

UNDERSTANDING GOD AS HE SPEAKS

The power of true prayer

Mervyn Naidoo



Understanding God as He speaks

Other books by the author

What is Prayer?
The Decision to Pray
The Dimensions of Prayer
A Changed Heart
Repair the Altar
Prayer : A Seeking After God
Holiness is Surrender!
I Desire you all Speak in Tongues
The Greatest Person Person on Earth
First Be Seated
On my Knees
After Death
Be Serious about Prayer
The Essentials to Heavenly Prayer
Prayer and Dreams
Religion : A Lie in Disguise
The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit
Prayer : A Burden From the Lord
The Prayer Workbook



PRAYER

Mervyn Naidoo

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**ALL SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS FROM NEW INTERNATIONAL
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**WE RECOGNISE GOD'S CALL
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SCRIPTURE. THE CHURCH MUST
ACKNOWLEDGE WHEN HE CALLS.
WE MUST SHOW TO GOD THAT WE
DESIRE MUCH THAT HE SPEAKS TO
US!**

– Prayerwatch M

What is Prayer?

Prayer is God's design for man. **Prayer is best understood as us 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 merely assist us. Prayer is a powerful duty essential in the life of every follower of the Lord.

Hidden as it may be, yet bursting to be revealed is the life of

prayer. The more consistently we approach the throne of God, the deeper our understanding of the Lord becomes. The prophet experienced total reliance in God when in-depth with the supernatural. The water from ankle deep 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. Let's read what the prophet Ezekiel says:

"Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side. When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles. Again, he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again, he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins. Again, he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. Now, when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. It will come about that every living creature that swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets.

Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:1-12

**CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION WITH
GOD SHALL RESULT IN CONTINUED
FLOW WITH GOD. THE DEEPER WE
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– Prayerwatch M



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 Apostle Paul knew the importance of personal prayer.

Many things are to be prayed for and the church coming together corporately helps much to pray for government, kingdoms and the affairs of the world.

– Prayer Watch -



The Importance of Personal Prayer

The Life of prayer must first be personal. Our praying

corporately (the church praying together) can only be successful when we have first graced our own closets. If we first prayed in our closets, we would then be able to pray more effectively corporately. What I mean by this is that when we gather together, there are many personal issues about ourselves and others. If we first brought our personal issues to God one-on-one in our homes, we would then pray with more intimacy when we gather with others. This means we will also pray for others with more passion and more faith. We would also be able to pray for more things.

Now should our personal issues have no answers after many days, then it may be brought to God on a corporate level. This will give more strength to that which we are already waiting for!

Many things are to be prayed for and the church coming together corporately helps much to pray for governments, kingdoms and the affairs of the world. Corporate praying should be more corporate - more community. The less self in our corporate praying, the more we shall see into the spirit and more in line will we come into God's Will. This means God's Will for governments, cities and its leaders.

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy **'I exhort you therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all 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.'** 1 Timothy 2 .1-3

More praying never did hinder the kingdom of God and it surely won't now!

**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 of Christ**

– Prayer Watch –



The key is better praying. Better praying stems from better encounters alone with God. 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 of Christ. If you have been touched in the closet, you will be able to touch those in the meeting place. Our corporate praying will make a greater difference in government and with those in authority, if only we prayed passionately in our closets. The way we pray corporately reveals our personal prayer lives. In otherwords the ability to be patient with God in our rooms

allows for us to receive more from Him in our gatherings. For the life that prays according to the will of God in the closet, will be found praying unselfishly when the body meets. The heart that pleases God in the closet will surely please the Lord when it meets with the church 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. 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 include any of this with earth's so called important duties.

Earthly Works and Prayer

'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

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.

– Prayer Watch –



The earthly timetable is work, work and more work. This is the road to success and a better earthly life. This life is lacking a peaceful Heavenly life. The rest that the world offers is to those who have diligently followed this earthly timetable. And by the time we are done with everyday life, there is little or no quality time 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 still lies deep down in every believer the desire to communicate with God. This desire is placed there by the Lord!

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 to pray just as John also taught his disciples.'**

The longer one takes to bring prayer into his works the more serious it may be when disaster strikes. For greater shall be the damage. Prayer is the oil meant for the work. Without Prayer the wheel will not turn. The oil is the oil of God that comes through a prayer-filled life. To use the oil of prayer only when there is trouble or only when one may feel so, does not work nor fulfill God's intended purpose.

