

PRAYER

LIKE NEVER BEFORE



**EMEKA
ANSLEM**

PRAYER LIKE NEVER BEFORE

EMEKA ANSLEM

Copyright © 2023 Emeka Anslem

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write the author.

anslem.emeka@gmail.com

www.emekaanslem.com.ng

facebook.com/OfficialEmekaAnslem

Phone: +2349024529639

WhatsApp: +2348065582482

ISBN:

Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural reference are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. Bold and Italicized scriptures are for emphasis only.



OVER 50 TITLES BY THE AUTHOR

www.emekaanslem.com.ng

OVER 50 TITLES BY THIS AUTHOR

1. Seven Keys to Gain Relevance
2. Becoming Exclusively Productive
3. Fasting to Get Results
4. Find Your Purpose
5. Power to get wealth
6. Reach Your Goals
7. Who God Has Blessed
8. A New Confidence
9. A Value Adding Life
10. Anslem's Faith Book
11. Color in Wilderness
12. Enforcing Results
13. Fierce and free
14. Focus
15. God's Exemption Strategy
16. He blesses our bread and water
17. How to receive your desired miracle
18. Into The Deep
19. It's Harvest Season
20. Knowing God Experientially
21. Lift Up A Standard
22. Love Park
23. Matthew 633
24. Motivating Right Education
25. Now that you have been enthroned
26. Oh! I need a miracle
27. Overcoming Challenges
28. Overcoming Depression
29. Practice Makes Perfect
30. Putting Grace Under Pressure
31. Reborn To Lead

32. I couldn't find a Silver Spoon
33. The Bail Out Plan
34. The force of influence
35. The Great Advantage
36. The Life
37. The Time Is Not Enough
38. The Tithe Is Not Enough
39. Timely Notes - A 30-DAY devotional - Volume 1
40. Timely Notes - A 30-Day Devotional - Volume 2
41. Trade Your Gift – {Co-Authored}
42. Unbroken Prosperity
43. Unscripted
44. Until My Change Comes
45. Where Are the Youths
46. Where there is no vision
47. You've Been Tagged
48. 5 keys that makes the most of any year
49. Greater Works
50. What to do with your pain
51. Creating a struggle-proof lifestyle
52. Academic Drive
53. Away from Pharaoh
54. Fifty questions I badly want to ask a pastor
55. 30 Commonly asked questions about prayer
56. The cure for shame
57. Faith for marriage
58. True Riches
59. Maybe it's not God's will
60. Enforcing a change
61. Filled with the Spirit

All available for download at emekaanslem.com.ng

JUST BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

Never mind, let's begin...

I've said this over and over again, a Christian that doesn't have an active prayer life cannot fulfil purpose. The devil knows this and that's why he'd do all he can to stop you from praying. Prayer sanctifies our spirit man unto God; the more we pray, the more sensitive we'd be to spiritual things.

The scripture is very clear about the importance of prayer. Let me show you a few scriptures:

SCRIPTURE 1:

Luke 18:

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

A man who doesn't pray always is already under attack. Don't bother going to a professional prophet to find out if you're under attack, as long as you don't pray always, you're under attack.

Jesus must have considered the level of wickedness and resilience of the devil against believers and concluded that men ought always to pray. If you're not praying always, then you're not living your best as a Christian.

We understand from scriptures that Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Anybody who charges you to court is your accuser, while you who is charged becomes the accused. If an accused does not appear in court to defend the accusations laid against him, a default judgment will be passed.

Revelation 12:10 tells us the level of Satan's commitment to accusing believers. It says, ***"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night"***.

Just look at that, day and night. Which literally means that he accuses us in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. That's a minimum

of 4 times everyday. If Satan accuses us that much before the court of heaven, then you can now understand why the scriptures admonishes that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Let's read the concluding part of that scripture:

Luke 18:

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Jesus's parable about the judge couldn't have been a coincidence. He was talking about the need for a consistent and habitual prayer lifestyle and suddenly delved into court matters. And then in verse 7, He relates the experience of that judge to God, and tells us that God will avenge His elects that cry unto Him day and night, even though He waited for them to show up in court when Satan brought the accusation (emphasis mine).

So although He may have passed a default judgment in your absence, and your adversary has been oppressing you because of that judgment, God can still overrule that judgment if you eventually plead your case. That widow was being oppressed by her adversary, the judge would not help her until he found a reason to - which was her consistency and resilience.

Satan accuses us day and night, God avenges us as we pray day and night. Which means if Satan accuses us 4 times a day, then we shouldn't pray less than 4 times a day.

