



**PRAYER PRINCIPLES
THAT
WORKS**

ANI C. DAVID

Prayer Principles that works

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All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible except otherwise stated

Dedication:

I dedicated this book which is my first book to the Almighty God for his grace and love upon my life, for giving me the strength, courage and wisdom to write this book, I also dedicate it to late Chief and Mrs. Fidelis Ani for bringing me up in the way of the Lord, and to all the minster of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to all true believers all over the world

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CONTENTS	page
INTRODUCTION	5
Chapter One	
What is prayer	7
Chapter Two	
Why must I prayer	10
Chapter Three	
The importance of prayer	14
Chapter Four	
Some things that hinders prayers	18
Chapter Five	
Principles of Prayer	22
Chapter Six	
Fasting	28
Chapter Seven	
Giving Grace	31

INTRODUCTION

Many a time I have heard some preachers say that prayer does not have principles, they say you can do it any how, well the disciples of Jesus had a good knowledge about prayer because of their religious background as Jews, but they came to understand that there is something different in the way they or the scribes and Pharisee prays and the way Jesus prays because the prayers of Jesus works and they said unto him “Master teach us how to pray” they knew that there is something about prayer which they knew not, they understood that prayer has principles for it to work

Life is a mystery to many people even in this modern time, the everyday struggles alongside with the many surprises and uncertainty has made it more complicating to many people, some people see life as a war front, some see life as a game, some see life as a journey of pain and struggles, and as a matter of fact we all see life from different point of view, this is the reason for our different opinion and philosophy of life.

One thing every person have in common is that their opinion of life carries an idea that life is like a challenge either as a game or a battle which means that to many people life moves within the parameter of win or loose, success or failure, victor or victim, and the sad part of the story is that we are often weigh down by the troubles of life, and one question which is always in the mind of most people is “which way forward” or we can say “how can I put an end to all this endless struggles of life” because one thing I know is that we all go through tough times, a man in the Bible called Job said that the days of man are few and filled with troubles.

God did not promise us a fish without bone neither did He promise

us a life without struggle, but He gave us teeth to handle the bone in the fish, so also He gave us some privilege to enable us handle the struggles of life, one theologian said “do not allow the troubles of life weigh you down because not even saints can avoid it” God knew what man is going to face that is why He gave us a privilege to talk to him in prayers, which I believe that it is one of the greatest privilege given to man.

I thank God Almighty for giving me the grace to write this book “Prayer Principles That Works” which is my first book, after been through some rough weather and hard times, God has laid it in my heart to teach others what he has taught through those life changing experience, I have taught and preached on this subject many times and it has been a blessing to me and my audience or students, and by the special grace of God I want to reach more people with this powerful and transforming teaching, which I know may be an insight or a reminder of some deep truth about the life of a Christian.

This book is a manual for all those who want to overcome in this life and live a victorious life, though it may not answer all your questions about prayer but I know that it will go a long way to equip you with one major principle which our Lord and Savior Jesus use to obtain victory during his days on earth, and I believe that as you read this book the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of your understanding into the marvelous truth of been a true Child of God.

Please do not leave any page unturned as they all contain powerful information that will change your life, family and career, I speak to you under the prophetic grace that you will come out victoriously in any and every ugly situation that you might be facing now! in Jesus name
Ani David

Chapter One

WHAT IS PRAYER

A little old woman that lived in a poor neighborhood would wake up every morning and pray on the top of her voice, she would say “Ho God of heaven and earth, the creator of the whole universe, Father God I pray that you provide me with a bag of flour so I can bake some delicious cakes, father I thank you for I know that you have provided it for me, I receive it now by faith in Jesus name amen” thus she would pray day and night, she had a neighbor who does not believe in God and this neighbor would always say to her “ woman please stop disturbing the peace of others with your prayer if God exist why has he not answered your prayer” but the old woman would not listen instead she prayed more.

