

ON YOUR KNEES

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INTRODUCTION

Several years ago I wrote a book on prayer and before publication took the manuscript for revision to a very senior teacher of the Word. His first words to me were '*why should we pray, after all God knows what we need even before we ask Him?*' **Matthew 6.8** He knew the answer but did I. I found it very interesting, that here was a man of prayer, wanting to know from me if I knew the true meaning of prayer. I understood then that our understanding of prayer is a continuous one. The more quality time we spend with the Lord, the more is revealed. ***Prayer is God speaking to us.*** This is the fundamental principle of prayer. He knows it all and perfectly so! He is Perfect! This is the make - up of prayer. Prayer is God relating to us, what is already Heavenly determined. This does not infer in any way that man speaking to God is not prayer but simply prioritizes Heaven to earth Praying! In other words praying for that which is already in the Mind of God.

Relating to Gods' purpose here on earth is the key. Are we able to relate to Him? No person may or can relate to God unless led by His Holy Spirit. Many of us have missed this very important principle of prayer. God is spirit! The Spirit enables us to relate to God. He is the One who brings conviction and helps lead us to God. His Spirit leads us into all manner of prayer. This does not mean that all manner of prayer is Spirit

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led. If there is no help from the Holy Spirit then all our prayers are in vain. Is it not why we feel so little guilt or even any conviction when we have not prayed?

Jesus mentioned the manner of prayer in **Matthew 6.8**. This was to be the backdrop of what was to come. It was a revelation of how we were to pray. Jesus was reminding the disciples that though God is omniscient and know all things, we who His here on earth must desire the same in His heart. This prayer was to unite us to the heart of Him who created us. Prayer even then sufficed a lot among ourselves and our needs and really very little praise to Him. This manner of prayer introduced by Jesus brings to the disciples revealed what was important to God. The truth is that closer study of this manner of prayer revealed many facets of the natural and the supernatural. ***God helps us understand who He is*** (Our Father), ***The manner we are to come to Him and our reverence for Him*** (Hallowed be thy Name), ***His Kingdome come amidst so much sin*** (Thy Kingdom come), ***His Will to be done*** (Thy Will be done), ***Where?*** (Here on earth...in our hearts), ***Provision*** (Give is our daily bread), ***Daily forgiveness for our present day sins against God and man*** (Forgive us our trespasses), ***Daily forgiveness for those who hurt us or sin against us*** (As we forgive those who trespass against us), ***Daily request to keep us away from being tempted in a fallen world*** (Lead us not into temptation), ***Request to be delivered from anything taken place*** (Deliver us from evil),

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That His Kingdom be established and His power prevail here on earth (For Yours is the Kingdom and Power), ***The Glory belongs to Him and so we praise Him*** (and the Glory), ***It is so, we are in agreement*** (Amen) In this we see my personal relationship with God is taken care of by Him. Then shall we all unite together – the temple of God and great shall be the manifestation of God here on earth. For we know not what to pray and if we continue the evidence of our selfish hearts would persist and while the Kingdom draws nigh, the world drifts further away. The Lord has given this like an owner departing only to return to see how the servant has managed His affairs here on earth. Verse...The manner we pray is the spiritual management of God's affairs here on earth by us.

The man in the synagogue, and the prayer of the pagans would only have grown louder. It would have left us ashamed like the sinner who heard the Pharisee pray..... I am glad like I am not like this man....How would the quieter man have gone on praying. This brings so much help and encouragement as to what moves God. It increase our faith that if this be the manner God would have me pray then I am even if slight in a better place than one babbling. My prayers may not always be selfless but even so I am soon led back on the right path for here lies the evidence of His guide to me.

The Lord's Prayer, the manner God wants and desires ***of*** and ***for*** us is what we bring to Him. How can we not know that what comes from Him comes with an answer? Are we not

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aware that we are really praying back to Him is really the answer to so many of life's problems? That which is of Him is that which He **Wills** we have. The more we pray the more we become willing for what God has. The more we pray in this manner, the less selfish we become, the wider are our spiritual eyes opened and His Kingdom is established here on earth as it is Heaven. Many over the years have come to understand and are not ignorant to this. So has the enemy and therefore many are blinded that this a prayer no longer for our times. May God forgive us for not asking for spiritual insight that this is the prayer apt to the time gap of Christ departing and His return. This manner of praying may have had no understanding then let alone a request to do so. The law and the prophets were just that. Moses and Elijah may have had some spiritual insight into this but nevertheless it was not for their times. It fits not into laws given to man inscribed upon some stone but one that calls for its desired inscription on the hearts of men. It answers to the Holy Spirit. No longer an eye for eye but to forgive and a burden to be forgiven in spite of pain suffered. It reveals to man His weakness and his trust in himself to be hopeless. Even has one humbles himself to this manner of acknowledging, praising, thanking and requesting from God he soon realizes that no law can assist here. This must be the work of something outside the natural realm, to forgive, be forgiven, request and have a Heavenly tabernacle built, one he cannot see or touch. His weakness grows each day as he commits

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but a strength builds up for he is communicates in the realm not understood by mere man. This is God and him and total appreciation and surrender.

Yet even then a question arose amongst them when there request to how to lay hold of God – the manner of praying was answered, questions may have arose. The Holy Spirit was not given to these disciples yet. This manner of approaching His Father, theirs as well, they would seem able too as long as He would remain with them. Yet as time went on, Jesus began speaking about His return to the Father. Greater concern if not worry may come on them all. Here was the law given by Moses centuries ago and we fail even so, how were we to pray in this manner with Him not by our side? They had to admit that it had to be something deep within that would have to convict or stir them to believe this could be done. They had enemies, they were indebted to many surely others to them, temptations they surely knew many. So little if any, of this manner of prayer had anything to do with their physical works. Surely they had begun praying in this manner, after all *they* are the ones who went to Him with this request. They were beginning to sense a difference but with the confidence of knowing that He was by their side. They grew accustomed where to find Him next if they went looking for Him and found Him not. They knew He would be in a quiet secret place praying, talking to His Father, many of the things of what was to come.

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In finding Him praying as usual they reasoned that a prayer life like His had much to do with the Father in Heaven moving. They may have also noticed that His was a life of prayer and much to do with who He claimed He was and they wanted this as well. There's was a different spiritual lifestyle to His, this they see. While they slept He was praying. After teaching so many then feeding them in their thousands He ***immediately*** makes His disciples get into the boat and leave ahead of Him, while He dismissed the crowd. The importance that they leave ahead of Him was but simply that He could be alone with His Father. Like an urgent meeting that had to be taken care of first, He went up on the mountainside by Himself to pray. This was most urgent business. He had things to discuss with His Father and His Father with Him. This urgency to be with His Father is seen all through His ministry. His means to arrive on the other side of the lake did not matter, it was this, His meeting with His Father that did. It is after this secret quiet time with the Father, He returns to by His own means to the disciples – walking on water defying the laws of physics and science. The wind died down and those in the boat worshipped Him for who He was. Having arrived together with them on the other side, word spread – He is here. The crowds gathered bringing all their sick, many begging Him that the sick just touch the hem of His garment and all were healed. Do you see how important prayer is? Matthew 14.22-34.

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They saw much of this life early in His ministry and when they did ask Him to teach them to pray this is the manner of prayer He referred too. Important to note is that Jesus never directly or indirectly show to them another manner to pray. Yet through history we have discarded the Lord's Prayer and in so doing have really over the years prayed very little though we think we have prayed much. I know this sounds harsh, but we must admit to it and use the Word of God to help us as we are convicted by His Holy Spirit.

The prayers of the hypocrites of that day, was one of loud volume. They had to be heard let alone seen. To be seen by men in the synagogues and street corners. A man praying obviously even this age is seen holy, religious and right standing. The reward of the hypocrites was nothing to do with heart and plan of God. Theirs was an earthly reward and I am sure they received it without delay. To be tapped on the back as a man of prayer may have been very welcoming and I am sure it gives the impression of one close to God. But be very careful, for as they tried of times old to cover up the sins in their hearts, so will yours and mine. Their purpose was to release themselves from the very thing God wanted to expose. Sounds all so well and covered until the Lord visits one day him we call the man of God. He who is rejoicing should weep. Where can I go to said that great man of God, where can I, where can hide rhetorically asked David? You Oh God know all things. And so the men of Jesus' day prayed in

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the public places, the less they revealed their hearts to God. Matthew 6.5 For in the prayer of the one who wants to be seen is the length of his time praying. I have come across so many men who heap praise about other men for they are told they are praying men. When another man speaks about another or heaps some praise upon the one for his prayer life it has always to do with time. The more time we spend in the presence of the Lord is incomparable yet why does the world have to come to about it. I write this portion for two reasons: 1. That if it is so with you, then stop. Any accolade from man may cancel much of what you pray for. 2. Focus on what God desires and what He places in your heart. This is what will eventually remove the frustration of prayers not being answered. To be focused on God and man together is very difficult. You are bound to disappoint one or the other. Most times it is God we forsake, for man does not demand much. The disciple in the book of John asked Jesus how to pray. In the book Matthew Jesus refers first to the hypocrites and pagans and uses their way of praying as a model of how not to pray. He begins here to teach the most powerful, fully spiritually equipped manner of way for us to the heart of the Father.

Matthew 6.6 ' But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.'

Immediately Jesus shows us that prayer is personal. It is not personal meaning you are to go into your room and only

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plead your heart out to God. He allows it, thank God that He does and willing to hear us. But the principle is that He has you now in a room in a quiet place where He can speak to you. Prayer is Gods way of speaking to man. I think the closet must be one the most difficult places to get us enter. I say this with the greatest amount of respect for the Lord and His people. For if many were found in the closet, then a closer walk we all would have with Him. We have allowed the programs of the Church and the even the study of the Word to take the place of prayer. The closet and being one and one with God removes all that chitter chatter that would have been otherwise. It helps you concentrating on Him, for He has much to say to you. God believe me has so much to say to us that has no end. When God stops speaking, it is because we have placed a full stop somewhere. With God alone there is none to impress. Here you feel His presence, you know He is here but can only see it with the your spiritual eyes being open. He is unseen, we believe and hope by faith. We either do or don't and each time we close the door it helps build our faith in Him.

