

HIGHER FORMS OF Prayer



THE HIGHER FORMS OF PRAYER

Welcome

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.

Now let's get started.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- i. Define prayer and its significance in your life.
- ii. Explore and understand the different types of prayer.
- iii. Discover the higher forms of prayer and what makes them so important

UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

Prayer is a privilege. It is a right given to us to approach the Father in faith and through His word by the Holy Ghost. It is a spiritual exercise based on man's communion or fellowship with God. The opportunity given to us to pray is something the Father always wants us to seize, He always wants us to take advantage of the privilege of prayer. In Luke 18:1, when Jesus said men ought always to pray and not to give up, He was looking at the connection that we should have with the Father through constant communication that builds faith.

Man is a spirit and his needs are essentially spiritual, which is why He always craves that spiritual contact with God who is described in Hebrews 12:9 as the 'Father of Spirits'. Our spirituality depends so much on our communication with the Lord; when we take time off everything else and give Him our attention. It's a blessing to know that we can communicate directly with the Lord and have His full attention (1 Peter 3:12), also that He actually delights in our prayers (Proverbs 15:8). Our Lord Jesus always took prayer very seriously while He was on the earth, even though He was the express manifestation of divinity in humanity (Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12). Every Christian ought to have the same attitude towards prayer and a minister should always be at the forefront of prayer in the congregation.

Some of the important reasons for a minister to pray include the following:

- Prayer is a veritable tool in enforcing the will of the Father here on earth. You ought to be militant in prayer; travailing in the spirit to determine how things run here on earth. (1 Timothy 2:1, Jeremiah 1:10, Isaiah 41:15). Prayer empowers you to root out and pull down things that are not of God in your catchment.
- It is in the place of prayer that you learn to capture your city or nation. This is possible because the Lord can carry your words far beyond your vocal range. If things aren't called into being in the spirit realm, they won't manifest outwardly; this is an important element of faith. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- Prayer provides the avenue for your spirit to be conditioned or seasoned such that your relationship with the Lord is more real and synchronized. (Luke 9:28-31)
- Prayer helps you 'see'. In your ministry work, you ought to have a spiritual soulwinning strategy but if you haven't seen it, you can't call it into being. The seeing is in the place of prayer. (John 8:38, John 16:13-15)

THE IMMENSE BENEFITS OF PRAYER

As a minister of God, understand that prayer is one of your most important responsibilities. With the demands of ministry and other aspects of your own personal life, allotting enough time to prayer will ensure you constantly increase capacity which empowers you to accomplish much more. Let's look in detail below at some of the immense benefits of prayer to you as a minister

I. Vision



Vision is very important in life. It refers to the act or power of seeing physically, mentally, or spiritually. Having a vision gives you the necessary passion, emotion, motivation, direction, and purpose to steer you in the right direction of the fulfillment

of your goals and objectives.

In the place of prayer, the Lord gives a lot of necessary guidance and some of these come in the form of visions that only He can show you. It is the only way you can truly lead spiritually as a minister of the gospel because it propels you to the future. It causes you to take actions, the right actions, to fulfill the Lord's mandate to you with convictions that enable you to endure. A vivid example of this conviction can be seen in the Apostle Paul's speech to King Agrippa. The Lord had given him a clear vision which he was determined to fulfil "*Wherupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:*" (Acts 26:19)

II. Inspiration

The tendency of fire is to burn out and the same goes for Inspiration. Except when it is fuelled consistently, circumstances and situations can cause it to wane. Prayer helps you maintain your inspiration to run your race well and fulfill your ministry. In spite of your assignment from the Lord and your knowledge of His Word, if you are not submitted to a lifestyle of prayer, the tendency is for you to lose spiritual fervor. Prayer helps you maintain the glow of the Spirit. "*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord...*" (Romans 12:11).



III. Resources



To carry out ministry effectively, you would undoubtedly need different resources in varying degrees. These could be natural, human, or capital but are required to carry out the things the Lord has asked you to do

Speaking in tongues will cause all the resources to be released to you. When you give yourself to praying in the spirit long enough with the consciousness that the Lord is your Shepherd, HE will open your eyes to see His provision for you and help you apprehend your abundant supply of all resources. *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"* (Psalms 23:1).

IV. Direction

This is also an important blessing of prayer. In the place of prayer, you receive direction from the Holy Spirit. If you are ever unsure of what next steps to take in your life and ministry or even pertaining to your when you spend quality time praying, especially in the Spirit, the Lord will direct you to know the exact steps you should take. When we pray in tongues, it's an opportune moment for us to receive the divine guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit for our lives. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come"* (John 16:13). You will never be confused or at loss as to what to do. The Psalmist prayed *"Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."* (Psalms 86:11)



DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER

Kindly be informed that we have a course under this Prayer Studies Program where we have an exposé on the different types of prayer.

You may avail yourself of this resource to enhance your knowledge in this capacity.

We will however list the different types of prayer revealed to us in scripture before we proceed.