The old woman continued in her prayers even when she had an opposition, after a while her unbelieving neighbor said to himself “I will prove to this woman that God does not exist, so he went and bought the bag of flour and placed it at the door of the woman, the next morning after the old woman had finished her morning prayers she opened the door and found a bag of flour at her door step just the very type she praying for, she fell on her knees with thanksgiving unto God, Immediately her neighbor came out laughing and he said “it was I who placed it there not God, to show you that God does not exist” then the old woman lifted up her hands and said “Thank you my heavenly Father for providing and using the devil to pay for it”

Mountains move and season change when we pray but not many Christians can testify of this truth because not many of them has really experience the power in prayer, just like the unbelieving neighbor of

that poor old woman many still say if God exist why do we prayer and most time never get answers to our prayer, The Bible is true our God answers prayer (see Psalm 3:4) One of the major reason why we do get answers to our prayers is that there are some things about which we do not understand, if we have a good understanding of the act of praying then we can properly operate in it and get our expected result remember in all your getting get understanding (Proverbs 4:7)

Prayer means many things to many people on earth most especially people who are religiously inclined, many people have different opinion about the meaning of prayer, the importance and the methodology, a true and clear understanding of prayer is very important in developing an effective prayer life.

In the Bible many words are use to describe the act of praying and most of the these words carries different meaning but the same concept, an example of such word is an Hebrew word “tephillah” which means an intercession, the word intercession is derived from the word Interceding which means to standing in for someone else, it can also mean to mediate as a mediator, another Hebrew word interpreted as prayer or praying is “palal” which means to make a supplication or to ask for favor and that is what prayer means.

There are other words in the Greek language used in the new testament of the Holy Bible to describe prayer or praying and one of such word is “Euchomai” which means to make a wish, this word carries almost the same meaning like the Hebrew word “palal” and another Greek word for prayer is “Proseuche” which literally means to worship, in the new testament of the Bible prayer went from a “ritual” into a “rite” this implies that prayer is more than just interceding or making an appeal it is an act of worship unto God, when this concept is

printed in the heart of a true believer the act of praying would be done with deep reverence unto God and in such atmosphere miracles are inevitable.

Many people also define prayer as an act of talking to God which is just one part of the truth, rather we can say that prayer is an act of communicating with God, the word communication means exchange of information, which means that prayer is an opportunity to talk to God and allowing God to speak back to us, when this is done then the act of praying is complete, the word communication is also taken from the word communion which means the coming together of two or more persons for a common interest, it can also mean fellowship, so we can say prayer is fellowshiping with God.

In summary we can say that prayer is an act of communicating with God in the sense of worship based on sincere love and reverence for God, when we understand and keep this concept of prayer in our heart, our mode of praying will change and we will develop an effective prayer life, this means we will not have to struggle to get answers to our prayers, we should know that prayer is sacred and not a “ritual” I mean it is not something we do to please God, but something we do because of its necessity, our Lord Jesus knew this and that is why he spent more time praying more than anything else, our intimacy with God is the key to prayer answer.

Chapter Two

WHY WE MUST PRAY

Many times I have heard many people say if God knows everything even those things we have in our heart why then do I need to pray? Why should I tell God what he already knows? Though some other people might not have said something like this but it is shown in our action as we find one reason or another not to pray, it is one of the devil's trick to keep us from praying because it comes like a suggestion from the devil and we take it as an excuse for not praying.

In this chapter I share with you some reason why it is necessary that we pray, some reason why we should not allow the devil to destroy our prayer life, in the next chapter I will talk further on the importance of prayer, but in this chapter my focus is to give us an answer to the question why we must pray, some of the reasons I will be sharing with you might be a revelation to some people and to other it might be a reminder or a confirmation to others but one thing is sure it will strengthen your prayer life in Jesus name.

1) Master key

One of the many reason why we should pray is because prayer is the master key, it indicates that prayer can open every door, when Jesus was on earth he spends most of his time praying even though he was God in flesh which means He has power to do everything yet he prays, He was laying down a principle for us to follow and that is prayer is the master key.

The disciples of Jesus did not ask him to teach them how to perform miracles, heal the sick nor raise the dead all they ask him to teach them is to pray because they came to realize that Jesus was able to

do these mighty works because He prays and for this reason we ought to pray and not faint.

2) Heaven on Earth

When God created the earth He gave it to man to govern and the devil tricked man and man lost his position, but man still remains the legal governor of planet earth that is why the Bible said that “all creation awaits the manifestation of the sons of God” see Romans 8:19, and for this reason when we pray we give heaven permission to work on earth.