SCRIPTURE 2:

2 Corinthians 3:

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Asides being a medium through which we express our needs to God, prayer is generally the name given to any communication between man and God. Which means prayer can also be a medium of fellowship with God, a moment when you spend time with God to worship or praise Him.

It's natural for you to want to spend time with a person you love. You can't claim to love God and not desire fellowship with Him. King David was a lover of God, and we were told that he was always full of joy and gladness whenever he was invited to go to the house of God. In Psalm 119:164, he didn't hesitate to tell us that he praised God seven times a day.

How many times do you fellowship with God daily? And I don't mean that short prayer you do when you wake up in the morning and before you go to bed at night. Fellowship demands quality time, and that's what David was doing 7 times a day.

Fellowship moulds resemblance between lovers. The reason why a husband and his wife eventually resemble each other is because of fellowship. Although they may not have that resemblance before they got married, but their fellowship over the years will create that resemblance.

That's exactly what God wants. That scripture says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory...". Which means the more we behold His face through fellowship, the more we are changed into His image. You really cannot change into the image of God without fellowship. No wonder David was so powerful on the

battlefield. He was undefeatable. He carried God's image through fellowship.

Make it a habit to fellowship with God daily. If not 7 times like David, at least once, but let it be a quality time with God. A time where you worship Him and discuss matters of His kingdom. And ofcourse you can discuss your personal needs too, that's why it's called fellowship - a communion between two or more people.

Call your family together and deliberately initiate a fellowship time with God in your house. The more your family fellowships with God, the more your family will operate in God's image. And just as David, nothing will be impossible to your family.

So yes, a man who loves God will love to fellowship with God. If he scarcely fellowships with God, then his love for God may not be strong enough. If you don't like praying, then you don't love God.

One of the advantages of praying always or maintaining fellowship with God is unusual access to revelation. When God's word is revealed to us, we literally get empowered to become what the word says. And God's agenda is to see every believer become a copy of what the scripture says.

The explanation to 2 Corinthians 3:18 isn't different from how a photocopier works. If you're familiar with a Photocopying Machine, you'd have observed that you can't make a copy of a document without placing the face of the document directly on the glass. Then the plain paper would pick up the information in the glass which would eventually change the plain paper into the same image as the original that was copied.

This means that as a believer, you can be so transformed that men would look at your life and literally understand all the Bible verses they've been reading. Your life would become the explanation to scriptures, an human sermon that draw men to Christ.

Just in case you're wondering how possible this can be, 2 Corinthians 3:3 says, "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart". Did you see that? We're living epistles, we can literally be read.

The same way people can tell that God is absent in your life is the same way they can tell when they can see God working in your life. Zechariah 8:23 says, ***"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you".***

But while this is a possibility among Christians, not many Christians will reach this dimension. And that's because not many Christians invest in quality prayer time or fellowship with God. They read the Bible, but their spirit man is not

sensitive enough to pick the inspirations from the Holy Spirit, because of inadequate fellowship.

The Word has to become flesh in your life too, so that your family members can behold the glory of God. John 1:14 wasn't referring to Jesus alone, it's a prophetic destiny of every believer. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth".

We must reflect God's word bodily. We already know from scriptures that God's word can influence your lifestyle. John 6:63 says, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life". So God's word is both spirit and it can give you a life. You may look like a low-life or even a no-life now, but that can change if you'd receive the life in God's word, a supreme life.

Then again, you can't receive the life in the word without receiving a revelation of the word, and you can't receive adequate revelation without a consistent prayer life.

If you don't like something about your present life, you can do something about it by tapping into the life from scriptures. Reading the word isn't the same thing as beholding the word. While reading is an activity of the soul, beholding the word means seeing God's word exactly as it is, and that's what prayer can do through revelation. The letter killeth, it's only the Spirit that makes the word alive. Reading the text or letter of the Bible alone may frustrate you, seek revelation through an active prayer life.

SCRIPTURE 3:

Matthew 21:

13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

So in the scripture above we see Jesus reacting to a shocking situation, He went to the temple only to discover that it had been turned into a market place where all kinds of trades took place. He became enraged and sent everyone who traded in the temple out. While He did that, His very words were, "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves".

This is already stirring an anointing within my heart. We know from scriptures that we are the temple or house of God, and if we are the house of God, then we should be of prayer. "My house shall be a house of prayer!". Jesus knows that it is impossible to host God without engaging prayer as a lifestyle. Unfortunately, many Christians have turned their lives into a den of thieves, they keep taking in things that steal their prayer time.

Anything you do that affects your prayer life is a thief. And if it's a thief, cast it out of your life. If watching movies affects your prayer life, then it's a thief. Your life should not be a market place, it should be a life of prayer. If eating affects your prayer life, then don't eat till you've prayed. If anger affects your prayer life, then work on your anger. The only thing that qualifies to host Jesus successfully is a consistent prayer life.