There is a great reward for praying. That reward is desiring what God desires.

Religion is what the Lord Jesus saw among the people of that day. The people at the synogogue praying wanting to be noticed disappointed Him. He warned the disciples not to be like them. Jesus took prayer seriously. His response to how the temple was being used angered Him. He rebuked them

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for not seeing the temple as His Father meant it to be. A House of Prayer it was and they were corrupting it by their ways. Prayer was something precious and intimate with Him and His Father. Prayer is how He heard His Father and His Father heard Him. Jesus refers to the pretense of the people and them wasting their time when there was a manner and way to reach the Father. Jesus was concerned that they go not the same route. It was not that they were only praying wrong way but in doing so giving the impression that this is the way to pray. People of that day were convinced that this was the manner to pray. The sinner who heard the Pharisee pray not had a manner of praying but also challenged who God was. It was by humility and surrender that the other bowed his head not even wanting to be seen prayed a prayer that was accepted by God.

‘Then your Father who is unseen will see what is done in secret will reward you’ Matthew 6.6.

The Lord Jesus We do not have it in us to pray prayers in line with Fathers’ Will without the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus is that direct line with the Father. The Father first sees the Son then us. In seeing His Son, He Wills it. For nothing will the Son approve that is not in the Will of the Father. How can He see His Son and not approve. For all things have been given to His Son.

Jesus begins by helping us know who God is.....Our Father

What is Prayer?

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Prayer is Gods' design for man. Prayer best understood is seeking God the Father through His Son Jesus through the help and leading of the Holy Spirit. No amount of knowledge and understanding of Prayer can complete the life of Prayer. Books and much writings of this important aspect of the Christ Life are there to assist us. It is a powerful duty essential in the life of every follower of the Lord.

Hidden as it may be, yet bursting to be revealed. The more consistent we are in approaching the throne of God, the deeper we are moved to understanding the Lord. The Prophet experienced total reliance when in depth. The water from ankle to total submergence gives a clear understanding of how we grow in the Lord. At first we move until we can only move and breathe through Him.....Ezekiel.....

Prayer is depth with God. Prayer is depth in God. Prayer reveals the heart of God. The apostle Paul understood this well. In his letter to the church in Ephesus he wrote the following '.....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. Paul knew that the key to this understanding was in prayer. The revelation of God's heart must be measured by the consistency of the believer before God. This means that he who knows God much is apt to be the one who spends much time in His presence. The deeper things of God come by way of consistently being with Him. This is a very difficult task for the believer as life here on earth does not place this with life's important duties, only

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God does. 'Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval.' John 6.27 The earthly time table is work, work and more work. This is the road to success and a better life. The rest that the world offers is to those who have diligently followed this earthly time table. And by the time we are done with everyday life, there is little or no time of quality WITH God. Our struggle through life has found us wanting. Even though we are found doing the things we do not want to do and not doing what we ought to do, there lies deep down in every believer the desire placed there by God to communicate with Him.

Here are two scriptures to confirm what I am saying. 'I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do' Romans 7.15 Yet in Luke 11.1 we find a desire in the disciples to do what the Lord was constantly doing.

'It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after he had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."' The Bible teaches us that the wicked have no desire to pray. 'In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.' Psalm 10.4

God desires first place at all times. Prayer and our communication with Almighty God is our desire that He be first. As one of His we ought to think and behave as such. We must love ourselves for He loves us and loved us first. Thinking and behaving so helps us in our approach before His throne in Prayer. Knowing who we are helps us take hold of God in Prayer. This 'taking hold' of God reveals the extent of

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one's desire for God. Prayer opens up the door for God to reveal much of what He has for us. That which the Apostle Paul speaks of in the book of Ephesians is revelation knowledge and understanding that grows deeper as we spend more and more time with God. We grow with the understanding and wisdom of our Heavenly Father. Prayer reveals Him, the Almighty God. As God reveals through prayer, we grow to understand that there is nothing better than what God has for us. It becomes known that it is not something new to God but new to us for we are only now coming to know. The enemy's plan since the Garden of Eden was to hide what God has for man. Today the enemy uses the world to hide what God has for us. Our distance from God deprives us from knowing the plans He always had for us.

Prayer is simply Gods' way of telling the Church what He wishes here on earth. The duty of the believer is then to pray out this accomplishment here on earth. Be that for man in man or for man and his purpose here on earth. Prayer enables us and shows forth to us what must be done to accomplish that perfect Will that God has for us. Prayer then brings forth the purpose of man because it unites the believers' thoughts with God's.

The scriptures may not be understood by study alone, the truth is it was never meant too. It is not some ordinary textbook, some part of history as many religions see it. The spirit of religion works through the natural mind or 'unborn' spirit. Some legacy left behind, some story for our children to

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take out of history we think. Even the world is apt to quote a scripture from time to time. There is natural good in it if it is not rebuking us that is. Yet that is far as it will go, for the scriptures were given divinely. God has given us His Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals much to us in prayer, much more in everyday life when we allow Him first to reveal Himself in those quiet times. The more time we spend with God the sooner our spiritual eyes are opened that which is otherwise impossible in the natural. Elisha the prophet prayed that God would open his servant's eyes to see. Firstly He Prayed, then God answered. Then saw his servant hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. The Army of God which otherwise could not be seen in the natural 2 Kings 6.17. If there are false prophets as the bible reminds us then there must true ones. The false loves to party, loves the crowd and forever predicting fine weather. The true prophet hurries to a quiet place, bends down to the ground and puts his face between his need and calls on God. 1 Kings 18.41. A leader today cannot hear God if he is surrounded by loud men. There is one language in the Spirit, though there be many in the world. Genesis.11.1. It is the language given for prayer, a language given to the believer only. It is given to all believers, received by faith sounding so foolish even to the believer at first. Acts 2.4. They were all filled with Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit intercedes for us. Romans 8.27. The task of the early disciples was to serve God. They understood very early that God had reserved them for a special task of ministry Prayer and sharing the Word. They understood that this was going to be a more tedious, laborious, task any man may take. Act6.4. It begged of them

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to look up in the spirit, with bended knees or their heads between them as one who waits on God. Men of prayer must see to it that are surrounded by other men of prayer. There must be a single language if not the sheep are scattered.

A Change of Heart

The problem is that man is so absorbed in the things of the world that Heaven has to wait. God will not fill the heart of man with that which is heavenly if he (man) has not first had a change of heart. Prayer helps towards this change of heart. For it is through prayer that God removes our selfish wants and places His desires into our hearts. There must be a change of heart in the believer for Gods' will to be done here on earth. What is the will of God?

Prayer is Gods' design. Prayer is not a man-made invention or formula. It was designed by God for God. Prayer best

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understood is seeking God the Father through His Son Jesus through the help and leading of the Holy Spirit. God answers prayers. For years we have been taught that we may ask God for anything and He is just willing and waiting to give us whatever we ask. How untrue! If that was the case then we would have already received what we have asked for and the balance if any is just a matter of time.

Prayer is asking for that which is already in the mind of God. In other words you ask for what is in God's mind. But how do we know what is in the mind of Him who is our creator? To know what is in the heart and mind of God, we must first believe that God loves us. This is such an important aspect of the Christ walk. For we have not seen God but must use the faith He has given us to believe that He truly loves us. Our natural self does not want to know what is in God's mind. Because the natural mind which is the flesh is opposed to God. The Bible tells us 'In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.' Psalm 10.4 The nearer to God we come, the more we know what is in His heart. When we draw near to Him the first and most important thing God does is change our hearts. We cannot change heart, only God can do that.

The servant of the Lord understood this important aspect of prayer. In the 4th chapter of his letter to the people of God, the apostle James describes our wanting to draw near to God and the result. When we do so, God also does so. When we come near to Him, He comes near to us. 'Come near to God and He will come near to you.....' James 4.7

What we can do therefore, is to make that decision to have our hearts changed. That decision is something we can make. God has given us that ability to do so. He has given us

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that ability to choose to do so. If our intimacy with God could be measured then it will be apt to say it is a measure of change in our hearts towards God that matters. It would be well to say also, that the more we spend time with Him the more we are changed. The more time we spend with Him – the more time we are allowed for Him. God is the maker and giver of time. He gives it as He chooses. Many years ago I felt emptiness within as a Christian. I just could not put my finger on it. I realize now what it was. My salvation experience came with a desire to draw closer to God. My daily chores and lifestyle however was moving me in another direction. When I decided to respond to that inner voice, I found I was suddenly walking around with a changed heart. The reason is that God worked first with my heart.

