forgive that person. If we want to be forgiven now, this is not an option. We must forgive, period.

This is hard. When you go through the LORD's Prayer accurately and really see what's being said, oh my; this is talking about man. You have to crucify the flesh. You can't have a cell of flesh left within you. You can only have the Spirit of God left in you to actually accomplish this prayer; to actually mean it when you pray it. You can have nothing left; you have to forgive.

There is something interesting to note at the end of this prayer. At the completion of the prayer, there's only one thing out of the entire prayer that Yeshua circles back on and comments on. What He says is— **if you do not forgive the trespasses of your neighbor, neither will you be forgiven.** He gives a commentary; a double warning. It's the only commentary He gives on the entire prayer when He circles back to this part.

He knows something about bitterness. He knows something about what separates us from God that is so easy for us to do. The enemy comes in and tells us we are justified to hold a grudge. He tells us to look at what they did. Again, for some of us, this is not what we want to hear. We don't want to hear it, but I'm telling you, Yeshua spoke these words. The words He speaks to us, as we learn in the book of John, they are life. He speaks the Spirit, and they are life. The words that come out of His mouth are living waters.

Finishing this prayer in Matthew 6:13—**And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen** (emphasis added). So this prayer ends with—keep us from sin; keep us from the evil one. I think about the Apostle Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians 10 where he talks about the fact God is faithful. He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to, but he'll provide a way of escape so that we can bear it.

That is what is being conveyed by Yeshua in that statement. Yeshua is telling us this is what we need to pray. We don't want to flirt with sin. That's not the heart of the "LORD's Prayer." The heart we want has nothing to do with sin. We should have the attitude that "I don't want to talk to the enemy; I don't want to see the enemy. I want to be completely sheltered and insulated from that garbage." This should be our heart. It then ends with— **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.** This is total adoration and praise.

As a side note; we see in 1 Chronicles 29:10-11 David praying—<sup>10</sup>**Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.<sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom** (emphasis added).

Does that sound familiar? It should because we just read—**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever** (Matthew 6:13). Here is David with the same prayer.

This is an amazing thing! Was David successful in prayer? Absolutely! Amen!