Now you'd understand what Jesus meant in Luke 18:1 when He said, "men ought always to pray and not to faint". I looked up the meaning of "faint" in the dictionary and what I found would amaze you: lacking strength, weak, spiritless, inclined to lose consciousness, lacking courage or energy, cowardly, dejected, barely perceptible, not bright, or loud, or sharp.

Just look at that! That's exactly what you become when you don't maintain a consistent prayer life. By this alone you should know why it takes you so long to overcome challenges, you lack the courage to face those challenges,

you can barely perceive what the Spirit of God is saying, and that's because you're probably spiritless. Courage isn't something you just declare that you have, it's something you develop on the altar of prayer. That's why it's important that we always pray. The more you pray, the more courageous you become. And the more courageous you become, the more possibilities you'd command.

As soon as Jesus restored the glory of the temple in Matthew 21, we were told in verse 14 that the blind and the lame came into the temple and He healed them. This means that it shouldn't be difficult to overcome challenges as long as your life gives prayer priority. So your worry right now shouldn't be about how the challenges are many, it should be about how to restore your prayer life.

Just in case you've gone far astray and you're wondering how long it will take to get back in your spiritual form if you resume praying, I have good news for you, it doesn't take long. Let me show you a scripture:

John 2:

18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

So they asked Jesus why He sent out the traders from the temple, they really wanted to know what He was trying to prove. And to their amazement, He told them to destroy the temple and He'd rebuild it in 3 days. That's all you need to start off your prayer life again, a 3-day prayer for your personal spiritual revival. Then once you're revived, you can now create a daily routine for your prayers. Guard your life with prayers, because it is out of it that the issues of life are resolved.

PRAYER IS A JOURNEY UP THE MOUNTAIN

After all that has been said, let me show you a dimension of consistent prayer that many believers are not aware of.

Psalm 24:

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob.

The scriptures above clearly reveal what a consistent prayer life ought to do in the life of a believer. According to verse 3, prayer should grant you ascendance up the hill of the Lord, and with more prayer, you should be able to enter into His holy place, the place where you literally interact with God one on one. The higher you climb through prayer, the greater

your possibilities. Moses operated in this realm severally; he'd often go up the hill to commune with God. God Himself testified that He spoke to Moses mouth to mouth and even face to face. He didn't communicate with Moses with dreams as He did with other prophets, He used direct communication. This already reveals that there's a dimension on the mountain of prayer where you can only see dreams, while there's another dimension where you can see and talk to God directly.

Verses 4 And 5 reveals the cleansing power of prayer, which was a statement made based on verse 3. You cannot have a clean hand or a pure heart without the purifying fire from your prayer altar. The more you pray, the more purified you become, and the more purified you become, the more you ascend the mountain of prayer.

In verse 6, we'd deduce that the reason why this generation will not be clean enough to ascend the hill of the Lord is because they don't seek God. That's right! They don't pray. If you

practice consistent prayer, you'd be purified, and the more purified you are, the more you ascend the mountain.

Jesus practiced mountain prayer. Let's read from scriptures:

Luke 9:

28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Did you see that? Jesus went up the mountain to pray, and as he did, there was a transfiguration. He suddenly began to relate

with the spirit of just men made perfect. If you're someone who prays a lot, then you must have experienced this kind of encounter. While praying, you may just notice that you're somewhere interacting with the spirit of just men made perfect. Although what Jesus experienced was on a physical mountain, but it reveals a spiritual possibility among the saints. You can pray to a point where you'd begin to relate with heavenly beings.

Mark chapter 9 explains Jesus's encounter better. Let's read from scriptures:

Mark 9:

2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three

tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

I love verse 7, the voice of God endorsed Jesus Christ as he prayed. So while you're going about looking for endorsements from people for your business, God can endorse you through prayer, it just depends on if you can climb to that level where God releases endorsements.

Perhaps you're about to ask me how to ascend this mountain of prayer. I already hinted you when I said "consistent prayer", but let me show you a scripture:

Mark 14:

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. 39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

If we'd count the number of hours Jesus prayed according to that story, he prayed for 3 hours. However, he gave his disciples the blueprint, "one hour". He asked them if they couldn't wait on him for one hour. If you pray for at least one hour daily, you'd keep climbing the mountain until you get to that level where you can interact with God directly.

To monitor your progress as you climb, it's important I show you the various level you'd get to. There are basically four levels to climb up this mountain of prayer.