Prayer attached to all the work at all times will surely see great result for all the work done!

For prayer not to be consistent in the work is the same as there being no tool for a serious work in the physical earth. If prayer is used wrongly in the work, it is the same as wrong medication to an aching sore. Lukewarm believers often apply inappropriate medication to spiritual matters.

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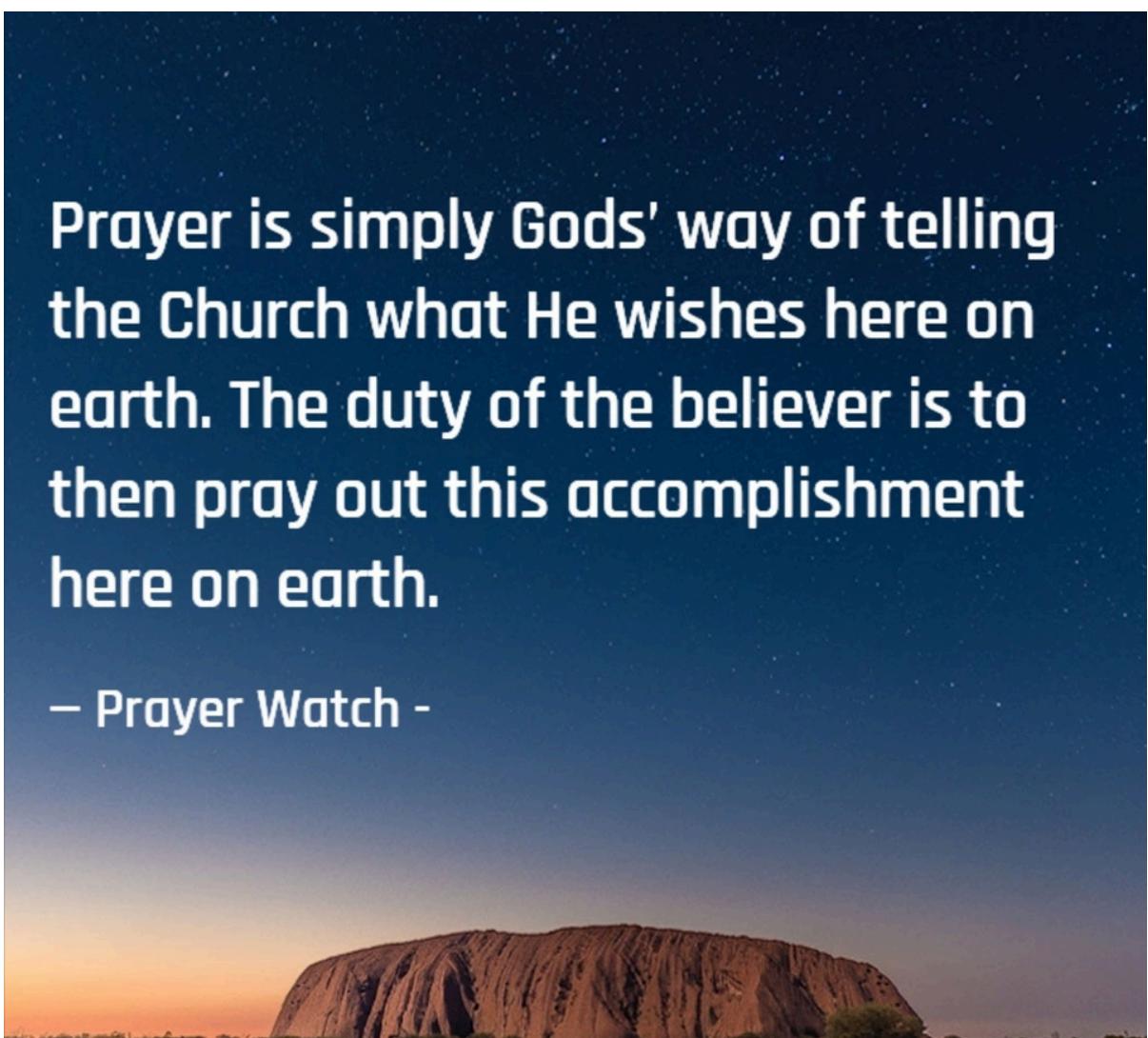
The work must begin and end with God. And so it is that God directs the work through faithful praying. Prayer directs the work here on earth as intended from Heaven. A serious and genuine heart is able to partake of the advice given from Heaven regarding the work. Prayer discerns what is from Heaven and what is not. The prayer filled heart discerns the heart of the God in Heaven. A heart that continually goes to God is familiar in Heaven's corridors. And so shall it be said when all is faithfully done one day '*This heart I have known for we have spoken much, let him in'*

Remember God is mindful of you. God knows all things and all things about all men. Nevertheless to be mindful of God you

must be careful to get His attention. Prayer helps you do that.

