

Pray Again

PRAY AGAIN



MERVYN NAIDOO

Worldwide Prayer Network 24/7

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Pray Again

**To Teach and Encourage the
Church to Pray**

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Other Books by the Author

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- Be Serious about Prayer
- Prayer: A Burden from the Lord
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- Prayer: A Quiet Place
- The Decision to Pray
- Holiness is Surrender
- Essentials to Heavenly Praying
- I Desire You all Speak in Tongues
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- After this manner Pray
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Introduction

One of the key reasons as to why many of our prayers are never answered is because we really do not believe prayer works **for us**. That is quiet a statement to make but it is true nevertheless. We believe prayer works but not for us. We have witnessed great miraculous healings on television we have heard of great things God is doing in other peoples' lives but for ourselves we tend to have a lack of faith. So there must be something wrong. The problem is with us and not God. What is it that we are not doing right? If we believed that prayer works for us, I mean all of us then believe me our prayer gatherings would be overflowing. In fact our prayer meetings should then have more people than any other meetings. Having said that we must conclude that there is a problem that exists and we need to resolve it immediately. If

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we were seeing the miracle working power of God in our own lives then we would be praying more. It is that simple.

Why must we Pray?

To understand why we ***all must*** pray we need to understand the purpose of prayer? Prayer is the union of the thoughts of God with the believer. *The purpose of prayer is to unite the thoughts of God with that of the believer.* It is not the union of man's thoughts with God's. Most times the thoughts of man are not in line or alike to the thoughts of God. So prayer is the means that God has design to bring our thoughts in line with His. This may sound strange to people as our understanding of prayer has always been about asking and God giving. That thought is partially correct, for God does give to man but only on His terms. *Our thoughts must come in line with His. Unless the desires of man are aligned with the thoughts of God there can be no union. The purpose of prayer is to align us with God and His plans for us.*

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Hence for the plans of God to be effective in our lives means that our thoughts and ways must come in line with His. Satan comes up against the plans of God because he has determined a long time ago that he will not allow man to serve God. The more we pray God's will the more of His plans come into existence in the physical realm. The enemy knows that God has His best for us. Satan also knows that these plans are revealed through the leading of the Holy Spirit *and prayer is the means that God uses to release his wishes and desires for us here on earth.* Satan hates this with all his might. His purpose here on earth is to destroy the plans of God for all mankind. This means that all our ways must be aligned to His. Prayer is the avenue or means that God has created for this to take place. God has established this long ago and is not something that came about through some chance or dilemma that He may have had. God always had in mind the

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concept of prayer when He set out to create man.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.'

Isaiah 55.8-9

1Corinthians 2.10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God.

We come to know the desires of God's heart when we *go* to God. Remember that we are unique in the eyes of the Lord.

Gods' purpose for us is therefore special, of which He holds the key.

For Heaven to release, we must first desire as God desires. In other words we must desire what heaven has for us, before God

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must release. This desire is the work of the Lord. It is placed there by God. It is God who tells us what he has already prepared for us.

The instruction from the Word of God is that all men must pray. **1Timothy 2.8** says the following **I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting holy hands, without wrath and doubting.** I think we need to rid ourselves of all the wrong thoughts out there. These thoughts have had their dominion in our lives for a long time. Tradition has a lot to answer for this. In fact tradition has placed many obstacles in the path of true prayers. There is a misconception out there that **not** all men must pray. Please understand that when I use the gender men I mean men and women. Therefore biblically speaking God has called all people to pray. *The wrong perception in the church is that only a selective few are called to pray.* This is

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wrong and must be rectified. God wants to reveal His purpose to you through the means of Prayer. Prayer is God's design for more revelation. The bible says in Romans 8.26 **Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which can not be uttered.**

When there is a supernatural act of God restraining the provision of God, the bible tells us that prayer is the answer. 2
Chronicles 7.13 -14 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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Paul knew that the only way for the eyes of the church to be opened was through prayer. **‘....and I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have the power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3.17-19**

Prayer establishes and makes God's ways firm in our lives. The more we come into the presence of the Lord the more sensitive we are of God and His ways. The more time with God the more we come to know the leading of His Spirit. You can not expect to be familiar with someone if you are not willing to spend time with that person. We tend to understand this from a human perspective yet when it comes to spiritual matters we expect more of God

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yet spend less time with Him. It does not work so.



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The Principle of Praying Again

One of the most neglected principles of prayer is the principle of *praying without ceasing*. Paul admonished the church at Thessalonica to Pray without ceasing.

1Thessalonians 5.17

Why is it that we do not pray again and again? Why is it that we do not pray without ceasing? One of the key that Satan uses against us is trouble. As long as there is **enough** trouble in our lives he knows he has got us. He knows as human beings we can only manage so much. The more burdens and trouble he brings the more sorrow there will be in our lives. ***Sorrow is what brings exhaustion.*** When we are tired there is very little that we can do and want to do. When Jesus was on earth, the disciples enjoyed that close communion with Him. They believed He was going to be with them forever. When news spread

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that He was the Messiah returning to the Father, they became sorrowful. They felt they were being abandoned; after all, they had left everything to follow Him. **Luke 22.45**

When He rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.