God Almighty can do all things but He always work with man to bring to pass his purpose, Jesus said “with God nothing is impossible” understand that word “with” He did not say “for God” this means that there some things God will not do without man’s cooperation, for this reason it is very important that we pray so we can become God’s instrument for miracles, physical instruments are needed to perform physical miracles.

*And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief
Matthew 13:58 (KJV)*

3) Power in the spoken word

Power means the ability to do work or we can say power means becoming effective, so when words are spoken they become effective or it carries ability, God Almighty created the Heavens and the earth by the power of his spoken word and the Bible say we are created in the image of God which means that there is power in our words.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof proverbs 18:21

This implies that when words are still in the heart it has no effect and can not achieve nothing, and it is for this reason God wants us to put all our desires in prayer even if he knows our needs, unspoken words are powerless unless they are been activated by speaking, the words we speak can be use to justify or condemn us but not our thoughts, Jesus said that we will give account of the word we speak he did not say our thoughts (see Matthew 12:36)

4) An act of commitment

And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive

thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God. Luke 18:35-43 (KJV)

In this passage of the Bible we saw that a blind man was brought before Jesus and Jesus asked him what shall I do for you? Yes Jesus

knew that the man was blind and one of his greatest desire would be to receive his sight but Jesus still asked what he wanted, some would have said “hey Jesus can’t you see that I am blind and my greatest desire would be to receive my sight” but Jesus wanted to see the commitment of the blind man in receiving of his sight.

Many people have great desires but lack commitment to see it come through, and working on people’s desire without their commitment would be a waste of time because they will never value it, this is another reason why we must pray, God want to see our commitment towards the fulfillment of our heart desire, if you do not pray God will not do anything.

Finally if we truly see God as our father then we must talk to him in prayer, it shows that we love him and we believe in him, one of God’s greatest desire is that we love and trust him, there must be a hungry and desire for his presence, this is what creates the right atmosphere for God to move in, the Bible say “without faith no man can please God” Hebrew 11:6.

Chapter Three

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

One major problem many Christian have in praying is the importance we attach to it, the importance of prayer can never be over estimated but rather we always under estimate the need to pray, the importance of prayer can never be overestimated because we can never get too much of it, although many a time we mistake “pattern” of prayer for “value” or importance, the time we spend in prayer does not really reveal the importance we place on prayer, instead it is the state of our heart that reveals the importance we place on prayer.

The importance of prayer is based on the love and respect we have to pray, sometimes some people may exaggerate in the way they express this love and respect, it is like the story about a woman that loved her child so much that she did not let the child to grow up like every normal child because she kept the child in door all day and the only day the child run out of the house the child ran into the road and was knocked down by a fast moving car and the child died, the problem was not the woman’s love for her child but her pattern of expressing that love, similarly some people look on the methodology by which some other people expresses their love and respect for prayer and conclude that they are over emphasizing the importance of prayer.

Prayer is a very important discipline in the life of every Christian, it is like the air we breath to stay alive, the level importance we place on prayer indicates the level of our faith, and the level of our faith determines what God can do through us , the following are some basic importance of prayer.

1) Waging Spiritual Warfare

Words are one of the most spiritual part of the human nature, it

is not seen but yet it has effect, we should not underestimate the power in our prayers , when we pray in the name of Jesus, we come under the authority of that name, and by that authority everything becomes subject to us even the Devil and his kingdom, the prayers of a true believer is a weapon against the kingdom of darkness, even angels move into spiritual battles with us and fights for us as we pray, remember as the Bible says “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against powers, against rulers of darkness of this world, against wickedness in heavenly places” Ephesians 6:12.

2) It is an instrument for miracles

Prayers creates an atmosphere for miracles, God does not do magic but God performs miracles because he is a God of principles, which means that God has a way He does his thing, and one of God’s principle for performing miracles is prayer, when we pray God responds with signs and wonders, a sincere prayer from a heart filled with faith and reverence for God is an invitation God will not reject.