PRAYER – A NEW REQUEST

When God works with the heart, which he does first there comes many changes. One of them is our requests. Many things I initially prayed for were no longer on my list of requests. My requests were different and many had to be abandoned and never included in my prayers again. Where they requests that were ungodly? No. They were just not meant for me at the time. God gave me a changed heart which meant that the timing of my requests was also dealt with. The timing of my request was put in order. I also found myself praying for people, situations and things that mattered to God. Prior to this I personally would never have concerned myself about them. I was consistently praying for things that mattered to the Lord. I knew this to be true as there was a witness in my spirit as I prayed. I could sense

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they were a burden to the Lord. They now became my burden too that needed to be given back to Him. This I did through prayer. They were new to me but always with Him. I found the way God saw a situation, a circumstance or a person, was different from how the world saw it. The natural me saw things as the world did. God wanted me to see everything the way He does and that meant that the road ahead was going to be a lonely one. When the world was criticizing, God was telling me to pray for that person and do so with love. When the world could see no hope in a government or a leader, God was telling me.. ' he is going nowhere, I placed him there for my purpose....now pray' And when I did, it made more sense than the reports I had grown so used too. I found, when I saw things the way God saw them, love was the main ingredient in it all. God's love was in it. His love is so great. He wants to heal rather punish and this was totally contrary to the world and some of the church. God wanted to see repentance rather than death. God wanted to see healing rather than leaving. And so God's desire was that I have a change of heart. That I may be able to see as He sees it. And when I was seeing it as He does, He was using me to bring about change. You see when I was seeing things the way God was, then I was able to pray what was in His mind. The problem we have today in the church is just that. We are not willing to see a thing the way God wants us too. When I prayed for a particular person, it was already in the mind of God for that person to be given another opportunity to repent and have a change of heart. God waits for us. As I am writing, I am reminded of the story of Jonah the prophet. Jonah prayed to God. He saw the wickedness of the land and reminded God of the sins of the people. The

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interesting thing about this, is that the pain and anguish that Jonah felt was something placed in him by God. But along the way, the self of Jonah came forth. He passed judgment on the people of the land of Nineveh. Therefore when God came to him and asked him to have the people repent, he refused. 'The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me. But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish....."' Jonah 1.1-3 Jonah prayed for this city and knew well how God would respond to these people. He never liked the way God deals with a nation or a people. For Jonah that is being too lenient and undeserving. Is that not the heart of natural man guided by his own instincts?

'But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? I know that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.'" Jonah 4.1-2 I came to understand how patient God is even with the sinner. And this is because of His Son Jesus. I enjoyed praying and talking with Him. You see God began changing my heart. As He began to change my heart, I began to see things differently. My spiritual eyes were being opened. I now had a heart that God wanted me to have. It was a heart given by Him and therefore had all to do with Him. My flesh fought back and still does but my heart no longer belonged to me – it was His.

If my heart was new then God would be able to speak to me. If my heart was new then I would be able to hear what He was saying. God changes our hearts, making it new as we

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pray. Prayer is God's design in that through engagement – He uses it to change our hearts. A changed heart helps us see Heaven. Knowing God's heart means we know Heaven. In his letter to the church in Ephesus the writer wrote the following '.....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. The writer here knew that the key to this understanding was in prayer.

The prayer that the Lord taught His disciples had much to do with Heaven. 'May your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' Matthew 6.10

Our willingness to be sincere will make us more sincere towards Him. This He does through the work of His Holy Spirit. Sincerity towards God has a lot to do with change. The heart of each man must first be willing to change. Many times we assume that as followers of Christ, we automatically have our minds and hearts changed in an instant. Only our salvation is instant because of the finished work on Calvary. But our hearts and minds – we must work out our salvation with trembling and fear.

A change of heart opens our spiritual eyes. When God changes our hearts He helps us see. Our eyes are closed and only God can open them. The Lord had to change the heart of a powerful man who had his heart set on destroying the church. So determined was he that the very first time we are introduced to him, is when he is busy supervising the death of one of God's own. 'They dragged him (Stephen) out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid

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their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.” Acts 7.58

And just two verses later in chapter 8 vs. 1, we read the following ‘And Saul was there, giving approval to his death’ Do you know who this young man was? Well we meet him again in Chapter 9, and he is still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. ‘Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Lord (The way), whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.’ Acts 9.1-2 This very man was to become the one whom God would reveal the secret of salvation to the Gentiles. He was to become the most powerful of the disciples. He was to have a change of heart and never again walk this earth by compromise. ‘As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from Heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him,” Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he trembling and astonished, said “Lord, what do you want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”’ Acts 9.3-6

Saul later to be called Paul was to be used mightily by God. Though Paul was on a mission to destroy the people of God, there must have been something within him that questioned all his work. There must have been a pricking of his conscious. I have always found it interesting how a man of Paul’s caliber had his heart changed. Is it not interesting how

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he immediately in his blindness addresses the voice as – ‘Lord’? Paul had a change, a transformation right there. Years and years of persecuting the church had come to an end in an instant for Paul. Every thought he had about Jesus before had changed instantly. This Jesus whom he was persecuting, calling a liar and denouncing whatever he said is suddenly known to him as the Lord he is persecuting. He knew immediately that He who appeared before him was higher than him. His heart had such a transformation that all Jesus had to say to him was ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.’ This is in response to his question of, ‘Who are you Lord?’

When the heart of each man is transformed, he is able to discern the heart of a Holy God. This change must first be initiated by man for God to work. In other words it must be first the decision taken by man to want God. Change begins when man goes to God. Man must show that he wants this change. Deep within us all, we can never be satisfied less God. The earthly man, full of himself is just that – full of himself. He can go no further than himself. He may push and shove his way through life, only for the comfort within his four walls. Anything outside the dimension of time and he is lost. And so when he’s time here on earth shall come to an end, he returns to the dust from whence he came.

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DESIRING WHAT YOUR FATHER ALREADY KNOWS

God loves us. The Bible teaches us that God knew that we would all perish. But His love for us changed that. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

Good things are meant for good people. All good people are meant for good things. The problem is that you are not good but Godly. You are little gods. Therefore good is not the best for you. That which is good can never come close to what God has for you.

The Bible teaches us that God desires for that which is in Heaven to be on earth. He deliberately calls us to pray this to Him. In the book of Matthew, Jesus warned His disciples to pray what the Father wants them to pray. 'Do not be like them (hypocrites), for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.' Matthew 6.8.

The disciples came to Jesus asking Him to teach them to pray. 'He said to them, "When you pray", say: "Father, Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. May your Will be done on earth as it is heaven."'

Prayer must first change the heart of man. If the heart of man is not changed, then very little if any can be done for God.

We ask and receive because it is in the will of God in the first place. God is never obligated to man's asking; if anything God is obligated to His perfect will taking place. His will is revealed to us by His Spirit in prayer.

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DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD

Often I am asked 'why should we pray?' after all God knows all things. God is omniscient; He is all knowing and therefore knows all my needs. To speak thus reveals how little we know of Him our Creator. It reveals our ignorance of the true nature and true character of God. God knows all things. He knows your needs and your desires. But do you know His hearts' desires? To put God first, shall reveal to us the heart of Him. The desires that you now have are never as important as when the Lord impresses upon your heart His. Prayer surrenders your desires and plans for His. God blesses our desires that we bring to Him, only if He first put them there.

Psalm 37:4-5 'Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.' The word heart here has to do with your inner person. That is your inner thoughts and deepest feelings. It is also about your inner yearnings. When we go to God in prayer, we allow for our hearts to change from hard and rigid to being soft and pliable. Our going to Him allows for that which is ours to be taken away and replaced by that which is of Him. To delight oneself in the Lord means we become soft in Gods' hands. We become workable in His hands. The Hebrew meaning of that word is just that – to become soft and pliable. In our softness or in us allowing God to make us soft we become flexible for God to work with us. We become soft for God to work through us. It is here that God is able to take away the desires that are for our own selfish reason and replace them

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with His. When He removes and replaces the old selfish desires in us, we become more loving and open. We are no longer restricting God to do what He really wants to do through us. God wants to do things through prayer. He is now able to place His desires for you in you. He is able to place His desires for others in you. Delighting in the Lord means that you and the Lord desire for the same thing. In delighting in Him I have now come to love what He loves and hate what He hates. Any wonder why we are never the same after going to God. Intimacy with God changes things. These scriptures explain clearly how after Him placing His desires in us, He then brings those very desires all to pass. As we become “soft and pliable” in His hands, the things He desires will become the things we desire.

‘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. It is a wonderful thing to know the thoughts of God. They are even more when I come to know His wonderful thoughts about me. His word tells me that He loves me. I belong to Him. Prayer gets us to know the mind of God about us. It is a unique characteristic about prayer. This is something designed into prayer. We are unique in the eyes of the Lord and prayer reveals the purpose and plans that He has for us. For heaven to release, the heart of man must first desire what He desires. This desire is the work of the Lord and is placed there by Him. When this yearning has been placed there by God it is then the duty of man to bring it back to Him. It is still the duty of the believer to show that he is in agreement with God. This is Prayer.

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To Be Mindful Of Others In Prayer

Are you mindful of others in your prayers? Are others mindful of you in their prayers? To be prayerful concerning others is reaped with great reward. How can anyone be used as a vessel for souls if he does not love souls? The love for souls, will place a burden on the believer. Burdens are meant to be brought before God. This is the prayer life! This is Intercession! The burden for others will greatly determine the prayer life of the individual and the Church. The great Apostle Paul had mighty events happening during his Ministry, among them being his amazing conversion on the road to Damascus, his remarkable revelation of Christ's life, death and resurrection yet he understood that he must PRAY. Prayers by others for Paul were equally important to him and he relied much on them. Paul was never ashamed to solicit prayers for himself nor was he reluctant to PRAY for others. Knowing there is purpose for all lives is never where it ends. It is just the beginning. Knowing a purpose - filled life, is a life hidden in prayer. And so it is that others like ourselves have purpose filled lives. To bring glory to God is to PRAY those desires that God has for others into existence. This is Body Ministry! **" ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me" Romans 15:30**

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Much is known in the body about others, may that which we know just not remain as information to us.

To have a heart after God is to have a heart after His people. Having a heart after His people will cost you time and energy. Intercession is what this is all about. You will soon realize that a Prayerful life is a life spent on behalf of others. We are not always led to pray for people and may that never be an excuse to not pray. If we pray for loved ones in general, God will see our hearts and make known to us the burden that He carries for that person. The burdens of God are not just thrown from heaven for any to catch, but are carefully placed in the believer who is found praying and whose heart is willing to carry such a burden.

There must be no excuse to do nothing about what has already come to your attention. You are called to PRAY. We all are called to Pray. God help us in the task ahead.

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The first sign of a burden must be immediately taken back to God and not man. Any burden taken to man first can only lead to disaster for the one concerned and at times for the one burdened.