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 giving priority to our communication with Almighty God shows our desire that He be first. As we are one of His own we ought to think and behave as such. We **must** love ourselves for He loves us. We **must** love Him for He first loved us!



Prayer is simply God's way of telling the Church what He wishes here on earth. The duty of the believer is to then pray out this accomplishment here on earth.

– Prayer Watch –

Thinking, behaving and knowing we are loved helps us in our approach before His Holy throne. Praying is approaching the throne. Knowing who we are helps us take hold of God in prayer. This ‘*taking hold*’ of God reveals the extent of one’s

desire for Him. 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 much to us through much of our praying, we grow to understand that there is nothing better than what He has for us. Let it be known that this not new to God but new to us instead. For only *now* are we coming to know about it.

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 His people. Our distance from God deprives us from knowing the plans He always had for us.

Prayer is simply God's way of telling the church what He wishes for her here on earth. The duty of the believer is to then pray out this accomplishment whilst on earth. Remember this is God's purpose for the man whilst he remains on earth. Prayer enables and shows us what must be done to accomplish that perfect Will of God for us. Prayer then brings forth the purpose of man because it unites the believers' thoughts with God's. Having the thoughts of God builds on man's relationship with God.

When a believer asks in the Spirit then yes, he is asking by being led in the Spirit to ask what the Spirit of God already knows for him to ask.

– Prayer Watch –



THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit who is God here on earth unites the thoughts of man to God the Father through God the Son. (We teach more on the work of the Holy Spirit in the book '**PRAYER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT**') The union of the believers thoughts with God's is not just any random, wishful, desire that man may just conjure up in his mind. ***Prayer is Gods' thoughts accepted by man through His Spirit and then given back to God by His Spirit.*** And so God will not answer a prayer because man simply has faith and he can ask whatever he wants. '**You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you spend it on your pleasures.**' James 4.3. When reference is made to

asking whatever we may to the Lord, we must be found asking in the Spirit for it is already accomplished in the Spirit of God.
'The man without the Spirit (the Holy Spirit) does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.' **1Corinthians 2.14**