- I. The Prayer of Faith (Mark 11:23-24)
- II. The Prayer of Petition (Isaiah 43:26)
- III. The Prayer of Intercession (James 5:17)
- IV. The Prayer of Agreement (Matthew 18:19)
- V. Praying with the Spirit (Mark 16:15)

HIGHER FORMS OF PRAYER

As important and effective as the earlier mentioned types of prayers are, there are higher forms of prayer. This does not imply that the other types of prayer are not important, but that as a minister of the gospel, these higher forms of prayer should be top of your list in communicating with the Lord. Additionally, you are unlikely to pray amiss when you pray these higher forms of prayer because they are void of any kind of personal or selfish desires.

Let's consider the two important higher forms of prayer as we proceed.

I. Prophetic Prayer

Prophecy is beyond just telling ahead what will happen in the future concerning someone, a place, or a situation. Prophecy has a two-fold application, which is foretelling and forth-telling. Foretelling is declaring ahead of time the will of God about a person, a place, a situation, or an event while forth-telling is speaking forth the will of God concerning a



person, a place, situation, or an event. However, the latter is more relevant to our discourse because it serves as a basis for prophetic prayer. In Prophetic prayer, you are inspired by God's Word which you speak forth. In other words,

you tell out or tell forward what is in the mind of God, while in the place of prayer. It is the declaration of events in the mind of God or the declaration of a particular Word from God concerning an individual, people, place, or event for a particular time. While you are worshiping the Lord in Spirit and in truth in the place of prayer, the Holy Spirit can inspire you to speak forth His Word with power and authority

Benefits of Prophetic Prayer

- You can change adverse situations through prophetic prayer**

Prophetic prayer is a powerful tool of the Spirit to change adverse situations. Jonah's prayer in the fish's belly is a perfect example of this. In spite of the situation he was in, Jonah prayed thus:

"Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple...I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God." (Jonah 2:6).



Observe that when Jonah was still in the belly of the fish, he prayed like this. Instead of considering his current situation, Jonah was speaking into the future and even speaking as though he was out of that situation. That is exactly how you ought to pray if you have found yourself or your ministry in any adverse situation.

For example, maybe your church attendance has been reducing or the finances you require to carry out certain things for ministry seem not to be available – things may look bleak, and appears the ministry may not come out of this situation. Do not be dismayed; it's time to pray prophetically. See that your ministry is making progress and all that you need is available; declare *"greater is he that is in me, than he that is in the world. My path is like a shining light that shines more and more"*.

Ezekiel's prophecy is another example. He found himself in the valley full of dry bones and the Lord asked him if the bones could live. Of course, the seeming hopelessness of the situation made him push the question back to the Lord. However, the Lord began to teach Ezekiel how to change hopeless situations through this vision in Ezekiel 37:1-10. What the Lord told him to do was to prophesy. That was God's solution to the problem. The Lord did not change the situation by Himself but He gave Ezekiel the words of prophecy to cause the necessary changes.



This is exactly what you ought to do about the situation of your city or community. Take God's Word in prayer and prophesy with authority – speak them forth and the situation will have no choice but to conform to what you have said.

One very significant element of a prophetic prayer is that you are praying the Word of God to address situations. You put to work the gift of prophecy by which you speak forth the mind of the Father. You speak the will of God into being by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and it becomes.

- **You can make war with prophecy**

The Apostle Paul as he was ready to round off his ministry, gave a very important instruction to the young minister Timothy concerning prophecy *"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare"* (1 Timothy 1:18).

As a minister of the gospel, what prophecies have gone ahead of you? For example, the Lord may have caused a word of prophecy to come to you in time past about the great impact you are going to have in your

community or nation. Prophecies might have come to you about the massive growth and expansion of your ministry, but it appears you are experiencing the direct opposite of those prophecies. Understand that you have a responsibility in making them come to pass. If you do nothing about prophecies concerning you, they may never come to pass even though in heaven, the word is settled.

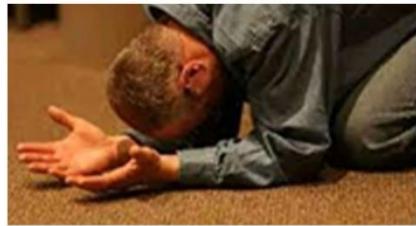
Make war with prophecies; take them up in the place of prayer declare them again as you pray in the spirit. Release those words into the spirit realm and there will be a response – angels will swing into action while the demons hindering their actualization will have to give way. In warring with prophecy, your spirit, your mouth, and your mind are very key. Your spirit is energized as you pray in other tongues, your mouth speaks forth the words of prophecy and your mind creates the pictures of what you want. If you find that you are saying something in line with what God has said, but your mind is occupied with the wrong or opposite pictures, you need to consciously replace such wrong pictures with the right ones, and then prophesy them into being.



At this point, we will proceed to the second higher form of prayer in our discourse, which is the prayer of worship.