THE CLOSET

Three essentials make up the life of prayer. To have these essentials would do the believer well, for without them the life of prayer is non-existent followed by excuses not to pray.

- 1- A time of quietness
- 2- A place of quietness
- 3- A heart of quietness.

Let's hear what Jesus had to say about Prayer and a place of quietness regarding prayer – which is the prayer closet.

Matt.6.5-6 'And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth; they have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.' The closet is the last place most people find themselves. My question to you today - Do you have a prayer closet? It should be the most important spot under

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your tent. It is here where you will meet with God one on one.

Our Church and corporate prayer meetings are only as strong as the quality of time we spend in our prayer closets. If our meetings are empty then our closets are empty. The strength of our prayer meetings will give you an idea of our closets. X2. The closet is anything but a place to fear yet its' here the battle rages on. It is not a place you invite friends. For the closet is a secret place, where you its' you and God. Its' a place where the door must be closed behind you, that you may hear what He has to say. For its' here that the battles becomes fierce. It is here you will be asked to receive and its' here you will be asked to let go. And so it will be personal and at times very emotional in here. It is here you will refuse to let go. It is also a place where the passions and wants of self, will have to make room for Gods' desires and plans. It is not a place for babies or for those who want to retreat. It is your place, where you receive your strength and the energy, to move on. It is a place where you will become thirsty and also filled to overflow. It is a battlefield, your battlefield. It is your place of confrontation, its' also your place of breakthroughs. And they shall come because of the issues that must be confronted. Here you are not able to play out any part for there is no room for actors. It's a place of much stripping, much gripping. You would do well to hold on. When you have gone in, its' like being in the middle of the oceans, and to make it to shore, you will have to overcome the ocean greats. It is personal in here my friend.

Any wonder why Gods' word speaks about a 'door and it being shut.' If you have no closet you will have no place to rest. You must overcome in the closet to come to this place

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of rest. The closet is never a place hard to discover once the heart is already made up. It starts with the heart. Its' time each one of us in the body of Christ discovered our closets. We discover God and His ways when our closets are found. Again I ask you to find your closet for it is here you will find the secrets of this life hidden in prayer.

Why is personal Prayer so important?

The Life of prayer must first be personal. Our praying corporately can only be successful when we have first graced our own closets. If we prayed first in our closets we would be able to pray more effectively corporately. What do I mean? When we gather together there are many a personal issue about us and others. If we brought our personal issues first to God one on one, we would pray with more intimacy, more passion and more faith. Personal issues if there are still no answers after many days must then be brought to God on corporate level, which will give more strength to that which we wait for.

There are many things to be prayed for and the church coming together corporately helps much to pray for this, such as government, kingdoms and the affairs of the world. Corporate praying should be more corporate, in other words more community. The less individualism that shall exists in our corporate praying, the more the answers shall be forthcoming. If we did this we would be more in line with God's call for us to pray for government, city and leaders. Let's read what Paul writing through the leading of the Spirit to Timothy has to say about this. 1 Timothy 2 .1-3

'I exhort you therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all

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men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For such praying is good and right and pleasing and acceptable to God our saviour.'

More praying never did hinder the kingdom of God and it surely won't now. The key is better praying. Personal praying helps much and sets the tone when the church comes together. Those who have prayed well in their closets will bring with them that same anointing when they meet for prayer with the rest of the body. If you have been touched in the closet, you will be able touch those in the meeting. Our corporate praying will make a greater difference for government and those in authority, if only we prayed passionately in the closet. The way we pray corporately reveals our personal prayer lives. For the life that prays according to the will of God, in the closet, will be found praying unselfishly when the body meets together. The heart that pleases God in the closet will surely please the Lord when the church meets to pray. And the heart that pleases God in the closet will show forth the heart of God in the prayer room of the church.

Again a personal prayer life is what first reveals the treasured life hidden in prayer.

That place behind the closed door – the closet a physical space to begin with God is great help for those who may have one to begin with. The closet is often away from the hustle and the bustle of everyday life. However is it not the closet in

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the spirit with God. The closet is that place where you have become quiet with God. It is a place where God is able to speak to you and you to Him. An apron over your head in a work loaded kitchen may become your closet. This is the place where you have really settled with God. Let's hear what Jesus had to say about Prayer and a place of quietness regarding prayer – which is the prayer closet. Matt.6.5-6 'And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth; they have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.' Do you have a prayer closet? It should be the most important spot under your tent. It is here where you will meet with God one on one.

Our Church and corporate prayer meetings are only as strong as the quality of time we spend in our prayer closets. If our meetings are empty then our closets are empty. The strength of our prayer meetings will give you an idea of our closets. The closet is anything but a place to fear yet its' here the battle rages on. It is not a place you invite friends. The closet is a secret place, where its' you and God. Its' a place where the 'door' must be closed behind you, that you may hear what God has to say. I talk here of that spiritual door. It's here that the battle becomes fierce. It is here you will be asked to receive and its' here you will be asked to let go. And so it will be personal and at times very emotional in here. It is here you will refuse to let go. It is also a place where the passions and wants of self, will have to make room for Gods' desires and plans. It is not a place for babies or for those who

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want to retreat. It is your place, where you receive your strength and the energy, to move on. It is a place where you will become thirsty and also filled to overflow. It is a battlefield, your battlefield. It is your place of confrontation, its' also your place of breakthroughs. And they shall come because of the issues that must be confronted. Here you are not able to play out any part for there is no room for actors. It's a place of much stripping, much gripping. You would do well to hold on. When you have gone in, its' like being in the middle of the oceans, and to make it to shore, you will have to overcome the ocean greats. It will be personal in here my friend.

Any wonder why Gods' word speaks about a 'door and it being shut.' If you have no closet you will have no place to rest. You must overcome in the closet to come to this place of rest. What happens in the closet helps you come to that place of rest that God has waiting for you. Please note that the closet does not have to be a special room, but any place where you are private with God. You must find your closet and most times the closet may be any part of your dwelling. The key is the tranquility of that place and the timing. What do I mean? Some may not have a special room in your home to pray for obvious reasons yet your kitchen can become the closet at a time when nobody is ever present. Reword. The closet can be any room as long as it is a place where you are able to meet with God. The duty of the believer is to look for that closet. For you to eventually find your closet two considerations have to be taken. Time and people for most of us do not live alone but are surrounded by family and friends. We discover God and His ways when our closets are found.

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Again the sentry prayer of asking God to help you find your closet will help.

Dear Lord I ask you today to help me find my closet that I may spend time with you in private. I acknowledge today that the closet is an important part of my walk with you and even as you help me find it I will not neglect to come to the closet everyday. Amen

A HEART OF QUIETNESS

- A heart that is still before God hears well what God says. But how does the believer get his heart to be quiet before God. A QUIET heart is essential in the life of the one praying. With the great amount of activity in each one of our lives this may not be easy to come by. It is therefore important that the believer is willing to make a firm decision to spend time with God.
- A heart that is quiet before God is most difficult to find and may be found only at the feet of Jesus. It is therefore not the first of the essentials found in prayer. To get there the mind must be made up to pray. Believing the word about the heart of a Heavenly Father, a Son who was willing to die and the help given to us in the Holy Spirit helps much to have such a heart before God. The prerequisite is therefore faith. We must believe that God is willing to speak to us and that He is willing to hear us. To be still before God the heart must sincere.
- Hebrew 10.19-22 ' Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, and since we have a great high priest over the

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house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.....'

- Faith helps make that firm decision to spend time with God. God knows about the plans He has for us and it is this quiet heart to which the plans will be revealed. Jeremiah 29.12-13 says the following: 'Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'

- One can not find God when the heart is not quiet. According to Gods' word He will listen to you when you pray, and this finding takes place when the heart has sought Him with all that it has. In other words the heart must be willing to surrender. A decision must be made to spend time with God. It is a willingness to hear from God.

- A quiet heart is one free from anger, it is one that is willing to wait and let God have His way. A quiet heart is characterized by the absence of ones' own thoughts and desires. Or at least it is willing to let God show His heart first. When the heart is willing to be quiet before God, it will be surprising how much you initially desired to say and do, that eventually becomes useless and undesirable. A quiet heart is willing to change. Having a calm heart before God in prayer is one of the most important aspects of the prayer life of any Christian. The more our hearts are soft before God, the more God is able to speak to us. The more we hear and listen the more we are able to do. The quiet heart prepares us for action. I believe that it is this heart of sincerity to hear from God that would get us to do more in days than we could have in years.

You see the most important decision in having that continuity with God fulfilled is the firm decision made to spend time

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with God. The decision to set a time and then make a place to spend with God helps to have that quiet time with God. The quiet time and quiet place sets the precedent for a still heart before God. It is this very heart that God can now speak to. To have come thus far in ones' prayer life is to have the ability to now hear from God and also gives one the opportunity to speak to God.

'Come away' – the coming away for us is not a gentle act, but one of persuasion. The hustle and bustle of everyday life does not make room for God in our lives. To come away would mean more to 'run away'. It is then that we are able to hear the heart, the cry and the voice of God. Jesus exemplified this mystery for when the disciples searched for Him He was found praying..... Luke 5.16 'but Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed'.

When the disciples looked for Jesus they found him in a quiet place praying. It is on one of those occasions that they asked Jesus 'Teach us how to pray'. And so it is that we now have the Lords' prayer. Of all positions God enjoys the quiet heart for it is through this position He is most able to have His way. It is the quiet heart that God takes as His own to be used by Him. It is this very heart that is most pliable in Gods hand for it this one that puts Him first and so fulfil the most important commandment of the Bible, 'To love the Lord your God with all your heart.'