- ***Pray at the base of the mountain***
- ***Praying at the level of transfiguration or change***
- ***Pray at the level of vision***
- ***Prayer at the level of your heaven***

Let me explain each one of them:

LEVEL 1: PRAYER AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN

This is the level of prayer where there is no guarantee of answers. People who you'd find at this level engage prayer as a habit, tradition or religious practice, not necessarily to commune with divinity. They pray, but they still walk in disbelief. People who pray at this level will never remember what they prayed, and that's because it was never in their mind to pray.

This category of praying believers are highly dependent, they depend on other people's anointing for breakthrough. The bailout for many of them is usually to join a large prayer group or online prayer movements. They depend on a higher anointing to bail them out of trouble, and that's because their prayer level isn't sufficient.

Painfully, a lot of Christians are at this level. They pray, but no change. Frankly speaking, if your prayer life is centred around praying

during bed time and praying to God for a good day when you wake up in the morning, then you're most likely at this level of prayer. You don't need prayer to have a good night sleep or to have a good day, you just need revelation. Prayer is for something greater.

LEVEL 2: PRAYER AT THE LEVEL OF CHANGE

So this is where you pray and see changes or answers to the prayer you made. The people at this level are more deliberate about their prayer life, they don't depend on another person to pray for them or lead them in prayer, they understand prayer and they practice accordingly.

They are independent. If the first thing you think about when you get into trouble is to call your pastor, then you're not at this level yet. But if you encounter a challenge, and the first thing you do is to pray about it, then you are at this level.

When people at the base of the mountain encounter problems, everybody around them would know, but when people at this level encounter problems, you'd only know when they're sharing the testimony, and that's because they know how to tackle situations in prayer. They are independent. Ofcourse they can have a prayer partner, seek prayer from a higher authority, or even join a prayer group, but the purpose is mostly to boost their own prayer strenght.

LEVEL 3: PRAYER AT THE LEVEL OF VISION

At this level, you'd see visions and have dreams as a result of your prayer. So if you had a dream of a car after praying for a car, chances are that you are at this level.

The benefit of this level is that you'd begin to see things you didn't even know about. Jeremiah 33:3 spoke about this category of people. It says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things,

which thou knowest not". Just look at that, He'd show you great and mighty things which you didn't know.

I remember during one of my prayer hours, I was praying about the fellowship back at the office and how that I desired that God would enlarge it. Suddenly, He began to show me possibilities in the spirit which I never imagined. The moment I saw that, my prayer point was enhanced and became more fervent. It made me believe the unthinkable.

Praying at the second level is good, you'd see changes in your life and even experience answers, but praying at the level of vision is far better. Sometimes God even shows you a burden in His heart that He'd like you to pray about.

Again, to ascend to that level, you'd have to spend more time in prayer and be more deliberate about it.

LEVEL 4: PRAYER AT THE LEVEL OF HEAVEN

This is where you'd begin to have encounters with heavenly beings. You'd encounter Jesus, angels, and the spirit of just men made perfect. I've heard preachers say things like, "Apostle Paul appeared to me and told me things". Some even say Jesus appeared to them. While you may want to doubt them, I encourage you not to, they're telling the truth. Remember how Elias appeared to Jesus at the Mount?

There are loads of potentials locked up in the spirit, but it takes effectual fervent prayer to unlock them. Please, be more deliberate about your prayer life.

TYPES OF PRAYER

Someone once complained that sometimes he enjoys his prayer time, and some other times it's just very difficult connecting and he'd feel

like stopping. He wanted to know if it was a peculiar situation or if it's a normal thing that happens to everybody.

Actually, I've also experienced that situation. But I soon learnt that lack of feeling or ease during prayer doesn't mean your prayer didn't ascend to God. As much as the feeling and ease makes praying enjoyable, our focus while praying shouldn't be to enjoy it, rather it should be the prayer content and the knowledge we have about God's word. So even though you don't feel anything or even though the prayer time wasn't easy, you'd know you've prayed because of the content of your prayer and the knowledge of God's word you applied during the prayer.

Dr Isaiah Wealth taught about two types of prayer that we mostly practice and experience but do not really understand. Let me share them with you:

IRREGULAR PRAYER:

Just as the name, this type of prayer isn't regular, it happens spontaneously. Have you ever felt a burden in your heart and suddenly found yourself praying, especially in tongues? You're not sure what it is but whatever it is put a strong feeling in your heart to pray. And most times, you won't be able to stop that prayer until the feeling or burden fades from your heart. Some other times you'd just suddenly feel love in your heart for God and before you know it, you'd begin to pray and speak in tongues.