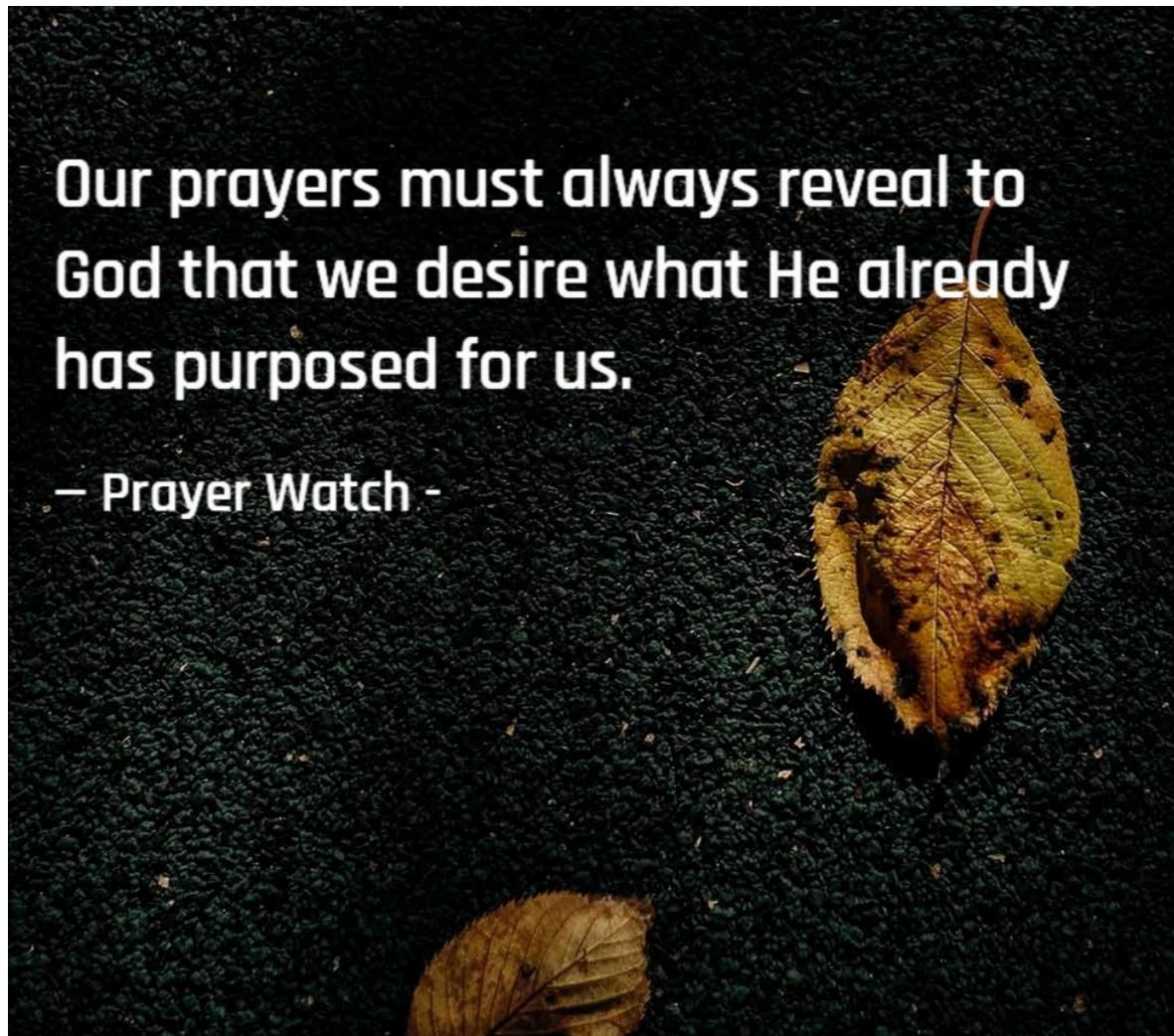
When a believer asks in the Spirit then yes, he is asking by being led in the Spirit to ask what the Spirit of God already knows for him to ask. The Spirit asks God on our behalf what is already in the mind of God to give to his children. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God. God is Spirit and reveals it to us.

'.....but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. '1 Corinthians 2.10

Here in lies an important aspect of praying in tongues. Praying in tongues is the Spirit now praying on our behalf. How simple can that be? Why do we make this so complicated. All believers are **able** to speak in tongues. Please read our book on **'PRAYER AND TONGUES.'**

Our prayers must always reveal to God that we desire what He already has purposed for us.

– Prayer Watch –



KNOWING THE NATURE OF GOD

Remember that God is the El Shaddai, this means He is the Almighty One. He is God who knows all things, for He is the Omniscient All-Knowing God. God is omnipresent – the ever-flowing Presence. The visible and the invisible Creator of all is He. With this in mind prayer ought to have God's desire at all times. He is the all loving God proven in that great display of sending His only begotten Son to earth for our sake, it is Him who knows the best for us. Prayer must therefore express our faith in Him. Our trust and expectations in God is increased by

us reminding ourselves what He has already done through His Son for us. Our prayers must always reveal to God that we desire what He already has purposed for us!

AMEN –‘IT IS SO’

The word ‘**amen**’ is not ‘*let it be*’ because we have just asked according to our own wishes and wants. We very often love quoting scriptures about asking God and that He *will* give it to us. However God only releases from Heaven what earth has requested that it already has! Earth shall know what Heaven has to offer. In earth knowing, she therefore asks best!

‘You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you spend it on your pleasures.’ James 4.3. The word ‘**amen**’ is - ‘*it is so*’ because God has already said so according to His Word. In other words we are to pray what God already has in mind for you and me. This speaks volumes about the need of a true relationship with Him.

THY WILL BE DONE!