But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive Acts 9:40-41 (KJV)

3) It brings Healing and Deliverance

Some physical issues will not be change unless they are addressed through prayers, sickness and diseases can be healed and bondages removed by prayer, in the Bible we saw that when the children of Israel were been oppressed by their enemies, they will cry

unto God and God will send them a deliverer (see the book of Judges) some of our problem are not ordinary they came as a result of demonic activities, some sickness and diseases are caused by spiritual forces of darkness and can only be solved by prayers.

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:

15 *And 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.*

James 5:14-15 (KJV)

4) It builds our faith

Prayer makes the seed of our faith to grow and bear fruit, they say “a prayer-less Christian is a power-less Christian” which means that the strength of our prayer lies in our ability to pray, the Bible says that faith comes by hearing the word of God, when we pray we are not talking to God but to ourselves too this helps to build our faith, remember that the level of our faith reveals what God can do through us.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost Jude 1:20 (KJV)

5) It releases the power of God on earth

The Bible says that where the words of a king is there is power, when we pray God’s words back to him, we make the hand of God to move in our situation, one of the key to experiencing the physical manifestation of god’s presence which we commonly call the “Anointing” is by prayer.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31 (KJV)

6) It builds our relationship with God

Communication is the life line of every relationship because no relationship can exist without it, prayer is an act of worship unto God which comes from a heart that is broken and thirsty for the presence of God, our intimacy with God is what give meaning, purpose and power to our prayers, remember that God will not despise a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matt 6:6 (KJV)

7) Revelation

There are some will of God that is not written in the Bible, but can only be received by revelation, for example the name of your spouse or the nature or type of business or career God has planned for you is not written in the Bible but can be known only through Divine revelation, and one of the keys to divine revelation is prayer.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV)

May God Almighty help you develop and revitalize your prayer life in Jesus Name

Chapter Four

SOME THINGS THAT HINDERS PRAYERS

The Bible says that “Hope deferred makes the Heart sick” this has been the experience of many Christian who have spent their time, energy and possibly their resource on praying and did not receive answer to their prayer, this is one reason why many people has lost their faith and many are doubting the existence of God.

My family is one of the many Christian families that has lost many loved ones to the cold hand of death even in the mist of serious prayers and fasting, so I know how it feels when we spend our time to prayer and could not get our expected results, not only that unanswered prayer make the heart sick it can also give a fatal blow to the spiritual life of many Christians, many books and teaching has been made on this matter to help many people understand better the act of praying and I just want to talk about some things that can hinder our prayers

Inability to hear from God

Many times when we pray, God responds to our prayer by giving us an instruction on something to do as we can see in the Bible, our inability to hear what God is saying has been a major reason why we do not get answers to our prayer, and one reason why we can not hear from God is poor spiritual growth, sometimes we might be praying for something and God is saying something else like in the case of Apostle Paul (see 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9) in my next book “The principles of success” I will teach on how to hear from God.

Sin

No matter how we try to justify our sin we can not hinder the effect of it, not only that sin hinders us from receiving from God it can

give the devil a chance to manipulate our lives, just as they say “snake has no small size” so also is sin it is always deadly no matter the size, it does not matter what people say and thinks about sin our God is still a God of righteousness and holiness, and his standard remains sure.

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear Isaiah 59:1-2 (KJV)

Doubt

Our unbelief is a major obstacle to our prayers been answered, it is the opposite of faith, if we have doubt in our heart our prayers becomes powerless even our Lord Jesus could not do many works in some places due to the unbelief of the people, our faith show that we believe God and trust on him to perform his word, doubt gives room to fear and fear is a tormentor, a bondage, vision killer and an instrument of the devil.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:6-8 (KJV)

Lack of Knowledge

Many believer still do not know how to prayer, ignorance or lack of knowledge can hinder our prayer in two major ways, the first is the way we pray which is one of the things this book was written to address, secondly not knowing the will of God will hinder the answer to our prayer, sometimes we pray amiss, we pray with the wrong motive

and some people use some religious practices that is built on human ideology or even some cultic practices that has no Biblical backing all these can hinder our prayers.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26 (KJV)

Offences

The Bible says that if we do not forgive others who offended us God will not forgive us our offences, and if God does not forgive us our prayer can not be answered, God searches the heart and knows what is in it, yes it is not easy to get rid of the sad memories of the past but we can make it harmless by getting rid of the bitterness and this is done only through forgiveness, holding unto the offence of others especially in the family will make our prayer powerless. We should learn to let go and let God.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:25 (KJV)