This type of prayer is good, but it's neither scheduled, planned or consistent. You can't build your spiritual life on something that is not planned and consistent. Ofcourse you'd get that temporal feeling within you as you pray, but you'd need more than feelings to grow your spiritual life.

Some people haven't felt like praying since the last feeling they got 3 months ago. Is that what they plan to build their spiritual life on? Breakthrough happens whenever you engage

in spontaneous prayers, but there's more to your life than waiting for that precious moment when a burden will come upon you.

REGULAR PRAYER

This is the type of prayer that builds our spiritual life. It's a deliberate, consistent and scheduled type of prayer. That prayer you wake up to pray for one hour every night, that's a regular prayer. And that's the type of prayer that will build you up.

Ofcourse you might sometimes feel a burden as you engage in regular prayer, but that's just a spur of the moment, it may not happen again for a long time. And the way you'd know you were praying about a burden is that you'd have no previous knowledge about the situation. And even as you pray, it will be difficult to change the prayer focus to something you intended to pray, until the burden leaves you.

Now that you know the difference between those two, let me show you some prayer

secrets that can make your regular prayer life enjoyable.

Psalm 100:

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

The summary of verses 1 to 3 is that your prayer life should be considered a service to God, and if that's the case, you must approach prayer joyfully. Any service that is rendered to God without joy won't produce result. Don't approach your prayer altar as though God is putting you under pressure, and then you'd just struggle through it for one hour and get back to bed. No, that's not how it's done.

You must prepare yourself to render effective service to God. God is always looking for intercessors, so the moment you subscribe as an intercessor, He begins to pay attention to you. But before He listens to your intercession, He listens to your heart. Every time we pray, we draw God closer to victory against the forces of wickedness in this world. That thought alone should stir joy in your heart as you pray. But the moment you handle prayer as though God is stressing you, then you don't understand what you're doing.

Verse 4 tells us how to secure God's presence, it says with thanksgiving and praise. This part of prayer alone can last for hours. I laugh when people say it's hard to pray for one hour, meanwhile, if they itemize all the things that God has done for them and begin to thank and praise God for those things, they'd surely need more than one hour.

One beautiful thing about thanksgiving is that it engages your mind. You're thinking about the faithfulness of God and thanking Him for it.

That act alone can stir up a prayer fire within you. Any thanksgiving that doesn't engage your mind isn't thanksgiving. And if it doesn't get to your mind, it won't get to God. The reason why thanksgiving is required to enter into God's presence is because it would open up your mind and heart, and once that happens, God can easily pass through.

Please note that this process may not be required when your prayer is spontaneous, because the burden would have opened your heart and God would have come in already. But if the prayer isn't spontaneous, then you have to connect your heart through intense thanksgiving and praise.

While thanksgiving is simply appreciating God for the good things He has done, praise hallows His name for the details and creativity He put into doing those good things. So if God gave you a house, you can thank Him for giving you a house. But when it comes to praising Him for that house, you have to magnify His name for the creativity He put into building every section

of that house. And believe me, you can spend hours doing this. Thanksgiving may be a single line, but praise would definitely require more than a thousand lines. Those who know how to thank and praise God well never miss His glory and presence during their regular prayers, He'd surely visit them.

Finally, when you're sure that you've secured His presence, then you can commence praying for whatever you planned to pray about. The main prayer doesn't even have to take long, it's entering the presence that does.

HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY

Someone once expressed a deep worry, he didn't know how to pray, and he wanted me to teach him how to pray.

The disciples of Jesus also had this problem. In fact, they used a similar line when they approached Jesus to teach them how to pray. Clearly, they must have observed Jesus's

prayer life and concluded that there was something missing about their own personal prayer life.

Sometimes they saw him agonizing in prayer with sweat pouring down, and some other time he'd just separate himself from them to pray. Believe me, there's nothing more frustrating than watching someone do something that shatters your ideologies about that thing. Maybe they spent few minutes reciting a few things and called it prayer, so what Jesus was doing was not anything near what they knew to be prayer. And so they concluded that what they knew couldn't have been called prayer, they had to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray.

And while you'd think that Jesus would give a humorous response - that we can pray anyhow, he actually taught them how to pray. And this tells me that believers can be taught how to pray.

So Jesus began the teaching...

Matthew 6:

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

For a child who doesn't respect or have any regard for his biological or earthly parents, praying may be a difficult task, because according to Jesus's lesson, prayer is a communication between a heavenly father and his earthly children. Just as you can sit with your earthly father and make requests, you can engage your faith in making requests to your heavenly Father. The difference is just the location and visibility. While your earthly father can be met physically, your heavenly father can only be met through faith.

