

CHIEF MINISTRIES

August 2022

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

Wow, do you believe it is almost the start of the fourth quarter of 2022. Thankfully, summer is coming to an end and there will be a reprieve from the blistering heat of this year, especially for those of you without AC. And we are in the middle of hurricane season too!

Well, this month I feel led to talk about prayer. You know prayer is powerful and we are mandated to pray. As Jesus intercedes for us and we are to be like Him, it only makes sense that we also should pray. Not just when we get in trouble, or sick, or are going through a crisis, but, every day, there are verses that indicate we should pray “without ceasing” (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19).

There are also many types of prayer and depending on the Holy Spirit’s lead if I start a series on prayer with more in-depth study. This month however as an overview let’s just accept that the Word tells us that “ALL” are to pray. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2; *Most of all, I’m writing to encourage you to pray with gratitude to God. Pray for all men with all forms of prayers and requests as you intercede with intense passion. v2 And pray for every political leader and representative, so that we would be able to live tranquil, undisturbed lives, as we worship the awe-inspiring God with pure hearts (TPT).*

Even your simple prayer petitions are powerful, because as we pray, even a simple prayer, our prayer open the ears of the Lord on our behalf. When Solomon built the temple for the Lord, when it was finished the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said; He had heard his (Solomon’s) prayers and then made Solomon a promise. (read about it in 2 Chronicles 7:11-22). As a place for sacrifice and honor, referring to the temple that was built to house the Ark of the Covenant (God’s presence), the Lord said in verse 15: *“Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.”* Although in Solomon’s era there was a building (the temple) that housed the Lord (Ark of the Covenant), today we are the temple of God (Holy Spirit). Since we are the temple, there is a greater responsibility to do/be as Jesus is/does → praying.....

What if there was one type of prayer that demonstrated the Fatherhood of God more than any other? And what if that same type of prayer was being undervalued by us today, due to its seemingly humble approach? Think about this scenario:

There was a small boy standing in front of a shop window. It was a candy store, and there were rows upon rows of good things on the shelves. As you looked at this child, you could see his great desire for what was in the window. Somehow, you knew that in his back pocket, he had one small coin. Oh, how you felt the strength of his desire and the limitation of that coin! Then suddenly, the Holy Spirit spoke to you, saying, "Same boy. The same amount of money in his pocket, but his father owns the store." Wow, a powerful change of perspective, right? It was no longer about how much pocket money the child had, or how much he had earned. **Now, it was all about his relationship with his father. He could go behind the counter, get up on his daddy's lap and ask for whatever his heart desired. You see, when you bring the Father into the picture, everything changes. This is the greatness and the simplicity of the Gospel, and it is also true of prayer.**

In a popular viewpoint, humble, request-type prayers are not compatible with our spiritual identity, position and authority – or are they? I do agree that asking for what God has already given is unnecessary! And this is why we need to know what the Bible says. For we can receive what God has already given to us by faith, with thanksgiving. But we can also petition God, asking that He would bring about His plans, and for the resources that are needed for His will to be done (Matt. 6:10). We can ask Him about all of the things that concern us, and He delights to listen!

Paul wrote, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:6-7, NKJV).

The foundational keys of prayer are simple; Jesus gave them to us, and they've never changed.

- Ask the Father (John 15:16)
- Ask in Jesus' name
- Pray with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6-7 and see point number six below)

Here are eight compelling reasons why a prayer of petition ("requesting" or "asking" in prayer) is powerful.

1. Your Prayer of Petition Is Biblical

By making simple requests in prayer, in Jesus' name, we are following the instruction of God's Word. There are numerous examples in the Old Testament, but let's jump straight to the Gospels. Jesus linked our destiny with the great privilege of asking the Father anything in His name! *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."* (John 15:16, NKJV)

In the original Greek, the verb "ask," here, can be translated to: "ask," "beg," "call for," "crave," "desire" and "require."

Paul spoke of the joy of making requests: *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy..."* (Phil. 1:3-4, NKJV). He also mentioned making requests to God that he could visit the church in Rome (Rom. 1:10). So, if Jesus initiated petition, and the apostles of the New Testament practiced it, then let us also honor it as a gift.

2. Your Petition Can Be Prophetic (Expressing God's Intention)

Jesus made it clear that we can ask God for His will to be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven (Matt. 6:10). John wrote, *"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."* (1 John 5:14-15, NKJV)

So, our petitions can be prophetic in nature, carrying with them the very power of fulfillment. Knowing that God is good and faithful provides us with a lens to see through (Heb. 11:11). Therefore, our prayers are emboldened with confidence!

