

PRAYERS THAT RELEASE THE SUPERNATURAL

Luke 11:1 And it happened as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught His disciples. 2 And He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, as in Heaven, so also on the earth.

- This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **PRAYERS THAT RELEASE THE SUPERNATURAL**
- This theme is to prepare us for our coming week of prayer and fasting.
- Here we have Jesus praying and His disciples must have been observing Him and listening to their master praying.
- It was quite apparent that there was a clear difference between the way they prayed and the way Jesus prayed.
- They saw that when Jesus prayed, things seemed to move around Him, demons obeyed Him, nature listened, and sickness pay attention.
- They longed for that type of prayer. I don't know about you, but I want to learn how to make effective prayers, prayers that attract the supernatural in my life.
- Jesus then told them that there is a way to pray and that is when He gave them what we call the Lord's prayer. Jesus said "*in this manner, you shall pray...*"
- This was not a formula just for recital but was a framework on how to pray.
- When you pray aright, from a place of faith, you will be a recipient of the supernatural.
- Did you know that every season is spiritually charged and as you prepare to get into 2025, you cannot afford to do that spiritually empty and blind.
- God has things He wants to accomplish in 2025, and the devil also has plans he has in store.
- You release God's plans by praying and fasting before every season. Prayer unlocks the supernatural and invites God to be involved in your affairs.

Acts 12:1 And at that time Herod the king threw on his hands to oppress some of those of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he went further to seize Peter also. (And they were days of Unleavened Bread.) 4 And capturing him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four sets of four soldiers to keep him; intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

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5 Then, indeed, Peter was kept in prison. But earnest prayer was made to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. Also guards were keeping the prison before the door. 7 And behold! An angel of the Lord stood by, and a light shone in the building. And striking Peter's side, he raised him up, saying, Rise up quickly! And his chains fell off his hands.

8 And the angel said to him, Gird yourself and put on your sandals. And he did so. And he says to him, Throw your robe around you and follow me. 9 And he went out and followed him. And he did not know that this happening through the angel was true, but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord. And they went out and passed on through one street. And immediately the angel departed from him.

- Herod was on a rampage and was determined to silence the apostles. He received positive feedback after killing James and was ready to further his popularity.
- Just like Herod, the devil is determined to cause chaos in the life of believers, He is determined to silence you further as you go into the next season of your life.
- James died and we don't know what the prevailing circumstances were but there was something different about Peter's situation.
- Whilst Herod was plotting his death the Bible says "But earnest prayer was made to God."
- When you pray, you have the chance to interrupt and disturb the plans of the enemy.
- Prayer changes the narrative and outcome of events – prayer gives life to a person whose life had been stolen.

1. The atmosphere of prayer for that releases the supernatural.

1.1 Pray with great expectation.

- The church was not about to allow the same fate to fall on Peter like what happened to James.
- It means that they were full of expectations for the situation to change.
- They pleaded with God for Peter's life to be spared.
- Prayers that release the supernatural are charged with expectations. In other words, they are charged with faith.
- Someone said the atmosphere of expectation is the breeding ground for miracles.

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- If you don't expect God to change your situation, then don't bother praying at all. But to everyone that prays in expectation, their expectations will not be disappointed.
- There is something called a prayer of faith – *James 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*
- Prayers must be made with unwavering confidence in God's willingness to move on your behalf.
- You pray with the expectation that God will do the best in the situation. The church sincerely believed that God was able to save Peter's life – that is why they prayed.

1.2 Pray earnestly.

- Many people pray but very few understand what it means to travail in prayer in order to give birth to the supernatural.
- Yes, God hears all prayers, but I want you to know there is something that happens when a child of God prays with fervency and earnestly.
- When you pray earnestly, your whole being is involved; your emotions, your energy, your heart, your mind, your whole body is vested in it.
- Earnest prayer is accompanied by a seriousness and intensity that attracts the attention of heaven.
- At the heart of earnest prayer is a sense of desperation and great need. The true secret to earnest prayer is weakness and need.
- The more you sense your inadequacy and lack of solution, the greater your level of earnestness.
- Blind Bartimaeus was desperately in need of healing and the Bible says in *Mark 10:47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me! 48 And many warned him that he should be quiet, but he cried a great deal more, Son of David, have mercy on me! 49 And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.*
- I am desperate for my eyes to open to the things of heaven and I am going to pray earnestly.
- Jesus could not ignore Bartimaeus's earnest prayers and He is not going to ignore yours.

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- Hannah is another example in *1 Samuel 1:10* *And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to Jehovah, and wept sorely.*
- Hannah was in bitterness of soul because of physical barrenness, the lady wept and sought the face of God.
- Barrenness and lack of progress must bring one to engage in earnest prayer.

1.3 Direct your prayers to God

- Luke says the church was making earnest prayers to God.
- Sometimes we pray with scattered brains – the church was not praying whilst at the same time arranging an army to go break Peter out of prison.
- Prayers that attract the supernatural are focused on God. It does not matter how powerful the man of God is, no prayer should be made with the hope that the man of God will heal you.
- When you approach God as your only source, you will get the God kind of results.
- No one could save anyone from the hands of Herod, it needed God Himself.
- Let me tell you something, when you pray to God because He is your only solution, the supernatural will happen to you.
- Jesus told His disciples to focus on God as a means to receive from Him. Look at the Lord's prayer again "*Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.*"
- God is above all; He is seated in the heaven of heavens above the earth. He is the beginning of everything and everything has its being in Him.
- When you direct your prayers to this God, He weighs the action of man, this God breaks the bows of iron, this God takes away, He gives riches, He brings one up and lowers another. That is the God you are praying to.

1.4 Engage in corporate prayers

- It is quite profound that Luke mentions that it was the church that gathered in earnest prayer for Peter.
- Many people do not understand the power of corporate prayer. There is a dimension of the kingdom that can only be tapped into when believers gather in prayer.
- Yes, there is a place of individual prayers but never ignore corporate prayer. This church corporately prayed for the life of Peter and the miraculous occurred.

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- When the church prayed in Acts 4:31, the apostles were encouraged, and the power of God shook the place.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.

- In the gathering of saints, there is an increase in the anointing, there is an increased level of faith, which prompts miracles to happen.
- Unfortunately, we have lost a bit of the urgency of corporate prayer meetings. Corporate prayer and worship are essential to your spiritual journey.
- Corporate prayer is the greatest tool that unites believers around a common purpose. Individuals praying in their little corners are disjointed and yet in oneness of prayer there is unity.
- It is in a corporate prayer setting that your faith is strengthened – many of you struggle to pray in certain seasons but with a group of people, you can pray.

- When the church prayed, Peter was miraculously set free from the prison. This is the result of prayer.
- God initiated an angel to go and get Peter out of prison. When you pray, angels are set in motion by God on your behalf. In other words, your prayers attract angelic activities in your life.
- When you pray, you will experience supernatural visitations, which makes your encounters more than just natural encounters.
- Chains that were around Peter fell off because of prayer. Every chain in your life is broken when you pray aright.
- Peter was heavily guarded but when the angel came, none of those guards realized it, neither were they able to stop his rescue.
- When you pray, hard battles are won with great ease.