Earlier, I taught you about regular and spontaneous prayers. A spontaneous prayer usually would not follow a particular order, neither would it follow Jesus's teaching about prayer, and that's because it's often sponsored by an inner witness, the Spirit of God. A burden just comes upon you and you'd just find yourself praying, no time for protocols at all. Also, if you hit an emergency during the day, all these protocols wouldn't be required, raise a quick prayer of petition and move on. I'm not saying it's a bad practice to follow these protocols no matter the circumstance, but rather spontaneous prayers do not require protocols.

I also mentioned that spontaneous prayers cannot be relied upon to grow your spiritual life, and that's because it's not every time that you'd have an emergency or that the Holy Spirit will put a burden within you. The prayer pattern that will grow your spiritual life must be regular. And so what Jesus is teaching is for those who want to maintain a regular prayer life.

Now that we've cleared that, begin your regular prayer by hallowing the name of your heavenly Father. Which literally implies that you should shout His various names with joy in your heart. Think of all the names of God you can remember and hallow those names as you commence your prayer.

"My heavenly father, I come to you this morning in the name of Jesus. You are the Ageless God, Reliable God, Jehovah Rohi, Jehovah Shikenu, Alpha Omega, Bishem Adonai, Elshadia, Elohim, The Lion of the tribe of Judah, The Almighty, The Ancient of Days, my Dependable Father, Olowogbogboro (That's right, you can hallow His names in your dialect)"

At this point, even you who is hallowing His name has already caught fire in your heart. Hallowing His name alone can take you over an hour, because His names are innumerable. If you don't know His names, you'd be amazed what a Google search for the names of God will bring.

Hallowing His name also involves thanking Him for what He has done both for you and for the world you live in, and then praising Him for the details He put into doing everything He has done. Hallowing His name in thanksgiving and praise is the surest way to secure His presence during prayer. That's actually what Psalms 100:4 tells us. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His court with praise. Be thankful unto Him, and bless his name"

Once you're done hallowing His name, the next thing is to pray about His agenda on the earth. For example, God desires that the world will come to repentance, so you can pray about that. Pray about that your colleague or neighbour that is not saved yet. Pray about your uncle or aunty that is involved in malicious activities. Pray about the advancement of His church. Just pray about anything that advances His kingdom.

And then you can pray about your desires for that day. Everything Jesus mentioned from verses 11 to 13 are personal prayer points and

there's no particular order, neither is there a compulsion in praying them. If you feel you don't need forgiveness, then that's not something to pray about. If you feel you don't need daily bread, then it doesn't need to be prayed. Of course, everybody should always pray that God will not lead us into temptation.

My point is, once you're done hallowing His name and praying about His kingdom, you're free to do anything else from that point till you close. You can pray for your spiritual growth, that the fire of the Spirit of God will continue to burn in your heart. You can pray to be used by Him.

Personally, presenting my personal requests don't take time at all except I'm praying for my spiritual life. I spend most of the time hallowing His name and praying about His kingdom. That's how it should be. If we're to go by what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, we really don't need to pray about our personal needs after we've prayed for the kingdom, because all our personal needs would be added to us as a

reward for praying for the Kingdom. Isn't that powerful?

PRAYER AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR BATTLE

A great and effectual door is opened but there are many adversaries. These adversaries are waging war against you. When the adversary succeeds, your prayers may be ineffective. And that's what it sometimes appear as though your prayer isn't reaching God. There are three ways your adversary launches attack on a believer. Warfare, court fare, and throne fare.

The type of battle you're fighting will determine the type of weapon you will engage. Using the weapons of warfare in a court fare battle will be ineffective. The bible explains the jurisdiction of the weapons of our warfare. Let's read from scriptures:

2 Corinthians 10:

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

A court order cannot make you an alcoholic, neither can it make you a gambler. That's not court fare, it's warfare. So the weapon of our warfare can deal with strongholds, cast down evil imaginations, destroy every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and arrest every thought until they conform. Satan doesn't need a court ruling from God to engage these attacks against you, and that's because he didn't impose any of them on you. If you fall for any of these, you'd bear the consequences. If you also know your way out, you can engage the weapons of your warfare to be free from the consequences.

Bottom-line is, Satan cannot touch you or impose anything on you except he has received a ruling or a court order. Since weapons are

only used for enforcement, the weapons of your warfare will not work because he has a ruling against you. So no matter how much you bind and cast, it won't work. This was exactly what happened to Job.

What this also means is, if a challenge was caused by falling for Satan's deception, you can be free by engaging warfare prayers. But if it was caused by a ruling that Satan received from court, then you'd have to deal with that matter intelligently.