When the heart of man has been impregnated with the will of God it is then helped by the Holy Spirit to bring Gods' kingdom wherever he may go. May your heart today be one that is adjustable, flexible and adaptable for God to use. The duty of Prayer brings a man to this place. Prayer brings us to be more intimate with God, more intimate with the affairs of

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Heaven. The more we come to know about the secrets of Heaven the more we are able to implement those rules through the Holy Spirit here on earth. And so it is that we fulfil an important part of Prayer – ‘your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven’

Dear Lord even though I am surrounded by so much I pray today that you will help my heart be still so that I may hear what you want to say to me today. Create in me a clean and pure heart I pray. Amen

OUR FATHER

2.2 Protocol.

Is it not strange how we follow protocol when it comes to so many of our earthly activities. In fact the diligence we have in following these earthly matters far too often exceeds the diligence we have concerning the things of God. Prayer is one of those aspects that we so often lack the diligence and the

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protocol. When I speak about diligence then I want you to be mindful of the most important commandment given to man and that is God be given first place and priority in your life. Priority is to give God main concern, it is give God precedence over everything else and letting Him have His way. This we will share later on.

When it comes to protocol imagine you were to receive a call from the presidents' office to meet with the president of your country tomorrow. Apart from it being a honour, you will certainly not go to him unprepared. One of the first things you would enquire would be the dress code, you may enquire about the matter at hand, you would find out more about him as a person and you would enquire that manner of how you may approach him and the way you are to speak to him. All of this becomes very useful as it is not the same as visiting a friend down the road. You would make sure that you are well prepared. Remember that this is your president that we are speaking of, now what about God, your creator and King of the heavens and the earth. Has he not called you to come and meet with Him and how are you responding? I want you to think about this.

The life of prayer demands protocol. As New Testament priests we too have a protocol to follow. It is not the same as the worlds' but it is a protocol more important. Firstly you must know that there is no other way to the Father except through His Son Jesus Christ. John 14. 6 make this very clear. '... No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Living as New Testament priests means there is a protocol to follow. For this reason Jesus demonstrated to His disciples how they should pray. When the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to teach them how they should pray, Jesus did not

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reply: 'follow your heart and pray whatever is in your heart.'
But instead His reply was 'after this manner pray'

The manner that Jesus taught the disciples to pray is the manner we are all called to pray. Please understand that the manner of praying that Jesus spoke of is not a ritual as so many think it is but it is the way of approach to a Holy God and the direction of our hearts to His.

The 'Lords' prayer' or the 'Our Father prayer' as we know it, has the most complete and absolute utterances that children of God may cast back to Heaven. The personal petitions contained in this prayer are very modest- daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance from sins' power. Yet they are what comprise all things that pertain to life and Holiness. I pray that your eyes will be opened today to the guidelines of approach to this our heavenly Father.

Watch and Pray without ceasing. 3.30

2.3 the manner of prayer - protocol To pray as heaven would wish is to echo the very words that beat and come together with our Heavenly Father. This is to be at peace with God. If prayer was whatever we desired to utter before God then we would not have been warned by Lord. By Jesus demonstrating the manner that we ought to pray He was teaching us the correct way of approaching the throne of the Father. And where there is correct way there is bound to be a wrong way that will rise up. The manner shown by the Lord shows us that the way we are to come into the presence of our Father is of priority and protocol. Hear what Jesus warns

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us about praying foolishly.” And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned. Do not be like them (the pagans), for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him” Matt. 6. 7-8

Therefore the “Our Father”/Lords’ Prayer as it is called is the most complete and absolute utterances children of God may cast back to heaven. To pray after the manner shown to us by the Lord gives strength to our desire to pray as it is in Gods’ will in the first place. The mind is also kept from wandering for there is much to be prayed for when we follow in the manner given to us. To receive from the Lord is to hear from the Lord. To hear from God is to live a life in the Spirit. ‘He who belongs to God hears what God says.....’ John 8.47 ‘In this manner, therefore pray’ Matt. 6.9 was the instruction and advise given to us by the Lord. We would be wise to obey and in so doing experience the richness hidden for God’s people through the life of prayer. May you welcome the life hidden in prayer?

The Lord’s Prayer To know the manner and ways I am to come before the King of kings, must never be taken for granted. It holds the key in, to you being in His presence or not. This is about a KING, His Kingdom and the Provisions set aside in this Kingdom. Any wonder why Jesus said ‘THIS THEN IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY...Matt. 6.9
‘OUR FATHER’

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We have been speaking about the manner set out in Gods' word for us to approach Him. This as we have called it is protocol. In other words there is a procedure for us to follow. The Lords' Prayer or 'Our Father' Prayer unlocks for us the doors that will lead us to better praying.

Firstly the 'Our Father' Prayer starts by giving us the believer identity 'OUR FATHER'. I remember how blown over I was when I first went to God in this manner, this simple truth that allowed me to approach this mighty God as my Father. It spoke of me of belonging to Him. I knew straight away that I was in the right place. Being in this right place meant I was given a special privilege that all do not have. For remember what we said not all can come to the Father except those that come to Him through His Son. John 14.6

That word 'Our' truly overcomes the concept of God not being approachable. In other words it speaks to us about a God who is approachable. The Old Testament prophets, men and women of God were never given this privilege. We read that when they approached God it was never by that exclusivity of God being approached as Father. We are blessed to approach Him in such a way, but more so it is not just the approach but who we are in Him. Without having this position everything else changes. That word 'OUR' gives to us identity(x2), it gives to us a sense of uniqueness. It gives us exclusivity. The 'Our Father' prayer can not be prayed by all men. For it is reserved for the children of God. And by so doing it gives us an advantage that many do not have. Many people from other religions think they have this right but they do not. We are all Gods' creation but we are all not sons and daughters of God(x2). Are you understanding what I am

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saying?. I mention this today so that you will take advantage of this powerful truth of God being our Father.

To have a Father in God describes our condition. It helps us to understand and share in with God. Jesus said in His word in Matthew 7.11 'if you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to them who ask Him?'

Again I want to bring home to you this important truth of who God is. He is our Father and we must accept that we are His children and take hold of the special favour and privilege He has afforded us. This favour comes with a price but that price has already been paid for in Jesus Christ. May you today not feel ashamed or guilty to come to God and know that He is a Father to you and me. It starts with how you come to Him, how you approach Him. If you have established this in your heart, it sets the precedent for you to keep pressing on no matter what.

I leave you with the words that Jesus gave to us in John 14.1 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Fathers' (also implying your Fathers') house are many rooms, if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.'

One may ask if prayer is from the heart then why do we need a method of prayer? Prayer is spiritual and very much from the heart – true prayer that is! Yet our hearts are either close or so far away from God. Our words may be fixed like a recited poem yet each day our hearts shift, moves and displaces itself like the crater beneath the earth. The manner of prayer given to us helps us focus more so enveloping all that God would have us do and have us receive. Any teaching

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that distances itself from this method of prayer has its purpose in dishonoring what God desires and cutting short our growth in Him. The Bible teaches us that God desires for that which is in Heaven to be on here earth. We can only have this through the medium of the spirit – His Holy Spirit at work with our spirit. He deliberately calls us to pray so. In the book of Matthew, Jesus warned His disciples to pray what the Father would have them to pray. ‘Do not be like them (hypocrites), for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.’ Matthew 6.8.

When the disciples came to Jesus, asking Him to be taught how to pray, His replied to them was “in this manner you must pray:

Our Father in Heaven,
1 Hallowed be your name,
2 Your kingdom come,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
3 Give us today our daily bread.
4 Forgive us our debts,
5 As we also have forgiven our debtors.
6 And lead us not into temptation,
7 But deliver from the evil one.”
For yours is the Kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen

The Our Father Prayer or the Lord’s Prayer must first be understood as a daily prayer. It is a daily prayer for it resolves the daily issues of everyday life for the believer. Together with the six requests from God, it has us praise Him, be

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thankful to Him and honor Him. It concludes with us being in agreement with Him by us expressing it is so when we finally say Amen. God exists in His Heavenly realm and our work here is to build a dwelling place with and for Him. The physical temple was built with accurate dimensions, filled with the most valuable and guarded by the most holy. It was simply a symbol of what God is building now. The Prayer of Lord entails all the spiritual building supplies for this final spiritual temple. We receive and use it by faith as this temple grows each day. We can only do so through and in the spirit realm for God is spirit. 1Corinthians2. The more passionate we are about the plans of God in building this spiritual tabernacle the closer we are to the establishment of this spiritual House of God. We are the spiritual temple of God here on earth. We are the earthen vessel that must house the treasure of God. This treasure is the desires of God's heart. The traveller having found a treasure went and sold all that he had to buy the land. We too must sacrifice all for this treasure. Scripture... The Apostle Paul left everything behind and counted it as loss to gain what was hidden in the spiritual realm. In other words what God prepared, that which was Heavenly for him mattered more than anything else.

SCRIPTURE... We the earthen vessel must forever be opened for that treasure from the Heavens to fill us. All of this treasure is in Christ given by the Father. A war will continue to rage in the heavens of the enemy's domain but we nevertheless by faith must daily pursue God's eternal plan. His plan is revealed in prayer, deep intimacy with Him. How are we to go on, what are we to do if we know not the intimate details of this daily walk? It is in prayer that the secrets of God are revealed. This is intimacy when we are

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quiet and God is speaking, were we are speaking as we are led. There must be enough spiritual room for discernment in every believer, every day, if not we are fooled by the sound we have heard. If not we question, our trials and pain helping to do so. We begin to doubt and like Eve we hear 'did God really say that? Genesis 3.2 We may hear a voice, but it may not be Him. One on one with Him consistently, is how we learn to discern it His Him. God is omnipresent and may use the wind, the earthquake and even the fire to speak. Yet the mission He has for you and I is a personal one first and personal to Him too. The 'whisper' of the Lord is the intimate inner voice of God. 1Kings19. Nehemiah the prophet prayed, God answered yet he told no one what the Lord had put in his heart to do for Jerusalem. Nehemiah 2.12

The Lord's Prayer reminds us that though salvation has come and we now have access to His Heavenly realm, it is by faith in Christ that we receive it nevertheless. We are delivered from our past sins and they hold no witness to what we once was nor where we come from. Yet on a daily basis there is sin, so much of it unknowingly committed by us. We look in the wrong direction, we agree with our carnal minds, we take sides when we should not, we get angry, we utter the wrong things and forget that God is watching and deserving. Therefore ever pounding knocks daily by the enemy to imprison and shame us to God for we helped as He has helped us too. It is a new day and we are asking the Father to forgive us for our daily sins, to strengthen us, feed and lead us. The Lord on High has permitted that we come it and we survive yet another day. Thank You Lord.