These insights can be gained simply through studying the Bible, hearing God's voice, our relationship with Him, prophetic words or the timely input of others.

3. Prayers of Petition Release the Resources of Heaven

Asking is powerful! Simply by asking, Heaven's resources – including angels – are released.

Jesus said, *"Don't you realize that I could ask My Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly?"* (Matt. 26:53, NLT). We see this in action shortly afterward, in Acts, when the Church was praying for Peter, and an angel broke him out of prison.

Through prayers of petition, God releases His power, the Spirit moves upon hearts and divine orchestration takes place.

4. Prayers of Petition Reveal God as Your Loving Father

Jesus compared our requests of the Father with an earthly child asking a father for food. He said, "...*how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!*" (Matt. 7:11, NIV). Here, Jesus reminds us that our requests are those of greatly loved children! We are not asking from a position of poverty, lack or spiritual abandonment (i.e., an orphan spirit). No! Our Father is ever-present, ever-ready and ever-delighted to give. **We ask from the revelation of our identity as loved children of God.**

We know that what our Father has ordered is in the "pantry." It is in Heaven's storehouse, having already been set aside for us, and all we need to do is simply ask.

5. Bold Asking Demonstrates Our Close Relationship

Bold asking comes from familiarity in a close relationship. Jesus said, "*No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends...*" (John 15:15, ESV). He added that friends know the master's business! Then He talked about asking the Father in His name.

It is because of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross that we can stand washed and clean before a loving Father (John 3:16). And relating to Him as the Father – making requests to Him – brings Jesus joy. So, let's bring back simple petition into our prayer vocabulary and delight in it – because God does!

6. Thanksgiving Will Add Power to Your Petition

When we thank God for answering our prayers before we have seen an outcome, we express our trust in God, because as His beloved child, we know that in the very breath of asking, something good is on the way!

Jesus began His prayers to the Father with thanksgiving (Matt. 11:25, Lk. 10:21, John 11:41). And, at times, He simply thanked the Father and went on to exercise His power, like when He stood before Lazarus' tomb and said, "...*Father, I thank You that You have heard Me!*" (John 11:41, NASB), implying He had already prayed – which of course He had.

Thanksgiving is the voice of childlike faith – and the honor of a seasoned prayer warrior.

7. God Receives the Glory in the Answer to Your Prayer

When God answers a simple prayer of petition, who receives the glory? *God does.* The person praying does not receive credit, for they have simply expressed their dependence upon God. In fact, they may have shared that prayer request with others.

Further, there is no credit given to the "type" of prayer used. And this is a reminder – our faith should not be in the type of prayer we are using! It's true that those of us who have learned more about prayer over the years have many "tools" in our prayer closet. Paul the apostle even refers to various types of prayer (Eph. 6:18).

So, yes, we can step into declarations and prophetic decrees, and release God's word of power. Or we can take a heavenly standpoint for something to be done, when led by the Spirit – and that's the key.

However, let's always check where the glory or "credit" of answered prayer is going. It should never go to a "type of prayer," but *only* to Jesus. Jesus is the only explanation for the amazing miracles that will take place because we prayed in His name!

8. Your Petition Is Simple – It Takes Away "Performance"

One of the things I love about this type of prayer is that even a brand-new Christian or a child can ask this way! *No one is excluded.*

No formula is needed, just a pure relationship and childlike faith. Our ability to "petition" represents the grace of God in a way that no other kind of prayer can. Plus, it removes fear and anxiety from our lives, as we hand over our needs to God (Phil. 4:6).

Prayer is not mysterious; it is not "deep." Prayer is most powerful when it is simple. So, let's take care not to fall from the glorious heights of simplicity (2 Cor. 11:3); instead, let's embrace prayer in its purest form. In our day, humble petitions made in Jesus' name will release great power. No matter how brief, no matter how inarticulate your prayers – even your tears and cries for help – they are heard by Him.

Perhaps you have been in a low place recently or have been crying out to God on behalf of someone you love. You can be assured, regardless of what it looks like right now, something good is on the way, because your Father is in the picture of your life, and He is good.

Know that there is a storehouse, and it's open in Heaven. There are supplies with your name on them! There is a provision available for you right now – all yours for the asking – for your Father "owns the store."

Praying for you daily,

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

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Christ's

Heart

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