First you'd have to repent from whatever sin the devil may have used against you in court, then plead the blood of Jesus to wash you clean. Once that is done, then you need to make a prayer of petition. A prayer of petition is a formal prayer based on God's word that states why you should be free from something or why you should have something.

The difference between a warfare prayer and a court fare prayer is that a warfare prayer addresses the devil directly, while a court fare

prayer addresses God. So don't go about addressing the devil when you should be talking to God, he won't listen, even if you shout the name of Jesus one million times.

Once your petition is granted, God will withdraw whatever ruling He gave previously and issue a new one. At that point, Satan is expected to withdraw from attacking you. That's why the moment God turned the captivity of Job, his restoration began, we never heard of Satan again around Job.

If Satan can't get you into trouble via deception, he'd take advantage of an unconfessed sin and start a case against you in court. That's why the bible warns that we should be sober and vigilant because our adversary the devil is going about looking for who he may devour. If you sin, ensure you confess it before the Lord and use the blood of Jesus to cleanse yourself, because if you don't, you'd need more than repentance to be free from a judgment, you'd need to make a petition.

The prayer of petition is in two forms; it can either be a supplication for yourself or an intercession for someone else. Either way, as long as the content presents a case to God based on His word, then it's a petition.

God is all-powerful, but all His power is still subject to His word. And His word is not an exclusive reserve for Christians, it's for all who believe. The reason why Satan can use God's word against you is because he believes God's word. If Satan uses God's word against you, crying for mercy won't bail you out, you'd need to a petition.

Someone once asked me why it takes time for God to judge wicked people. He worried that some of them even live long on the earth.

Asides personal ignorance, most of the problems we face in life are caused by our adversary. One of the most disturbing things you'd learn about adversaries is that they are actually legal oppositions. The bible didn't hold back this position in 1 Peter 5:8 when it said

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour".

Notice the words used by the writer; "your adversary the devil", "seeking who to devour". So you don't have to start asking why the devil hates you or why he's against you, you've already been told that he's your legal opponent or rival. If Satan is a legal opponent, then you can't just get rid of him like that, you need to present a petition to God that overrides what Satan used to get a ruling against you in the first place.

I've taught you how Satan fights against a believer. If he's not engaging in warfare, then he's engaging a court fare. Which means if he's not engaging deception, then he's engaging a ruling from the court of heaven. If he can't play the mind game with you, then he'd find a weakness you have and make it a case in the court of heaven. If his case is in accordance to the will of God, then he'd receive a ruling in his favour.

Now that we've clarified who your adversary is, it's wrong to think that your uncle in the village or your political leaders are the ones responsible for the setbacks in your life. Although your relative or government may have done all kinds of evil against you, praying for them to die by fire isn't the solution to the problem, they are just unfortunate puppets used by the devil to perform his evil and adversarial duties.

God may be against Satan, but He loves people, and he doesn't want anybody to perish, rather He wants all to come to repentance. And this is why it takes time for an evil man to be judged. Let's read how Ecclesiastes puts it:

Ecclesiastes 8:

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

This explains why we still have evil people leading us. It also explains why you still see evil people walking around as saints. Judgment against an evil work is not executed speedily. Notice that two categories of evil doers were mentioned; the sinner that does evil and the wicked. The sinner may do evil a hundred times yet his days will still be prolonged, and that's because even though he's a sinner, he still fears God. And as long as he fears God, God still has a chance of reviving his soul. But for the wicked, he'd get instant judgment and his days will not be prolonged, and that's because he doesn't fear God. As long as he doesn't fear God, there's no hope for his revival.

In God's perspective, keeping the wicked alive will cause an unnecessary destruction. But when the sinner does evil, according to those verses, He ensures that it is well with the righteous. This is funny, because it simply tells

me that God doesn't rate or consider evil works the way we do. We believe the evil doer should die because it affects us, yet God wants the sinner who does evil to live because He has a chance of saving him, and their evil does not even affect His people. If their evil affects you, it's because you don't know it's not supposed to affect you.

If you want to stop the work of the adversary or the wicked, then you have to present a petition to God through a prayer of intercession or supplication. These prayers must contain details of the multitudes of evil works that has been executed by them and the scriptural judgment accrued to such evil. Since God may not judge them except there are witnesses, their evil works and the scriptures will stand as a witness against them.

All through scriptures we'd find out that every evil doer has a cup, and once that cup is full, God's judgment is inevitable. In 1 Thessalonians 2:15-16, Apostle Paul spoke

about a group of people who received the wrath of God because their cup of sin was full. In Genesis 15:12-16, God told Abraham that his seed would suffer affliction in a strange land for 400 years and afterwards He'd judge that land and cause Abraham's seed to come out with great possessions. There were also evil occupants in the land of Canaan that God needed to vacate, but He couldn't judge them until their iniquity was full. You may read that up in Genesis 15:12-16. When God finally judged them, we saw how beautifully everything played out. Indeed, God makes everything beautiful in His time.