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The manner of prayer Jesus taught His disciples is one never prayed before. He introduced them to this prayer for it was the time to do so. Prior to the Lord Jesus being sent to earth, there was no direct access to the Father in Heaven. Jesus now opened the way for them to pray directly to the Father. In John 16.24 Jesus reminds the disciples that until now they had asked nothing in His Name. They had nothing revealed to them for them to ask in His Name. In John 16.23 Jesus now says to them they will ask anything in His Name and the Father will give it to them. The door opened to the Father by the Lord Jesus now completes the joy of the believer having received.

This asking of anything in the Name of Jesus must never be confused with asking of whatever we may feel like, giving pleasure to the flesh. That which has already been prepared to be given through the Way Jesus has opened for us is the Will of God and that is the prayer we pray. That from earth which goes into the Heaven into the Fathers' Presence may only find its way through the door opened by Jesus. This is the only Way. 'I am the Way...' said Jesus to them..scripture This Name will only allow what Heaven has already decreed. Therefore anything asked must be that which is already in the Spiritual realm of Heaven. Two things have happened here. 1. Jesus has opened the way for us to the Father. 2. And because we can only ask in the Name, means we cannot ask for anything of the flesh or simply put, that which is not God's Will for us. The Name of Jesus and the Will of God for us work hand in hand.

Jesus also explained to the disciples that whatever is asked of the Father in His Name is what He Jesus will do. John 14.13. We can clearly here see that Jesus is able and given the

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authority to do for us what the Father has permitted. The more Jesus does the more the Father is glorified in Him. The revelation of oneness must be seen here.

The Pharissess of the day thought that their strict adherence to what was given to Moses was sufficient for them to live this Godly life. In other words all they needed now was their return of their Messiah and be taken into this Heaven.

If we neglect the Lord's Prayer then we may also be guilty of believing that what Christ has done releases us from a renewed walk with God each day. Is that not why we neglect prayer? All we must do is wait for His return so we believe, working out the dates and times and mysteries surrounding His return. But it is not so, since we have choices and have to make decisions each moment. Those final decisions no matter in what area of our lives they may be are bound to conflict with what God may have planned for us today.

The Lord's Prayer covers areas in our lives that we may not have seen and therefore not asked God help for. Before I go any further, these writings are not to religiously bring you into a place where you are only praying the Lord's Prayer shown here, but rather that what is revealed here will help you see what is lacking in your present day prayers. I pray that those empty spaces may be now filled. Equally important is that you are encouraged to pray and pray without ceasing. How we enter into the Presence of God is also very important and so often we fall short because our supplications are so urgent. How often in our daily prayers do we offer thanks to God together with our supplications? So often we never come into God's Presence adoring Him and acknowledging Him as our Father. This manner of prayer

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helps remember that the name of God is powerful. We enter and leave in that Name. Our comings and goings must be in that Name. When I enter a place, I must do as one who has come in the Name of The Lord, the same when I leave. We are now citizens of a Heavenly Kingdom seated with Christ, Colossians 3.1. The Kingdom of God is being established here through the believer in two ways. 1. In accepting what God has done through Christ, we live out this Kingdom through the spirit in the flesh here on earth. 2. We are sent by Him to tell others about this Spiritual Kingdom and therefore have His Kingdom established in the hearts of more people. We pray without ceasing that more people will desire this and thereby have His Kingdom established here on earth. God's Will is found only in this Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is made up of His Will. We may have severe opposition for doing so, nevertheless His Kingdom must come so that lives are saved from a degenerating world. It is in prayer that God through His Spirit reveals to us His Will. Prayer has always been God's design and idea not ours. Prayer is how God may speak to us. Prayer is a design by Him and way for us to listen to Him. Our supplications are one of those ways we get the attention of God – earth to Heaven praying. Though the real purpose of prayer is Heaven to earth praying, where our focus is forever what is already established for us. This already establishment is revealed to us in our close, intimate walk with God. His desire for us revealed only to a willing heart. What He reveals is what we give back to Him. How do we give back to Him that which we have not accepted from Him? This is prayer. It is the Lord revealing and we in submission sending it back to Him as our evidence that we are in agreement. It says we have a heart like Him that is

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ready for Him to do what He Has already purposed to do. The Kingdom of Heaven is filled with Gods purpose, plans and His Will for man and earth alike. You and I must come into that realm of understanding what that is. Christ has opened that WAY for us. God is spirit and so is man. Therefore God has given the Holy Spirit to Jesus who has given Him to us. This helps us communicate and be with God. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, Comforter and One who helps in our prayers.

The religion of the day was proven in just the manner of their prayers. Jesus saw this. He saw the man in the synagogue and may have shook His head. He may have hoped that the man on the street corner would stop, this could not go on, all his efforts in vain. He saw the resounding cong, the missed target over and over again, the time wasted and the tongue giving death instead of life. This was God the Son on earth, surely it saddened Him. The sadness was more that the manner they prayed was a manner deeply instilled in them. To change them, would prove even further that was not who He claimed to be. A great sadness for what they knew not. The manner of approaching the Father one the religious never heard of and were not willing too. 'But you' He said, 'be not like them' Matthew 6.8

This prayer had lot to do with forgiveness, forgiving those who trespassed against you. This forgiveness had much about everyday life. If the disciples were to receive Jesus has the Messiah then this would have to be at the forefront of this new dispensation to come. This manner of prayer was greatly needed, for if this is the Will of God in Heaven, then it was not easy. When Jesus answered them as to how many times were they to forgive a brother who had sinned against them, there reply was a prayer. 'Lord give us more faith' Here

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we see that should they follow through with this manner of prayer, God would answer to His Will. Great is the desire of our Father that we forgiving. The emphasis on forgiveness is so important to help us, therefore it's given in this manner of prayer. After introducing them to this manner of prayer, Jesus immediately explains further in Mathew 14 no other aspect of this prayer but that of forgiveness. Though the Will of the Father through Jesus is the core of this praying, it incorporates forgiveness as the building block to anything else to be received by the believer.

Jesus said '...then your Father in Heaven who sees in secret will reward you openly' Matthew 6.6. The Father, whom no man can fool, sees in secret, the deep things of the heart. It is in the closet that we are challenged about the issues of our heart. We hear more clearly alone with God behind a 'closed' door. It is called listening.

We must be careful that even when we are genuine in our praying, a slight eye movement of the road for the attention of another to see may forfeit the Glory deserving to God. Even a well versed prayer with all the promises may become null and void. I pray that what has begun with God never become an 'eye-sore' to Him. His Spirit who began this work in us must be given way in our lives all the time. For His Spirit never deviates from the Will of God.

We as believers are to be that – believers. We do not have in *ourselves* to pray prayers to a Heavenly God without His Son Jesus as the Way and His Holy Spirit as the One who leads us. **'.....We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words**

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cannot express.’ Romans 8.26 In other words the writer is saying we are limited without Help from above. The Holy Spirit who is the only One here on earth who knows all God has for us from above. Therefore we should be praying He leads us. The Holy Spirit does not take us through the Lords’ Prayer line for line and word for word but rather the groanings and leading of the Holy Spirit covers all manner of prayer so that we are not lacking in any area of our lives. The Bible tells us that God searches all hearts. Yet when it comes to the believer God knows the mind of the Holy Spirit. This may seem confusing but is not. When we become believers we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is an integral part of salvation.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

The church has pressed the uncensored button. The vehicle has moved out of control and killing people, buildings crumbling and even more are dying. You pressed a button

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you should not have pressed. There's a friend who has witnessed it all. He comes to Help you. For a while you instantly place the blame on him but the truth is too far open and your friend is still here to help.

As Moses made excuses not to go to Pharaoh to rescue God's people he asked a very important question to Him. Exodus 3.13 "...suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them 'The God of your fathers have sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses tell them 'I AM has sent you'

You see the Israelites understood that the name of a god was who he was. The God of Abraham was the God they feared. The God of Abraham is the one their forefathers trusted and their cry over this 400 year period was to Him. For the bible tells us the cry of His people had come up to Him Exodus 3.7. Through stories of old they had heard of the mighty miracles of the God of their forefathers. Whenever God appeared to help anyone of their forefathers or to speak to them, they feared knowing they had met with God. They built memorials before leaving that place. It was a reminder for the generations to come that He, the God of the Heavens and the earth was whom they could put their faith in. He was the same who promised Abraham to be his God and the God of his descendants. He was the same who promised their father Abraham that He will give to him and his descendants the land as an everlasting possession and to be their God. They hoped for what they did not have, yet waited. So the importance of them knowing the Name of this God that sent this man Moses was important to them. They may not have been a much surrendered people to this God. We see this from their behavior having crossed the Red Sea. They were

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His people nevertheless and the promises He made to their forefathers speaks about them and the generations that were to come after them. They would have also known it was time for them to come out of slavery and with a great deal of possessions with it. A man in much pain, much anguish will call out in agony. Even louder will his cry be, when he knows there is for him a promise of better things.

Genesis.14.13-16 The place where Abraham sacrificed a lamb instead of his son was called 'The Lord Will Provide' He built a memorial there for Who God is. Genesis 22.14 Jacob poured oil on the stone he laid his head on the night before and then called that place Bethel, meaning House of God. Again along his journey he named another place Galeed, for God was his Witness. And in Genesis 32, we see him again meeting God, wrestling through the night with Him. He leaves that place to meet with his brother Esau but not before naming that Peniel, Face of God.

