

HOW TO DEVELOP A STRONG PRAYER LIFE.

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Part 3

III. DEVELOPING PRAYER LISTS

A. When developing a prayer list, it is helpful to think of our three main prayer focuses.

1. Intimacy: Focuses on giving my love and devotion to God.

- This type of prayer includes worship, meditation on the Word (pray-reading it), and fellowshipping with the Spirit.

2. Petition: Asks for God's blessing on my personal life and ministry.

- We pray for a breakthrough in our inner man (heart), circumstances (physical, financial, relational), and ministry, that God's power would be released through our hands, words, and deeds.

3. Intercession: Asks for God's power or justice for others (people, places, strategic issues).

a) Prayer for people and places: Individuals in ministries, marketplace, and government, and for the destiny of ministries, cities, or nations (YWAM, Jerusalem, Egypt, etc.)

b) Prayer for strategic issues in society: Government (elections, abortion), oppression (human trafficking, abortion), natural disasters (hurricanes, droughts), diseases, etc.

- When developing a prayer list, it is helpful to understand that there are three main prayer themes.
- We ask for ***the gifts, fruit, and wisdom of the Spirit*** to be released in each prayer focus

1. **Gifts** of the Spirit: ***God's power*** and ***favor*** being released

2. **Fruit** of the Spirit: ***God's character*** formed in us or others

3. **Wisdom** of the Spirit: ***God's mind*** or the ***spirit of revelation*** imparted.

C. You can use several prayer lists. Obtain these free prayer lists:

Ten Prayers to Strengthen Our InnerMan: *I will Be handing these out later.*

- F-E-L-L-O-W-S-H-I-P; *Fellowshipping with the Spirit.*
- T-R-U-S-T. *What to Do in Our Personal Prayer Times and How to Meditate on the Word.*

IV. RIGHT VIEW OF GOD: TENDER FATHER AND PASSIONATE BRIDEGROOM

A. Foundational to our life of prayer is cultivating a right view of God.

- Many have a **wrong** view of God that sees Him as an angry taskmaster forcing us to endure conversation (prayer) with Him to prove our devotion to Him.
- As we perceive God as our tender Father and Jesus as our passionate Bridegroom King, we will be energized in our spirit to confidently **seek Him** with all our heart.

B. Encountering the father heart of God is foundational to growing in prayer.

- Jesus prayed for us that we might know that the Father loves us as He loves Jesus, thus giving us **great worth**.

(Jn. 17:23) 23That the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me.

C. We can have the assurance that we are enjoyed by God the Father, even in our weakness (Ps. 18:19, 35; 130:3-4).

- We pray very differently when our spirit is **confident** before God with the assurance that He enjoys us.
- The Father is filled with **tender mercy**. He is **gentle** with our weakness after we **repent**. We have "received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'"
- In Hebrew, *abba* is a term of endearment, much like **papa** in our culture.

(Rom. 8:15) 15You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

D. Understanding Jesus as our Bridegroom and ourselves as His cherished Bride equips us to have a vibrant prayer life. Jesus has burning desire for His people.

- The Bridegroom message is about Jesus' **emotions** for us, His **beauty**, His **commitments** to us (to share His heart, home, throne, secrets, and beauty), and our **response** of wholehearted love and obedience that **moves** Him.
- The Spirit uses the message of the Bridegroom God to restore the **first commandment** to first place in the Church.
- We must refuse all sensual overtones in proclaiming Jesus as our Bridegroom God.

(Jesus is not to be seen as our lover or boyfriend). (Isa. 54:4-12; 62:2-5; Jer. 2:2; 3:14; 31:32; Ezek. 16:13-15, 32; 23:1-45; Hos. 1:2; 2:7, 14-23; 3:1-5; Mt. 9:15; 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Jn. 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:9; 22:17)

E. As sons of God, we are in the position to experience God's throne as heirs of His power (Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:17).

- As the Bride, we are in the position to experience **God's heart** (affections).