II. The Prayer of Worship

Worship is recognition, dedication, and consecration to a deity. It can also be defined as submission to God in devotion. The highest call of the believer is the call to fellowship with God, and along with this great call comes the priestly ministry. *"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"* (Revelation 1:6)



Worship is a vital part of the priestly ministry of a Christian. It held a prominent role in the Old Testament and still does today. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers

shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23)

The Prayer of worship brings us into a kind of fellowship with the Lord which is unattainable except through worship. It is often expressed in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. When we



worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth, there is a union and drinking together of spirits. It is called the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is not just in our singing or in the words of prayer, but in the communication and transportation that takes place in the realm of the spirit. Worship transports you to lofty divine realms. This is why you feel enraptured as you worship sometimes; it is as though you are taken away from the earth realm into the warmth of God's Spirit.

King David looked into the future by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and saw a new ministry where the priests no longer needed to burn incense every morning and offer lambs every evening. The prayers of God's people and the lifting up of their hands would be even more pleasing to God. *"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs."* (Psalm 69:30-31).

In David's day, the priest and the people had to offer sacrifices of bulls and goats, but David knew by revelation that there was something more. So he

wrote in the above psalm that worshipping, praising, and giving God thanks please Him more than the sacrifices of bulls and goats. The same revelation was shared by another Old Testament prophet, albeit in different words. "O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips." (Hosea 14:1-2).

In the prayer of worship, you are saying specific things to the Lord in thanksgiving extolling His name, and these actually go up to God as incense (see Revelation 8:3).

You see, as Christians, God hears and answers us when we pray, but how to make His power that is released in our behalf work for us is through praise. Throughout the scriptures, there are amazing and inspiring accounts of how God delivered His people from certain destruction when they activated His power through praise.

A vivid example is in 2 Chronicles 20:14-22 where Judah was faced with three strong nations: Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir but the Lord gave them a truly supernatural strategy – praise. As the singers went ahead of the army singing and praising God, the Lord confused the enemy, and they drew their swords on each other, fought, and killed one another. By the time



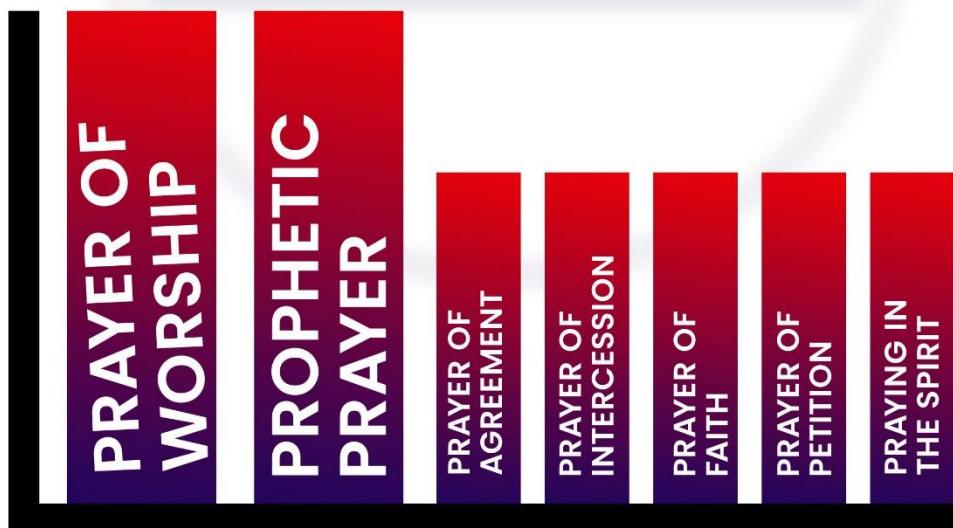
Israel's army got to their enemies' camp, they were all dead. They didn't have to lift a finger in battle, much less shed a drop of blood to defeat this mighty army that came out to destroy them.

As you read this, whatever adverse or negative situation you may be faced with in your personal life and ministry, you can deploy the prayer of worship as a strategy and expect to have a miracle.

More importantly, you do not have to always wait for trouble to strike before you praise and give thanks to God. Let it be your lifestyle and practice leading your congregation to do the same. We were not instructed to praise God only when we are in trouble or to thank Him when things are very good; praising God and thanking Him ought to be our lifestyle. *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."* (Hebrews 13:15). When you understand the prayer of worship as the highest form of prayer, you will prioritize it in your life and your ministry.

CALL TO ACTION

As a minister of the gospel always prioritize the higher forms of prayer we have discussed in this course and you will always be in sync with God's plans and purposes.



CONCLUSION

We invite you to be a part of our specially organized prayer and praise programs with our man of God, Pastor Chris, where we engage these higher levels of prayer to keep our world in alignment with the will and purpose of the Lord in these last days. These include the Global Day of Prayer with Pastor Chris; a quarterly 24hr prayer and fasting program hosted by our man of God, Pastor Chris, with an unbroken chain of prayer sessions led by senior ministers of the gospel from all around the world. We also have our Heavenly Praise Night Services with Pastor Chris, where millions are connected globally to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth in accordance with the scriptures.

For more information on the above mentioned programs and also to acquaint yourself with our other projects and products, kindly visit our website at www.chistembassy-ism.org