God is who He says He is yet also He is who He is by what He does. In essence God was telling Moses because of my Love for my people, I remain faithful and will be to them as my name decrees.

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name must never be taken for granted. The name of the Lord to you and I as Gentiles is who He is, was and to be. The name of the Lord is precious. As Christians we must not take His name in vain for it is Holy. I remember as a little boy being told not to mention the name Mandela and as history went on Mandela became a household name in South Africa and abroad. So much so that he Nelson Mandela became an idol to most people in the land of South Africa. His name opened up doors here and abroad for many. Yet he was just human being. If he

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were to sign a promissory note for any amount, I am sure no bank would have refused to honor it in this country. For the name Mandela went with his greatness as a person.

Remember though we are not referring to a mere man when it comes to God our Father. God's name is what we have for us today. It is Holy, it is sacred and by faith we should declare it in the spiritual realm. We are to use it as Who He is to us.

My healing must be declared in faith for that is who He is – My Healer. My provision must be received in faith, for He Sees – My Provider. He leads me for He is My Shepherd; He is my peace for He is God my Peace. As we turn to God daily we must declare His Name. The declaration of His Name, in our prayers for a nation, a leader and the Church must be taken seriously. It is in His Name that Our Father does and enables us we seek Him. The presence of God in a place is a fulfillment of that Will of God is. As we pray the Names of God for we are in essence praying the Will of God for that situation, place or person. God's Name is Holy; therefore we need the Holy Spirit to help us pray the Will of God.

Hallowed be thy Name. we do not know always how to pray, but His Spirit helps to pray.

If I enquired who was at the door? The reply I received helps me know who it is. That person as identified himself by his name. By that name I identify the person.as I have been identified by my name. My name is how I am identified by.

....seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer

Part of seeking first the kingdom is this forgiveness.

May not look like one of the the six petitions but it is.

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THY KINGDOM COME

To understand the Kingdom.

You know our understanding of the basics of Gods' kingdom will actually help us understand why prayer is so important in the lives of us believers. Understanding how the kingdom of God operates will help us know why God has placed such significance to prayer. First of all we need to understand that God is King. One who is king will always have a kingdom to rule. That kingdom of God is the Kingdom of Heaven. Every kingdom has a set of rules that govern that kingdom. God reigns in His Kingdom and has absolute and sovereign reign over all things. The earth also belongs to God but He has given this to man to reign in. Man is to rule earth by the set of rules set up by God and His Kingdom. For man to know how to rule in this kingdom he must be first acquainted with the King and His set of rules. This will give man a better grip on his reign here on earth. You see Prayer is that means that God has designed or proposed for man to know what is in heaven. When man knows what is in Heaven and is familiar with the Kings' ways he can then apply them on earth. 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' Matthew 6.10 . Simply put Prayer helps man to reign.

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Prayer is the means that transfers that which is spiritual to the physical which is earth. God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us do so. Now here in lies the problem. If we are found lacking or sluggish in our praying there will be very little of Heaven here on earth.x2. The more the body faints in praying the more earth is bound to crumble. Many things have piled up in heaven based on this simple truth of people not praying. Heaven is not selfish to release what it has for earth. Remember what God has for earth is already planned and ready to be released from heaven. 'Your will be done on earth as it is already done in heaven.'

Before we go any further we must understand the following that God is Spirit. Though we have a physical body we are all spiritual beings. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual one. We enter into this Kingdom for His Son has made it possible. The Bible tells us that when sin entered man, there immediately came a separation between God and man. That separation remained for centuries with a promise through the prophets that that way between man and God will one day be cleared again. That means that there was going to come a time when man would have access to God's Kingdom through this spirit realm. This has now been made by Christ His Son. Christ opened the way for us. Mark 15.37 -38. The Bible tells us that as a symbol of this separation between man and God, Moses was asked build a tabernacle representing this Holy place of God. There was the outer, inner and Holy of Holies where the ark was kept and that a very sacred place. This was were the mercy seat of God was kept Exodus 26.33. So sacred was this Holy of Holies is that for the Priest of God to enter in, he had to make sure he was purified and holy and in right standing

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with God. The scriptures tells that if a Priest entered the Holy of Holies with any sin he was struck down and died in that place. So much so that each time the priest entered, he had a rope attached to his garment that if he died in there, he had to be dragged out using this rope instead of some other Priest going in and carrying him out. When Christ breathed His last, we are told that the curtain of the temple tore into two from top to bottom as a symbol that the Heaven the Holy place of God was opened. Verse. This means that Christ's death opened the way for God's Kingdom to be established here on earth. I make reference to this to help you understand and make you aware of what Christ did for us and the thanks due to Him. Here we are on earth, sinners saved by grace and now have access into this the Holy of Holies that even the priests of old did not. What Christ did opened up the access that we never had into the Kingdom of God. Now we are taken into this realm where God resides and are able understand what God's Will is for our lives.

In 2 Corinthians 12. 2-3 we read that Paul was caught up in spirit into this realm. We therefore can conclude for what we know now that there exists three realms. We understand from Ephesians 2.1 that the evil one is the ruler of this kingdom of the air. He rules from there and his spirit is at work in those who disobedient. Therefore we are on earth can safely say we are in this the first realm. Being in this second realm, the enemy puts up a fight with God's children. He never wants to have what God has purposed for us let alone us having access to this place. We thank God that we Have the Holy Spirit who strengthens us and enables to continue without ceasing. As this fight in the heavenly realm pursues viciously we Jesus Christ who stands between God

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and us continually advocating our innocence through what He has already done. God does what He must do through His son. The battle rages on nevertheless. Ephesians 6.12 tells that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against these rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world. This realm is filled with spiritual forces of evil and are forever looking to stall us. Prayer is the way designed by God to overcome this vicious war. We do always know what to pray but God helps through His Spirit. Romans...

Therefore anyone who teaches that the Kingdom of God has already been established here on earth and therefore the Lord's Prayer is not valid is teaching a wrong doctrine. This gives way for great access for the enemy into our lives to rob and steal from us what should be established here on earth. When we pray for the Kingdom of God to come we are doing the following:

- 1 We acknowledge and accept the this Kingdom of God. We approve of it in our lives.
- 2 We want this Kingdom in our lives.

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The Will of God

Prayer is simply the union of the believers' thoughts with Gods' x2. Prayer is Gods' way of telling the church what He wishes to be done on earth. The duty of the believer is to pray out this accomplishment here on earth. Prayer is not meant to enlighten God. God knows all things. Prayer expresses our faith, our trust and expectations of Him. In

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other words our prayers must show forth to God that we desire what He already has purposed for us. The meaning of that word amen is not 'let it be' because I prayed it so but 'it is so' because you have already said so according to your word.

Prayer, true praying is not asking of God to do what we want, although we may think so, its' certainly not. Our praying and the strength of our praying will determine how much of what God so desires, is really being accomplished here on earth. Matthew 6.10 says 'your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'

Other bible translations have it has 'as it is already done in heaven.' The fact that God has already prepared it for you also means He is not going to alter that which He already has prepared for you. What he has prepared is the best. What happens though is that much of what God has purposed for us is stalled in heaven because of our lack of praying or our wrong way of praying. Many things have piled up in heaven simply because man will not pray according to Gods' will. Now let me briefly explain that word 'will' which is found in Matthew 6.10.

Will – In the original Greek has two meaning:

1 – 'Boulema'- eternal will of God. In other words it will be done whether you like it or not.

Eg. The return of Christ, the gathering of the elect, matt.24.30-31, the judgement of each person according to what he has done here on earth.Rev.20.13

2 – Thelema – This is God's desire for us and is dependant on us- the response of the believer. Do you want what God has

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for you? Prayer makes known to God your heart. The response to that is made very clear in Jeremiah 29.12-13 'Then you will call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'

The key here is for God to see that your heart truly desires to have what He has for you, or that you are at least willing for Him to change your heart - The willingness for God to give you a new heart.

In our willingness to do it Gods' way we will be drawn into a whole new life – a life hidden in prayer.

The Will of God for what He has created exists within the realm of His Kingdom. Thy Kingdom come Thy Will be done. God is King and a king operates within a Kingdom. His word is final. What he wills must take it's course. It is here that prayer helps understand the Will of God for every aspect of the earthly life. That being spiritual being of man whilst he walks this earth, the natural this includes plant and animal life. Jesus said, He cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field without fail, how important so are we to Him. This includes the way we interact with each other. That is the social aspect of His Will for us. God Wills a certain path we must take when dealing with matters with man. To often we are not aware of our God would have us deal with this issue as compared how we normally deal with it. Man has many strifes with other men and his first way is to deal with it in the natural way. Often when that fails he then goes to the

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law. The law becomes his final option. But if he were to go to God first he would be surprised how He would have wanted him to handle the matter. God's answer to the problem is the perfect answer. We must learn to pray 'Lord what is your Will for me in this situation?' or 'Lord how would you have me handle this situation? The more we go to God for advice, the less mistakes we make.

In praying God's Will we have to begin with ourselves. We then must pray for those around us, our loved ones, our wives, sons and daughters, other family members, neighbours, acquaintances, government and the stranger. In all of this we must remember the Church and how it fits into all of this. For God's Will through Christ is to work through the corporate body and rescue the lost out of an already condemned world.