The strength of our praying will determine how much of what God desires is really being accomplished here on earth. It is the great will of God that man comes to know His perfect Will. For it is through man that God's Will is accomplished here on earth. And the duty of the believer is to pray out this accomplishment here on earth. ***Prayer is the means designed by God to help us know His perfect Will. Knowing Heaven is about knowing the heart of God. Prayer opens that door for man to see into!*** When we are able to see through prayer, we become more familiar with the ways of God. And so we become more informed about ***managing the affairs*** of a Holy God here on earth. Jesus refused to do anything except that which was in

the Will of His Father. The Lord walked this earth as a man amongst men and in doing so knew that prayer was the key to Him knowing His Fathers' Will on earth.

If Jesus spent spent so many hours in secret prayer, how much more should we be spending with the Father.

– Prayer Watch –



JESUS AND PRAYER

The Will of the Father was the most important thing to Jesus. Though He spent time with the crowds He never gave them priority over His Father. Jesus spent *intimate* time with the

Father. It is here the Lord knew that He would find what the Father desired most. **‘After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came He was there alone.....’ Matthew 14.23.**

‘One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.’ Luke 6.12.

‘Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place , where He prayed’ Mark 1.35.

‘But Jesus would often withdraw to lonely places and pray’ Luke 5.16

‘Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”’ Luke 9.18.

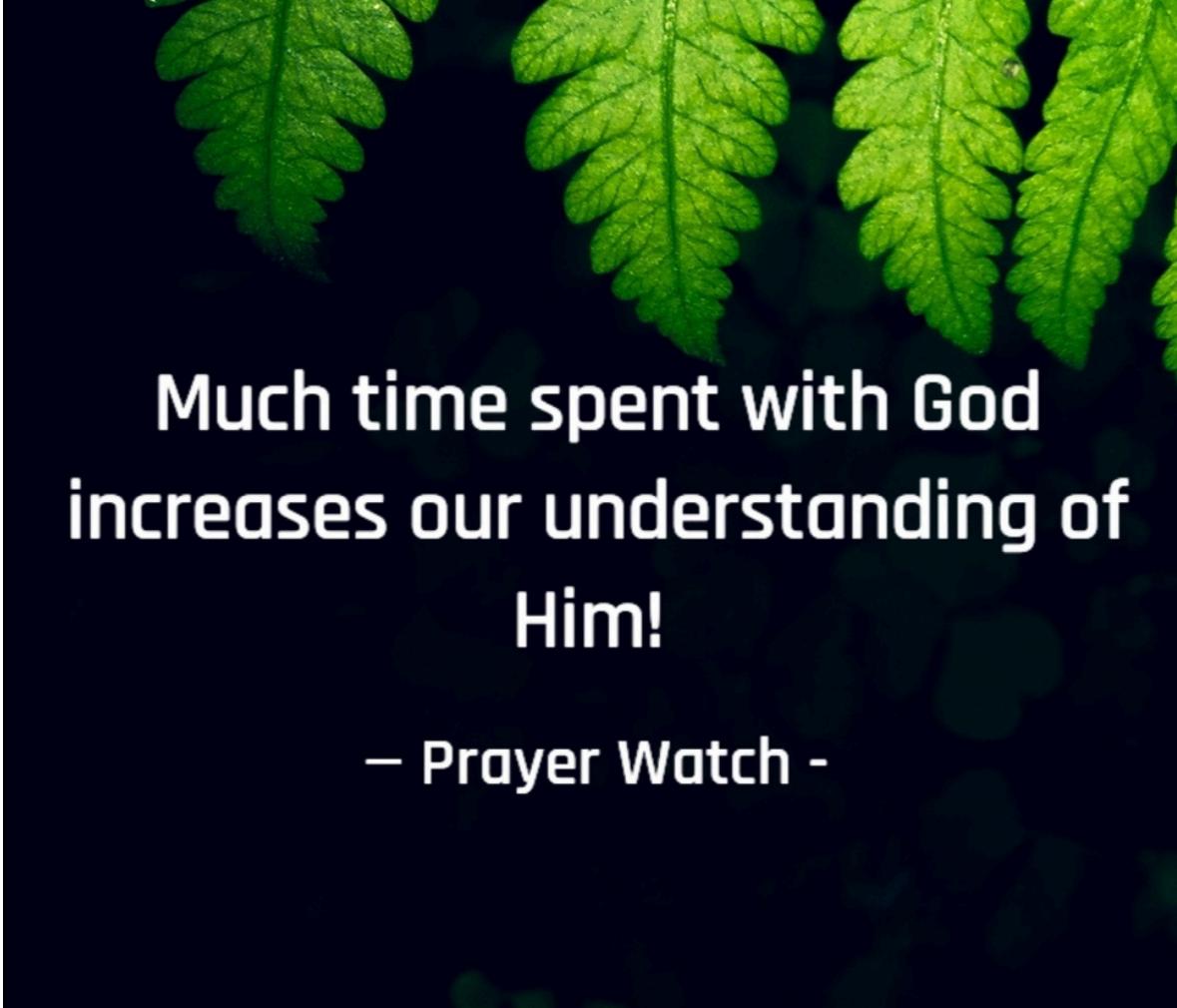
‘Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ Matthew 26.36.