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. 1 Peter 3:7 (KJV)

The Devil and His Agents

The devil has three major work to do, the Bible says it is to steal, to kill and to destroy, he knows that his days are numbered and the devil will be the last person that will stand and see us receive the answers to our prayers, that is why the devil is fighting tooth and nails to see that he stops us from receiving the answer to our prayer because our testimonies will give us more victory over the devil, and glory be unto God who has given us victory by the blood of his son Jesus Christ who died on the cross of cavalry and at the mention of his name every kneels bow and every tongue confess.

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Dan 10:13 (KJV)

Chapter Five

THE PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

Just like I said earlier if our prayer life is not effective or we do not get answers to our prayers we begin to die spiritually because prayer is a life line to our spiritual life, like the air we breath to live so is our prayer to our spiritual life, the importance or the power of prayer can not be neglected, though some people try to denial it but the bottom line is that we all have some sort of prayer in our heart.

One day a lecturer who was an atheist just finish giving some lecture to some science students on revolution theory, where he tried to argue his believe that God does not exist, comparing the Bible account of creation to scientific theories, after the lesson he walked out of the classroom and just as he was about to climb the staircase that leads to his office, he missed his step and almost went stumbling down, immediately he cried “Ho my God” we may denial facts but we can do nothing against the truth.

It is very important that every Christian must develop an effective prayer life, a prayer-less Christian is a power-less Christian, and as a matter of fact our salvation depends on it, the Bible says that faith without work is dead, in this chapter I will like to share with you some proven and timeless Bible principles that is needed to build an effective prayer life, remember prayer is the master key.

What is a principle?

Many people are familiar with the word principle but very few people really understands the meaning of principle, we often misunderstood principle to mean law, yes some laws are principles but

not all principles are laws, let me say a law is a set down rules and regulation by which people live in a place, we can also say that a law is the pattern for which some things happen e.g. the Newton laws of motion, while a principle is a rule the guides a process to ensure the expected results or we can say a code of conduct.

The following are some basic principles that can make our prayer life effective, though there may be many others but these ones are fundamental; they form the foundation where other principles can be effective.

Feeding on the word of God

One of the key to an effective prayer is praying according to the will of God, but how can we pray according to the will of God if we do not know his will? This why we must often read the Bible so we can get acquainted with the will of God.

Everything God does revolves around his will, the will of God is reveal in the Bible, and this will can no man change, if God has said it then he will bring it to pass, in the Bible God said to Jeremiah “I will look upon my word to perform it” so God will do what he has said, it is very important that we know the right words to use in praying to God and the right Words are God’s own words, so when we pray we speak God’s word back to him, the Bible says that God magnify his word above his name (see Psalm 138:2) *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7 (KJV)*

Faith

Developing faith is one of the principles of prayer, Faith sees the

invincible, believes the impossible and does the incredible, the Bible says that: *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” Hebrews 11:1*, the word “evidence” means to prove and the word “substance” means particles that makes up or gives form to something, some would say that the word “substance means sustenance which means to support which is also correct, but I will define faith like this “faith is the gathering of ideas, vision and convictions which are the substance of thing hoped for and the corresponding actions to prove their existence even though they are yet unseen, I would also define faith as a strong believe and trust on the greatness of God which is expressed in action.

Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. Matt 21:21 (KJV)

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

A life filled with the Holy Spirit should be the desire of every Christian because it is what actually defines the life of a Christian, Our fellowship with the Holy Spirit makes our godly nature or the likeness of God in us to manifest.

The Holy Spirit also help us to have a good understanding of the will of God through the word of God as He teaches us all thing and brings all things to our remembrance, for as many that are led by the Spirit they are the sons of God Romans 8:14 which means as children of God we have the nature of God and when we pray something happens, The Holy Spirit also helps us to pray.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered Romans 8:26 (KJV)

The breast plate of righteousness

Righteousness gives confidence and confidence gives life to our words and actions, that is why the Bible says that the righteous is bold as a lion, God honors the words of a righteous man, we might be imperfect because of sin but we are now perfect because of salvation which is faith on our Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins and washed us with his blood, He was made a curse that we might be made the righteousness of God through him, we can cloth ourselves with righteousness by developing godly characters and avoiding sin, God will always answer prayer made from a pure heart.