Lord we Pray your Will firstly in our lives. Our obedience to Your Will has it is revealed to us. We are to pray that Will in our spiritual lives. That our minds and thoughts be totally surrendered to the Lord at all times. We must pray that our minds are fixed on what the Lord wants to do through us and for us. It is this area of our thoughts that the attack is most severe. God has given us all a measure of faith to hope for what for He has already has. This is His Will, the very thing He hopes for us. When the enemy approached Eve, the ploy he first uses was to place doubt in what God had already said. His first words to Eve were 'Did God really say...? Genesis 3.1. We must pray that our thoughts are fixed on the Lord and be thankful knowing that we cannot on our own do this. We were never asked to in the first place. Religion has taught us otherwise. We do not have to defeat the enemy, he already is. Ours is to rest in Christ and His finished work. Any effort by

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us will fail miserably. Paul therefore said he was no longer alive, but the Christ in him was Galatians 2.20. Even the archangel Michael when in dispute with the enemy dare not bring a slanderous accusation against him but said 'The Lord Rebuke you' Jude 9. We see how God wants us to have nothing even by the tiniest error, to interfere with our walk in the Spirit. The enemy is forever looking for an accusation against us and even wills it that we may come up against him in error. This gives him a chance to accuse us before the Lord. The Bible tells us that we are put the armor of God and stand. We resist him by standing. The closer we are with God the further away is the enemy from lives. We must learn to forever be in that presence of the Lord, hiding under His shelter.

Remember the work of God is finished. This work includes all that He had in mind for us. Again Jesus came to make a way for us to receive what He has for us. Most times we apt to think that God is doing a new work, yet really not. We pray to Him that we come into that which already finished.

When praying for loved ones we must ask the Lord through His Spirit to be at work in our sons and daughters and that their lives be filled with the knowledge of the Will of God. Neither do you nor I ever want to have our close ones walking in the ways of the world. Looking around this is not as simple as we may think it is, for this is a spiritual battle in the heavenlies. Many of us have made mistakes in decision making when it comes to our children and how we have guided them over the years. We cannot undo that but we can bring it to Him and pray that in spite of our mistakes there is still hope with God that they come into His Will. Let us not brag about our children but instead be thankful to God when

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we see them on this path with God. The enemy goes around marking whom he thinks he can entice. They may fall at any time and therefore our praying without ceasing for them is so important. This road they walk, like us, is a very narrow one. Social how respond to each other.. manners, respect etc Governmentwisdom, God's Will to continue. Certain people, certain decisions as painful as it is, we pray it so, so that Prophecy may be fulfilled. Pray for laws that do not line with God's Word. Politicians that represent are in government under the disguise of standing up for the Will of God. Politics and God's way can never mix especially not in democracy as democracy is against Kingdom rule.

All our supplications, every request comes through the Way set by His Son. If it is allowed through this Way to Heaven God has seen His Son and He will answer. The answer to our prayers is just that – His Son. We see to ask in the Will of God, for the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see the Way and therefore the Will of Him seated in Heaven. No prayer, I mean no prayer can reach Heaven without His Son Jesus. The Holy Spirit shows leads us to Jesus who opens this Way for us.

God searches our hearts to see if we have the mind of the Spirit. He who searches knows the mind of the Spirit. The Spirit is here to help us. The Spirit of God intercedes for the saints in accordance to God's Will. Romans 8.27

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As it is Done

10.1 Heaven Too Earth Praying

If we settle in our minds that Prayer is only about us asking of God, then we have unfortunately settled for very little compared to what God has to offer. Settling for earth to Heaven prayers is a very low level of Praying. It is God's desire that we settle for His will and that is Heaven to earth Praying. Heaven to earth praying always involves God's will. ".....yet not my will, but (always) yours be done." Luke 22.42. This was the cry of Jesus as He prayed on the Mount of

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Olives. The bible goes on to say that as soon as He spoke these words an angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. We are never left alone and we too will be strengthened as we prepare to listen and obey the Lord. Prayer for most times will involve us listening. Listening enables to do that which is Godly because it gets us to be at the right place at the right time to be used by the Lord. Our problem today is not about doing 'good', in fact there is a lot of good being done out there by those in and out of the body of Christ. Our problem is the timing of doing that which is good. The timing is always relative to the obedience of God's voice. When the timing is right which is according to God's will then that which is in Heaven will be done on earth. And the only way we as God's people are going to get the timing right of discerning how and when, is by making time with the Lord. The knowledge of heaven is a spiritual one and come through living a life in the Spirit. Are you willing to be led by His Spirit. That leading will come when you spend more time with Gods 'Spirit.

Are you willing to listen to Him today? In order to do so you will have to make time to listen and making time means making time to PRAY. This then is the Life Hidden in Prayer.

After this Manner Pray

The manner of praying that Jesus showed His disciples in Matthew 6 straight away brought them closer to Him. I think very often we fail to realize what it means to reach out and

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meet with this awesome God. It is easy to talk about Prayer yet difficult to Pray. Why is that so?

Too often we have become so relaxed in the things of God and therefore casual about the actual act of praying. We have become careless in our praying. Our half heartedness has resulted in our lacking the passion and energy to pray.. Why do I say this and how do we know this? If we were praying more then we would be more focussed. For in praying as the Lord thought us will reveal the heart of God and change ours. This will definitely lead to more praying, for more praying is having a better relationship with God. When the disciples asked Jesus to show them a way to pray, His reply was Matthew 6.9 'after this manner.' It is not the words that followed but the attitude one may approach the Father. Although Jesus used the word 'say' in verse 2 He did not intend for this prayer to be used as mere ritual. In fact the Lords' Prayer is in total contrast for any to use as a vain repetition. The prayer given to us is one meant to acknowledge Gods' reign and supremacy in every facet of our lives. This prayer also helps in our relationship with others. In fact there are three very important aspect of this prayer – God, others and us personally. It is a prayer that is very focussed, our focus first being on God. The 'Lords Prayer' is about having a heart for what God has for us. 'May your will be done.' Matthew 6.10

We must be willing to accept that GOD knows our desires before we come to Him. Praying according the manner given to us establishes Gods' will here on earth. For years now we have been reciting the Lord's Prayer but have lacked the attitude and faith that is an integral part of praying. Where is our passion and zeal to meet with God?

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When we carefully study the Lords' prayer we will find that there is no need that is not provided for in this prayer. We are called to pray so that it is done. 'as it is done in heaven' Matthew 6.10 Praying in the manner given to us sees to that. The praying is ours to do and so is the administering of what we receive or have received. Nothing will change if man does not pray, therefore the description for what prayer is, is change. The change of our hearts first by God releases what He has on earth. It comes no other way. When the heart of man is changed so is the earth as he walks the earth. It is done

It is important that we are pliable and flexible in the hand of God. Jesus warned His disciples in the book of Matthew not to be like the pagans who were found babbling in their prayers.'.....your Father knows what you need before you ask Him' Matt. 6.8. In us knowing that God already knows really matters and gives us a greater peace, in us coming to Him. We must be careful. God knows about our needs and has therefore made provision for our needs and not our wants. Matt.6.10 says 'your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' Have you read that carefully? 'As it is in heaven' some bible interpretations have it as 'as it is already done in heaven' What is this that God has already provided. This is what you and I need to come to know. And prayer is what helps us know that. Prayer reveals the heart of God for us. Many a times we go to God with our selfish desires and they are nowhere near the perfect will that He has for our lives. Knowing is not all, we must still be willing to accept His will for our lives. God has made provision. That

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provision is available to those within the kingdom. Therefore it stands to reason that those partaking of His kingdom must be a part of that kingdom. You may partake of many a thing but are they really a part Gods' kingdom. For many of us the desires of our hearts are not the same as that of the King and His kingdom. We think it is, yet it really is not. Going to God in Prayer reveals this.

Prayer is the means by which God is able to change our hearts desires so that we are able to accept and receive what He has for us. To give God the opportunity to change our hearts brings glory and honour to Him. For that is what He is waiting for us to do. Yes God does answer all prayer. But what is true prayer- it is that which is in the will of God. If all our praying is according to Gods' will then, SURELY they will be answered.

I pray that you will take this opportunity to let God examine your heart today, and for Him to mould and fashion it the kingdom way, and may you have the peace that comes with it. This then anointed, makes up the life hidden in prayer. Welcome it and be a part of what God is doing.

Praise

Ever tried praising a man for the good he has done, yet never appreciating him for it. We cannot praise God each day if we

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have no appreciation for Him. We must start with what He has done. In appreciation, our spiritual eyes are opened to how much of that already done is really ours. Our thankful hearts turn to praise for Him and He is glad. His work is not in vain. The parable of the king sending out his servants to the invited and their refusal to come is just proof of the little appreciation they had. A further invite by him, them telling what was prepared still saw them pay no attention. Their excuses turned them into murderers. Today the Lord invites the lost to come and see what He has done for them. There are those who still pay no attention and have become even more callous and determined to have nothing get in their way. There are many invited to appreciate what God has done, but few are chosen. Those who are chosen have shown a thankful heart, believing that what He has promised has been done for them. Matthew 22. 1.14 There's places already prepared by the Lord for us. They are places specifically reserved for each one of us. It is our task to see to see that those places are not left empty. Mark 10.40. here lies the key – be appreciative of what God has done. Give thanks to God for a new day. Thank Him for the manna of today, your daily bread. Be thankful that He has given time to surrender, to put your house together and even use a few more years. This is an evil wicked generation and od has single you out. Be glad.

When we see God in the little things, having appreciated Him in the little helps us see Him in the larger things. It enables us to be used by God. A man's payment may simply be the appreciation he hopes having done even so little. How much more do you think God loves to be appreciated for all that He has done? Just look around you.

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Conclusion

To believe that God will come through and to never to give up is the Christ life. Our call to pray without ceasing may just be the difference of our prayers being answered to them not. It is know and to therefore pray with passion. To pray without ceasing may find you alone in the chapel when all others have moved on. The man who prays constantly may be responsible for the difference between a city being destroyed and one being saved. For the sake of forty five, for sake of thirty, for the sake of twenty, for sake of ten even so will God save a city, if men will stand in the gap and pray without ceasing. **Gen.18.** For surely God is God who will save a city even if there be but one righteous man as long as he can find a man who prays much. May God help us to find them and may this be the cry of our hearts, men and women who pray without ceasing.