



A BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER.

2023

BY NANA KOJO EYIFAH FOR THE OASIS COLLECTIVE

The most common Greek word translated “prayer” in the Bible is “*Proseuchomai*”. This particular word and its various forms is used 127 times in the New Testament. The word “*Proseuchomai*” is a compound word of the words “pros” and “euchomai”.

The word “*Pros*” is a preposition which means “*towards, face to face.*” This denotes that anytime you pray you come face to face with God. It also denotes a close proximity with God. Hence, anytime we pray we are drawn closer to God.

The second part of the compound word; “*Euchomai*” means “*to lay hold of, to grip tightly, to seize, to hold tightly, to ensure something or someone stays with you.*”

With this background knowledge, can we string together another meaning and understanding of prayer from what we already know?

Prayer is what happens when we are face to face with God, in close proximity with Him and ceasing God in the moment. Think of it this way, in prayer you cease God by girdle, hold on Him tight, so that you’re face to face with Him, and then you enter the situation with Him. In prayer you cease to be just a representative of yourself. In prayer, your identity is inter-mingled with that of God. Situations must answer to you!

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Pivot Scripture: Ephesians 6:18

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” Ephesians 6:18 KJV

Without a doubt, prayer is one of the most incredible gifts we've been given by God. Direct access to commune and communicate with our creator. Yet for many people, prayer can seem complicated and confronting, not knowing where to start. And this is what the devil does, complicating the very simple things right before us that we tend to give up on it.

God's desire is to be in a close and intimate relationship with each of us, a relationship that isn't over shadowed by fear or uncertainty, but that is marked by perfect love and grace. Jesus knew that this is an area that can be confusing, and even at times modelled incorrectly, so sought to demonstrate and deconstruct what it truly means to pray. The disciples had to ask Jesus to teach them to pray because they had seen was a realm of prayer Jesus operated in that produced results.

Jesus didn't just pray prayers, he lived a life of prayer, he was constantly drawing on his connection to the Father for wisdom and guidance in every step He took and decision He made.

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Let's walk through how to simply pray. Don't complicate it. Prayer is too powerful a tool for us believers for it to be complicated. How can i pray without getting distracted by my thoughts, etc.?

-Start with praise and worship to God, recognising Him as our Father and we as His children, beginning in this way allows us to then approach God with a purified perspective. From this point we then pray for His plan, His provision and His protection (*Psalms 100:4*).

-Use a music playlist. Music has a way of setting the tone for prayer. You and I can attest to the fact that there are songs that do nothing but just cause you to pray when they come on. Find those songs for yourself, and curate that playlist. If you will be easily distracted by songs that have a lot of things going on in it, you can go in for instrumental covers that don't have a lot of activity going on. At least, it helps you to not be distracted. (*Ephesians 5:19*)

-Pray with scriptures. There is tremendous power in prayer the scripture, that which was written by the inspiration of spirit of God. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

-Prayer Journaling. Write out a list of things you want to pray about. This way, you can stay focused on what you want to pray about. Prayer become more intentional with our thanksgiving. of prayer.

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Answered prayers are easily referable and there, you can see the goodness and faithfulness of God. (*Psalms 103:2, Numbers 33:2, Jeremiah 30:2*)

-Ask God for help to stay focused through the whole process of prayer. It will interest you to know that on our own, we will never be able to pray. It is the spirit of God that enables us to pray. Why not depend and lean totally on Him in your closet of prayer? (*Romans 8:26-27*)

Prayer is a transformational tool. More than petitions, more than receiving things from God, the real assignment of prayer is a system that sponsors your transformation and growth (*Luke 9:29*)

When you pray you evolve into superior dimensions of yourself. Even Jesus started His ministry with prayer. He had to outsource that dimension of power. An attack on your prayer life is an attack on the platform for your transformation. If you want to grow, you want to transform, submit yourself to the ministry of prayer.

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When the primary sponsor of your prayer is your needs, you will stop praying when your needs are met. When the primary sponsor of your prayer is your genuine desire to be transformed from glory to glory, to heights and depths where you look more like God, then you will not have need to be lax about your prayer life. You will stretch prayer to it's limit. Your knees hit the floor as your desperation bangs on Heaven's door till the owner reveals Himself!

Prayer is important, but accurate prayer is more important. May we receive the grace to pray the mind and heart of God always!

FAQs about prayer:

1. As a believer, how long am I supposed to pray?

Is there a stipulated time for me to pray?

2. Is prayer made up of only words? (1 Samuel 1:10, 1 Samuel 1:13)

3. How can one pray without ceasing since there is so much to do daily? (Ephesians 6:18)

4. What does it mean to pray in the spirit?

5. How can one make sure that prayer times don't turn into a religious activity (Hebrews 11:6)

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