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. James 5:16 (KJV)

Power of partnership

All through the Bible we can understand that the Bible expressly teaches on the power of partnership, God said “let us make man”, it also said “one shall chase a thousand and two chase ten thousand” Deuteronomy 32:30, when people come together they create a cooperate Anointing, in the book of Genesis chapter eleven we saw that nothing can be impossible when people come together, for our prayers to be effective we must learn how to pray individually and collectively, the prayer meeting in most churches are the smallest meeting because only a few people comes to prayer meeting but it is a very important principle of prayer we are neglecting.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. Matt 18:19 (KJV)

Spiritual Discipline

Discipline means to put the body and mind under certain conditions to make it behave in a certain way or perform certain action, we can also say that discipline is learning to always do that which is right even when we do not feel like doing it, spiritual discipline is a very important aspect of our spiritual growth, it makes us more like Jesus Christ, there will be no discipleship without the right discipline, There may be many types of spiritual discipline but there are two spiritual discipline that are closely related to prayer, they are fasting and giving, I will talk about fasting in the next chapter and will talk about giving in my next book, but remember that spiritual discipline makes our prayer effective.

Persistence

Many times we easily give up and stop praying when we do not get answers to our prayers, it is very important that we understand that God wants our faith to grow, and one of the ways our faith grows in by stretching our faith, God has already answered our prayers when we prayed but he want us to persist in prayer so our faith can grow and receive the answer to our prayer, our level of persistence determine our level of success, persistence means a continuous course of action even in the mist of opposition and previous failure, remember to “PUSH” pray until something happens.

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. Psalms 27:14 (KJV)

A special time of prayer

keeping a specific prayer time with God is a prayer principle that has helped many believers in the Bible and even in recent times, yes God is always available whenever we call on him, but creating out time to pray will help us build a healthy prayer life, sometimes the value we place on something is always revealed by the amount of time we dedicate to it

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven Eccl 3:1 (KJV)

Chapter Six

FASTING

Spiritual discipline is one of the many Biblical principles that makes prayer very effective, and just like I said before I will talk a little about spiritual discipline in this book but I promise to throw more light on this issue in my next book titled “Building the future you desire” in this chapter I will talk on fasting, most places in the Bible where fasting is mention it is mostly related to prayer, when our Lord Jesus Christ was teaching his disciples on prayer he also taught them about fasting (see Matthew 6)

What is fasting?

Fasting is the abstinence from food, water, any other drinkable liquid or choice food for religious purpose, sometimes fasting might require abstinence from labor (Isaiah 58:3) it might also require abstinence from sexual intercourse with spouse(1 Corinthians 7:5)

The Importance of fasting

Some religious sect or groups have turned down the importance of fasting, some have purposely omitted the word “to fast” or “fasting” from their own compilation of the books of the Bible, such doctrine are heretic, fasting is something ordained by God, and when Jesus was on earth he fasted and the following are some reasons why it is important that we fast.

It makes us true followers of Jesus Christ

the word “Christians” means Christ-like, which means the every Christian must follow the steps of Jesus Christ, and the Bible recorded

that when Jesus was on earth He fasted for forty days and night and not only did he fasted, he also taught his disciples how to fast and pray, so if Jesus fasted and endorsed fasting by his teaching the we ought to fast, he went further to tell his disciples that if they do not fast there will be some things they can not achieve.

*And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? **29** And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.
Mark 9:28-29 (KJV)*

It unlocks the power in Prayer

Every time we pray according to God's will he responds immediately, but we must be properly positioned in the spirit to receive the answers to our prayers and this is where fasting comes in, there is a battle between the flesh and the spirit, and the works of the flesh hinders our prayers but when we fast we bring the body under subjection to the spirit, and when the spirit rules over the flesh we move into the spiritual realm where all things are possible to they that believe and the power in prayer is been release.

