

VISIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER PRT 2

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us in the Book James, from which we have been learning on the importance of living out your truth in a visible way. As we get to the end of the series, we are looking at VISIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER PRT 2 and we started talking about this issue of prayer last week.

In chapter 5 of James, we catch him unpacking the issue of prayer and there are truths we need to know in order to walk in them.

Starting from verse 13, we learnt the first truth about prayer, which was:

a) Make prayer your first option when facing any life situation.

- I will not repeat myself because of time but let us jump into the next truth that James intended to bring to the attention of believers of that time.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? 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 will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 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 land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit

- I don't know if you can see a trend here; James mentions different types of prayers in this portion of scriptures, as if to tell us that we need to engage in all manner of prayers.

b) Engage in all manner of prayers.

Ephesians 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints.

- You need to be a well-rounded prayer warrior in order to be effective in your walk with God. Let's explore some of the types of prayer.

James 5: 14 Is anyone among you sick? 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.

- There is a profound truth right here – there is an understanding that there is something special about prayers done by a Godly leader who has spiritual authority over you.

VISIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER PRT 2

2.1 Receive prayers from your spiritual leaders.

- The sick person is asked to seek for prayers from his or her Elders – this was a specific exhortation and is being separated from any other prayers. This also tells you that you need to submit to a specific spiritual leader.
- The church elders are positioned by God into the place of authority and as such, God gives them grace to stand on the gap for the flock.

Jeremiah 23:4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or dismayed, nor will any go missing, declares the LORD.

Ephesians 4:11 And truly He gave some to be apostles, and some to be prophets, and some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

- Your pastor has a responsibility to watch over your soul. What does this mean? This means that your pastor is and has been graced to do you good, to comfort and edify you, to feed you with knowledge and understanding.
- The key to experiencing breakthroughs when your pastors pray with you and for you, is to be yielded and submissive to him or her.

Hebrews 13:17 Yield to those leading you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you.

- You cannot receive from a vessel you do not value – when your leaders are in a state of grief and bother, it stops the anointing from flowing. Hebrews says “...that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you.”
- The Bible says a prophet is not without honor (respect) except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household¹. Everyone that places honor on a gifted person, receives the benefits of that gift.
- When your spiritual leader prays for you, there are specific blessings that flow towards you.

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹ Mark 6:4 Amplified Bible (AMP)

VISIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER PRT 2

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

2.2 Prayers of worship.

- Many times, we are not aware that we idolize ourselves – but God called us to worship Him.
- Prayers of worship rightly places worship where worship belongs. A prayer of worship focuses on who God is, which is the nature and character of God.
- When we worship, we are saying that God has worth, that he is worthy. Worship means to declare worth, to attribute worth. We speak, or sing, about how good and powerful God is.
- Worship attracts the presence of God into your prayer life – God comes where He is welcome, where He is revered and where He is acknowledged.
- In the Lord's prayer, right on the onset Jesus says start by worshiping the Father – *"...Hallowed be Your name."*
- That term hallowed simply means to render or pronounce holy - "Let thy name be celebrated, and venerated, and esteemed as holy everywhere, and receive of all men proper honours"
- When God is present, it becomes easy to present your requests.
- The bible has so many examples of words we can use in our prayers of worship

Psalms 111: Praise of Works and Deeds

Praise the LORD. 1. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. 2 Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. 3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

- Sometimes we fail to worship during our times of prayer because our vocabulary is limited – consider the following ways of addressing God in prayer:
 - You are the great I am, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
 - The lily of the valley, the bright morning star.
 - The ancient of days, the unchanging God.
 - The creator of the heavens and the earth.
 - Your love endures forever, your mercies are new every morning.
 - You are quick to forgive and slow to get angry, full of mercy and grace.

VISIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER PRT 2

- Worship opens wide the windows of heaven, and the king of glory comes into your space.
- Worship is a weapon that attracts the heavenly hosts to come and fight for you.