

Prevailing Prayer

July 31, 2024

In this season, it is imperative that every believer develop a relationship with God which not only reflects traditions, coming to church, serving or even just being a good person, but consistently speaking and communicating with God using our mouths! It's coming a time where those who depend solely on church leaders, bishops, pastors, prophets, intercessors will now need to be able to approach the throne of God as individuals and trust that His mercy and grace is available without a mediator.

Matthew 27:45 *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? 47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. 48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. 49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. 50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.* Notice, the first miracle that happened among many to follow once he died was the veil being rent! It wasn't the earthquakes, or the graves opening, but true uninhibited access was all God ever wanted. **Ephesians 2:18-19** *For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;* To prepare, it is essential that every member of the Body of Christ understands the power of prevailing prayer, which is our fundamental basic training to carry us higher as we matriculate in the faith.

James 5:16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* This popular scripture packs a lot of power when it comes to being victorious in your prayer life. The Greek word for avail is *ischuo*. It means to be strong and prevail! We must realize, we have an omnipotent (all powerful) father who wants us to speak to Him, but also a real adversary, the devil who wants to oppose us. However, to prevail means to prove more powerful than opposing forces or to be victorious, or to use persuasion successfully, or to persist. If you don't realize it by now, when we pray to God, we are engaging in spiritual warfare. As we are requesting and believing for things to happen on the earth, Satan and his demons will do everything that can to oppose. Mercifully, the scripture tells us in **2 Corinthians 2:14** *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.* We have victory in

the name of Jesus, and promises that healing, deliverance and uncommon miracles will happen when we pray!

To prevail in prayer, we must dissect three principles that will help us engage in a healthy relationship with God, but also achieve results beyond our expectations. The first element is praise!

Praise

Psalms 100:4-5 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, And into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations.

You must realize that prayer opens gates. Most of us understand that prayer will break chains, loose shackles, but now we must realize that our persistent prayer will unlock gates and doors that were intended to be shut! ***Acts 12:5-11*** Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. 8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals;" and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." 9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

These large gates were not only made of iron, but were guarded heavily to keep in those who would never get out, and to keep out what never should get in. It was the prayers of the church that opened the gates due to their constant and persistent prayers. When we come into the presence of the Lord, we enter into His gates by the keys of thanksgiving and into His courts which we were once excluded from. We must realize if our praise is communication with God, it is also a form of prayer. Start off prayer will simply telling God thank you and adoring Him. Although you believe Him to move some mountains, don't forget to thank Him for the mountains He already brought you over.

HALAL: To jump, dance, to be loud and clamorous (Scriptural reference – Psalm 150:2)

YADAH: To throw your hands up and forward while making a confession about God (Scriptural reference – Isaiah 25:1)

TOWDAH: To lift your hands in thanksgiving (Scriptural reference – Psalm 107:22)

SHABACH: A loud, joyous shout of testimony (Scriptural reference – Psalm 145:4)

ZAMAR: To worship the Lord while playing an instrument (Scriptural reference – Psalm 98:4)

BARAK: To kneel in reverence and submission (Scriptural reference – Psalm 66:20)

TEHILLAH: To sing a spontaneous, unrehearsed song of the Lord, from your spirit (Scriptural reference – Psalm 22:3)

It's important that individually and collectively we shift our mindsets on how we view praise as women and men! Don't forget what happened when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God when they were in prison!!! **Acts 26 16:** *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every ones bands were loosed.* There are financial, legal and professional gates that I believe will swing open when the saints **begin to use their mouths to glorify God. Begin to affirm and decree in prayer where you believe God will take you and watch access be afforded to you!**

Confession/Repentance

James 5:14 *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

When we approach the throne of God, there must a time of repentance and confession. Never assume that you are perfect, but always ask God to cover intentional and unintentional sins. Sin is literally missing the mark, which could mean something simple to you could be major to God! If you aren't humble, you will always consider yourself worthy by your own righteousness, but we must realize it's because of His blood we are made holy. Don't clean yourself up for the image of what people think of you but come before God with dirty hands. **Psalms 24:3-5 3** *Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

Persistence

James 5:17-18 *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.*

Genesis 32:24-32 *Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh. Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.*

When we prevail, we don't only win against the enemy, we win with God. Don't stop praying until you get your breakthrough!!! It may take days, months or years, but don't stop asking, seeking and knocking. Remember the widow woman in Luke 18:3. She received justice when she kept coming to the judge! Some of us quit too soon, but it's time to press in! When you pray, listen for God's still small voice, however, there are times He may not speak, but what He promised is peace! **Philippians 4:6** *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* Sometimes you may feel that He is quiet, but sometimes the greatest breakthrough you will achieve during the process of waiting on the miracle is the peace during your time with God. Don't stop praying until He blesses you and expect His perfect peace to keep you until you are overtaken by what you have expected!

Prayer Targets!

After you go in your secret closet and shut the doors of distraction, there are things that may weigh heavily on your mind and spirit. Those things could have been invading your thoughts the day before or during the night, but it's important to address these things in prayer. **Mark 1:35-39**, *Jesus got up very early in the morning, while it was still dark, and went off to a solitary place to pray. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"* Get away from the noise and distraction, turn your phones on airplane mode and seek God individually as Jesus did.

These are subjects we need to cover this week in prayer as a church so let's believe God for results! Pray the scriptures attached to each targeted subject and let's watch God honor His Word in prayer.

Family – Restoration of relationships, marriages, babies to be born, future marriages and families, healing of our loved ones, deliverance for those bound by habits, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Ephesians 5:31-33 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Psalms 127:3-5 Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. 4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. 5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Church – Revival, unity, love for God and people, lost souls and backsliders coming to God, break ground and build the temple, freedom from debt, ownership of neighborhoods, schools, daycares, elder care facilities, healthcare facilities, healing for the sick, future centers, halfway houses, and Shoes4School

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Nation – wars, rumors of wars, local and national leaders, President Biden and VP Harris, famine, perversion, repentance, peace in Israel

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Psalms 127:1 A Song of degrees for Solomon. Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Psalms 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.*

No matter what we face as a nation, God has given His church promises and will continue to cover us in His blood! Start praying, keep praying, and never forget to believe that what you asked for will surely come to pass!

Meditation scripture for the week: Obadiah 15-21 *For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. 16For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been 17But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. 18And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it. 19And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. 20And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south. 21And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.*