It can help us to live right

If we can deny the flesh one of its greatest desire food and water, means we can deny the body every other unclean activities that can defile the body, and this the first step towards living righteously and when we learn to starve the flesh by not yielding to it with lust, the flesh begins to die and the spirit begins to live, we can not serve two masters at the same time we either serve one and starve the other or vice versa.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1-4 (KJV)

It is for the sake of the believer

Many Christian believe that we fast to please God, some believe that if we fast a very long time God will look on our long fasting and have mercy, if we take a look at the meaning of discipline we would understand that it means to train the body to behave in a certain way, so when we fast we bring the body under subjection to the will of God, fasting sharpen and positions us spiritually so we receive all that God has prepared for us before the foundation of the earth.

Chapter Seven

GIVING GRACE

The giving of alms is also a spiritual discipline even though many people do not see it that way, I know that there have been many controversy on the issue of giving mostly in the area of tithe and offering but in this chapter I will be talking about giving in general.

Giving is very important in the life of every true believer, it plays a major role in prayer and fasting, Jesus Christ taught on these three things, prayer, fasting and giving simultaneously (Matthew 6) from the Bible we can understand that one of the things we should do while fasting is giving of alms (see Isaiah 58:7) and the story of Cornelius in the Bible is a good example on how God can respond to our prayer and giving of alms (Acts 10)

Giving is also a grace that is why some people can do it better than others, the word grace here means a gift or a supernatural endowment that enables us to give regardless of our physical status, which implies that God can give you an ability to give regardless of your financial status.

Five reasons why Giving is important

1) It makes us like God

All through the Bible we saw the blessing attached to giving, and we also saw how God responds when an offering is made from a pure heart, the first thing God did for man was that he gave man life by breathing into his nostril, God also gave man dominion over all the works of his hand, when man sinned against God, he gave them animal skin for cloths, God also gave Jesus to die for mankind, God love to

give and when we give we reveal the likeness of God in us.

Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Luke 6:30,36 (KJV)

2) It is a key to supernatural provision

The principle of sowing and reaping is a universal principle that is applicable to every area of life, one of Newton's law of motion says that in every action there is an equal opposite reaction, in every thing that we need there is a corresponding seed, every time we let go our seed it creates our harvest, when we give to God and man God will bless us with an abundant harvest.

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Prov 3:9-10 (KJV)

3) Our salvation depends on it

I have heard many people say that giving is not important because whether we give or not we will still make heaven, such assumption has no Biblical backing, our Lord Jesus Christ taught in the Bible that our salvation depends on our ability to give, if we do not give we will not make heaven. *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Matt 25:41-43 (KJV)*

from this portion of the Bible we can understand that some people will go to hell fire because they refuse to give.

4) It is the only way to prove God

The word “prove” means to make real or to show the truth, I have preached and taught on the existence of God, using scientific, philosophical and theological standing point to explain or prove the existence of God, but the only place and way in the Bible that God said we should prove him is in our Tithe and offering, it means that if the principle of tithe and offering does not work as stated in the Bible then God does not exist, and if it does then God exist.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it Mal 3:10 (KJV)

5) It is a defense

The act of giving is an act of sacrifice, and every time we honor God with our giving, we give God the obligation to watch over the rest of our substance, in Malachi 3:11 God said that he will rebuke the devourer for our sake, our giving will protect us and our goods, just as the Children of Israel were protected from the angel of death by the blood of the lamb that was placed on their door post, so also the blood of Jesus protects us from the kingdom of darkness.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of

*their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Rev 12:11
(KJV)*

My prayer is that God will revitalize your prayer life that from today on-wards you will receive answers to all your prayers in Jesus Name Amen!

About the Author

Dave as popularly called was born in Nigeria where he had his early education then he went to Europe (Italy) to further his Education, and he is currently living in Italy.

He has written articles for some magazine publishers , he has worked in the Entertainment industry, He is a Faithful Bible teacher, preacher and Writer.

Dave is the currently working as the pastor of a branch of the Christian Pentecostal Mission International (C.P.M) in the city of Padova in Italy.

He is currently working on his up coming TV/Radio program titled: “The Heart of a Hero” that will be shown on satellite TV station across Europe, America and Africa among the many project he is doing for the Kingdom of God.

He has a passion to bring hope and direction to this generation of God's People, and a vision to positively affect lives of people in the nations of the world with the teaching and preaching ministry.