Jesus then reprimanded them to get up and pray so that they will not fall into temptation. *The lack of prayer causes temptation.*

Matthew 26.41 is a perfect demonstration of how to overcome sorrow and exhaustion. At Gethsemane just before His arrest, Jesus took three of the disciples closest to Him to go and pray. As we have just read they could not pray because of the sorrow in their hearts that led to exhaustion. Jesus was also sorrowful as we read in **Matthew 26.38***My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.* The difference is that Jesus went to pray. Jesus understood how to handle

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sorrow. **Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will. Matthew 26. 39.**

The bible tells us that when He returned to the disciples he found them sleeping, he admonished them for sleeping and not keeping watch with Him. He then went away *a second time and prayed the same thing*. He came back again, found them sleeping and went away once more and *prayed the third time, saying the same thing*.

Each time Jesus went away He prayed the same thing.

We must get into the habit of praying *once more*. The idea being that we pray until the burden has been released. Most times because of our disobedience of not *praying without ceasing* we have broken the command of *not quenching the Holy Spirit*. We must be careful that we do not

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dampen the flame of the Spirit's fire which is poured out to purify. And we do this so often when are so close to a break through. We must learn to stay in the presence of the Lord for that anointing burst through. We must pray once and then pray again.

Paul did the same concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 2 Corinthians 12.8

The number three is not limited to only three times but it may be many times until God gives us release. We must learn to pray until God gives us release. *What this signifies is that before we stop praying we must make sure that God has heard us.* This principle must be applicable in our personal and corporate prayers. The principal here is thorough praying. Such prayers will be painstaking, careful and meticulous. Such praying can not be

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careless. We must be clear on God's *Will* for our lives.

When the prophet Elijah was running away from Jezebel, it was not out of fear. It could not be fear for this was a mighty man of God. Just a while ago he had called down fire from heaven, killed all the false prophets of the land in plain sight for everyone to see. So how could he be afraid of a message sent to him by this woman Jezebel? Elijah like the disciples became tired. His tiredness came from his sorrow, for he was witnessing the deterioration of the land and he could not take it anymore. He began to run for his life because of exhaustion. The bible tells us that he even prayed that God would take his life. '**I have had enough, Lord... Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.**'**1Kings 19.4**

Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. The bible tells us that the angel of the Lord had to get him up twice and

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provide a meal for him. He was strengthened by that food and travelled forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God. Having being strengthened he was able to **pray again**. He went into a cave and spent the night and the word of the Lord then came to him. We are told having being strengthened, he heard from God and he had to go back the way he came. You see, many of the times we too have to go back the route we came. Many of us have become exhausted and we have started to run and we need to be sustained once more by God. We need the energy and provision from God to pray again. We need to again wait on God. We need to go into a *spiritual cave* and listen to God. We read that Elijah heard the voice of the Lord in a whisper, not in the crashing of the rocks, not in a mighty wind or fire. Many of us today are at this place of sorrow and exhaustion. What we do and the choices we make are important. When we find

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ourselves at this place we need not run but wait on God.

It was Elijah to whom God spoke too about the coming of rain. Remember there had been a severe drought in the land for more than three years. Having heard from God Elijah did not go and party but instead he went to pray. **So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.1Kings 18.42**

Although Elijah was promised rain, for he heard the sound of heavy rain he continued to pray for its manifestation. Seven times he sent his servant to go and look towards the sea. It was only on the seventh time the servant reported **a cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea.1Kings 18.44**. Elijah prayed without ceasing.

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We have a common problem in our prayer meetings today, having prayed once for something we feel obliged not to pray again. We assume that one prayer is enough per request and even feel embarrassed to pray for the same thing over and over again. This is exactly what Satan wants us to do. If someone stands up in a meeting and request prayer for healing those who are present must pray as the Lord leads them. Many times we do not pray as we are led but by tradition and force of habit. We often feel that once someone has prayed about a specific need no one else needs to pray and we can move on. This is wrong. Once is **not** too much. There needs to be prayer till the burden is released. We must be careful of not letting our prayers jump from one thing to the other without first allowing a release of the burden.

Before Elijah called down fire from heaven he built an altar with stones. He then dug a

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trench around the altar and then asked the people to pour water on the offering and on the wood. They did so but it was not enough. **Do it again, he said and they did. Do it a third time, he ordered and they did it a third time.**

The water ran down round the altar and even filled the trench. 1Kings 18.34-35.

There is a spiritual trench around the throne room of God and the prayers of God's people are what are needed to fill that trench. When we pray and then pray again and again that altar is wet with our prayers and the trench then becomes filled to overflow. This is the incense of our prayers that rise before God day and night.

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The Adversary

Many are not aware of the enemy's schemes and we often play into his hands. We are only *not unaware of his schemes* if we *stay in the Spirit*. This is what the Bible teaches us. Satan hates prayer. We who are the children of God are called to pray. And because of this it is our duty to go to God and find out the strategies and schemes Satan uses against us, to keep us from praying.