That's why I know that this government cannot be wicked forever, their cup will soon be full. And because believers are interceding and making supplications daily, they can't escape judgment except they repent.

Let's take caution though, just as that scripture says, there's a very strong possibility of tilting your hearts to reciprocating their evil works with evil all in the name of fighting back. The

moment you do that, God's judgment will also fall on you when it's time. I've heard Christians say things like, "if they kill Christians, let's kill them too". No, that's lack of understanding. Our petitions to God are not a waste of time. Though it tarries, wait for it, it will surely come to pass.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN THE DEVIL IS ACCUSING ME IN COURT?

By now it's clear that Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Anybody who charges you to court is your accuser, while you who is charged becomes the accused. If an accused does not appear in court to defend the accusations laid against him, a default judgment will be passed.

Revelation 12:10 tells us the level of Satan's commitment to accusing believers. It says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast

down, which accused them before our God day and night".

Just look at that, day and night. Which literally means that he accuses us in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. That's a minimum of 4 times every day. If Satan accuses us that much before the court of heaven, then you can now understand why the scriptures admonishes that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Let's see how scriptures put it:

Luke 18:

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Jesus's parable about the judge couldn't have been a coincidence. He was talking about the need for a consistent and habitual prayer lifestyle and suddenly delved into court matters. And then in verse 7, He relates the experience of that judge to God, and tells us that God will avenge His elects that cry unto Him day and night, even though He waited for them to show up in court when Satan brought the accusation (emphasis mine).

So although He may have passed a default judgment in your absence, and your adversary has been oppressing you because of that judgment, God can still overrule that judgment if you eventually plead your case. That widow was being oppressed by her adversary, the judge would not help her until he found a

reason to - which was her consistency and resilience.

Satan accuses us day and night, God avenges us as we pray day and night. Which means if Satan accuses us 4 times a day, then we shouldn't pray less than 4 times a day. Let David and Job inspire you on how to nullify the accusations brought by your accuser:

Job 31:

35 ("Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.

Psalms 71:

13 May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace.

Did you see that? Sign your defence, by the blood of Jesus and the word of the Lord. You can also ask the Lord to punish your accusers just as David did.

Whether you were present during the accusation or not, you can apply all I just shared. However, it's important that you are aware when your case is being discussed in court. Let me show you 4 quick ways the Holy Spirit prompts you to go to court if there's an accusation against you:

- You can hear a word in your spirit
- You can see a word in your spirit or through an open vision
- You can feel a word in your spirit
- You can dream a word. Most times, what you dream is a sentence from a court. This is why you should never play down on your negative dreams. Go to court and appeal lest that dream begins to manifest in your life.

For instance, when I woke up one morning, I heard the name of a disease in my spirit. There was no need to hear the name of a disease when I just woke up. I immediately pleaded the blood of Jesus and declared my rights to health and wholeness. Moments later, I heard the name of another disease. This time, I had to

ask the Lord to punish my accuser. I've had peace since that time. You might think it's a coincidence, but I'd rather not take chances.

See what happened to Job. Although he later won the case, but he had to suffer a default judgment for a while. In Zechariah 3:1, Joshua was present in court when Satan stood to resist him. And because Joshua was present to plead his case, God ordered that the filthy garment that was on Joshua be removed. It was immediately after that his word came.

Practice consistent prayers, and consciously destroy accusations that may have been tabled against you by the word of the Lord. It's not religion at all, it's a spiritual system.

I'm really glad that you read this book. As your testimonies begin to arrive, please do not hesitate to share them with me.

Remain ever blessed!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emeka Anslem is a critically acclaimed inspirational writer, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. His strong social media presence has served as a medium that satisfies the spiritual hunger of many Christians and brought even many more to Christ. He received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By God's grace, he has committed his life to that assignment, and he's always willing to add value to lives.

Through his passion for his assignment, he's been privileged to author over 50 e-books which are mostly downloadable for free at the E-BOOKS section of his website (www.emekaanslem.com.ng). His rare teaching gift has attracted several public speaking engagements in seminars, conferences and the likes. Considering his track record in writing, God inspired him to convene a yearly writers conference, which has been a medium of transformation for many writers.

He also runs a business where he operates as a content developer. He has written for great men within and outside his country of residence, and the testimonies have been phenomenal.

Emeka Anslem is accessible. So do not hesitate to contact him through any of his social media platforms.