‘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.”’ Luke 11.1

Today the Lord continues with what He did for us here on earth. The Bible teaches us that Jesus continues to intercede for us even now. Jesus is able to continue in office.

‘who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.’ Romans 8:34

It is important that we reiterate the importance of prayer to the church. **Prayer is forever because prayer is forever revelation.**



**Much time spent with God
increases our understanding of
Him!**

– Prayer Watch –

PRAYER IS REVELATION OF GOD

The more we pray the less strange we are of God and His perfect ways. The more we pray the more we remind God of His promises already made to us. The ways of God and that of man are vast in difference. Prayer much prayer lessens that difference. **‘However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.’**¹ **1 Corinthians 2.9-10.**

The knowledge of God regarding the earth is huge compared to

what man knows. Even though it is truly incomparable. Again prayer is the design of the Heavenly Father for us to know the true earth and true Heaven. Man however believes otherwise and concludes many things about earth without God. The result is the pain and suffering many of us experience here today!

When a man comes to know the Will of the Father in Heaven, he comes to understand the ways and manners of how God's affairs are supposed to be managed here on earth. Again prayer is the means by which God reveals this. I have heard many believers say to me over the years that they wish they could be praying more, yet I have also heard many say that they do not pray much and don't need to. How sad!

Prayer is the key to us drawing closer to God. You cannot manage a ministry if you are not a man or woman of prayer. Over the years I have heard ministers gladly proclaim from the pulpit that they do not pray much and are willing to let their partners (wives) to do more of the praying. God has a distinct purpose and plan that is supposed to be revealed to you. If you are not the one praying then I am afraid that plan and purpose shall not be revealed. Leaders are supposed to be the ones praying and interceding for their congregants. God works by revealing the plans He has to the church leaders and prophets alike. This is not to say that God will not reveal to a believer what He has for a corporate gathering. However the leader is there to help minister the plans of God to His people. How they go about doing so is important. The people of God come to hear the speaker. If the speaker has not heard from God then he should not speak! The priority to hear God speak enables the speaker to understand. Much time spent with God increases understanding of Him!

If we as leaders would spend more time alone in God's presence we would then love His people more. For He will not only reveal His heart for them but would also change our hearts about them!

Now here in lies the problem. When we are found sluggish or

lacking in our prayers, there is then little of Heaven accomplished out here on earth. The more the body faints in praying the more earth will be bound to collapse through the pressures of the evil one. Many things have heaped up in Heaven based on this simple truth of people not praying. Whatever God has for earth is already planned and waiting to be released from Heaven. '**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**' This means it is already done. Prayer is the means that 'transfers' that which is spiritual into the physical which is here on earth. God is Spirit and reveals Himself in Spirit. He has given us His Holy Spirit to help us do so. Even if the thoughts of God were written on some wall for us to read it would still bring no understanding. The unbeliever has no understanding because he has no one to help him understand. The believer understands much because he has the indwelling Holy Spirit!

'For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.'

1 Corinthians 2:10-14

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 which is revealed to us by His Spirit in prayer.

The New Testament believer is the one who is drawn to God by

His Spirit. Man first shows the initiative to want to come closer to Him. The Holy Spirit sees this and brings one closer to God. We then find ourselves coming to know the desires of the Lord's heart. This is what the Lord wants, that we know His heart. That which is in the heart of God is only revealed through the Spirit. The prophet and the preacher can only deliver a true message from God if their hearts were intuned with His Spirit in the first place. Therefore the prophet and the preacher must be noted for their continuous entrance into the Presence of the Lord!

So he (Moses) was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.' Exodus 34:28

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PRAYER