One of those schemes he uses is the lie that God is not concerned about us. He lies to us that God will not answer our requests. Jesus said the following '**and in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you.**'

John 16.23

The parable of the persistent widow is about us praying *again and again*. This

widow refused to let the adversary get away. She knew by persistence she would somehow get relief. The parable of the persistent widow teaches us about praying without ceasing and not losing heart. Jesus taught this parable to his disciples with the intent to encourage them to *pray without ceasing*. The purpose of this story is persistence and faith in the midst of adversity. Jesus asked a very important question at the end of this parable:

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth? Luke 18. 8

The parable starts as follows: **Then He spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying ‘there was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while: but after ward he said within**

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himself, ‘though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ Luke

18.1 -5 Based on this parable Jesus said the following, ‘And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though he bears long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.’

We see so clearly from this parable that the widow refused to let go until she got justice. There is another story in the bible where we see healing taking place in stages. **Mark 8.22 -25** Then He cam to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man and to Him, and begged Him to touch Him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said ‘I see men like trees, walking.’ Then He put His hands on his

eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

We need to pray again because of another important aspect in this story and that is the contrast that Jesus uses about the unrighteous judge and our Heavenly Father. The willingness of God to effect justice and mercy lies in contrast to the lack of enthusiasm of this earthly judge who only dispenses justice out of irritation with the widow's determination. We go to God because He is our Father. All of creation *can not* call Him Father but those whom He has called. Those who believe in Christ are one with the Father. **John 17.20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.**

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We need to understand that prophecy is divine insight as to what God has purposed. God always prophesies before a thing is birthed in the physical. When prophecy comes Satan now knows what he did not know before. Therefore he now goes *out of his way* to disrupt and prevent that prophecy from coming to pass. That is why when King Herod heard that the wise men had come from the East and was told of their purpose, he falsely requested that the child be brought to him. **Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him,'** King Herod's plan was to destroy the child before the plan of God was fulfilled. We see from this story that Joseph heard from God and obeyed. What God's people need to understand is that all hell breaks loose

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when there is prophecy. Many of us love prophecy and that is good but we do not know what to do when a prophecy is given. In fact after a prophecy is given it is then that the believer must pray more earnestly. Prophecy is reassurance from the Lord. It is reassurance of something God already had in mind. Before prophecy Satan knew very little. After the prophecy he knows more. He therefore attacks more and becomes more determined to destroy what God wants to do in our lives. It is therefore imperative that we must pray more, we must fast more and we need to draw closer than ever before to the Lord. Jesus slept in the boat because he had advanced knowledge. The disciples on the other hand did not. That is why when they got Him up he was upset with them. He expected them to know more.

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We Must Labour in our Prayers

Galatians 4.19 My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you.

We need to pray until that thing gives birth or that thing is formed whether it is something tangible or simply character.

There must be a travailing of the soul when it comes to true prayer. Intercession is like a woman in labour. That is how the bible describes it. **Isaiah 66.7 'Who has heard such thing?**

Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day?

Or shall a nation be born at once?

For as soon as Zion was in labour she gave birth to her children. Shall I bring to the time of birth and not cause delivery?' says the Lord 'Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?' says our God.

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Such prayers are often not meant to be in public, just as childbirth is not. There are severe pains preceding birth. They are intense and will cause much weeping. These prayers are prayers that often precede revival for a nation, for a church or for those who have strayed from the Lord. We must be careful not to fear such travailing. It is such times that the heart of the Father is being revealed through His Spirit and words are inadequate. You must be pliable in the hands of the Spirit.

Romans 8.25-26 But if we hope for what we do not see we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which can not be uttered.

It is important to note that we never *fully* know how to pray as we ought therefore we need to learn to wait on God. When we

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labour with God in our prayers as opposed to presumption we see the real effects of Godly prayer and also what God desires to come forth.

Conclusion

Finally all men must be watchful unto all prayers. **And what I say to you I say to all: Watch! Mark 13.37.**

Prayer brings forth revelation. What is revealed through prayer is alertness to what is coming. The end times will bring great revelation to God's people so that they may not be unaware of the enemy's schemes. *Being watchful keeps us from spiritual exhaustion.* Prayer, consistent prayer keeps us alert and from falling into temptation.

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26.41

Prayer is what sustained Jesus all through His life here on earth. Jesus life of prayer must be a model for us today. Even now He is at the right hand of the Father

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interceding for us. We must learn to overcome and conquer through our praying. We must prevail over the enemy's schemes and tactics. God has given us a mandate to pray and He has given us the principles by which prayer works. **Pray without ceasing.**



Prayer

Dear lord helps us to Pray without ceasing. Only you know the times we have given up on consistent praying. Lead us not into the temptation to not pray. And where we have failed, we humbly ask You to deliver us so that we may be found praying again. Amen

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Watch and Pray without Ceasing.

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