

**Agape House of Worship**  
**Wednesday Bible Study**

**Study Series: Keys to a Powerful Prayer Life**  
**Part 1: The Purpose of Prayer**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**  
**Teacher: Pastor Jide Lawore**

**What is a Powerful Prayer Life?**

*James 5:16 - And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*

- How do you measure a prayer life?
- A lifestyle not and events
- A prayer that produces results
- What results?

**Why Do I Need a Powerful Prayer Life?**

- Your prayer life is the key to intimacy with God. If your prayer life is powerful, your intimacy is more vital.
- Your prayer life is your connection to the source of God's grace and mercy. Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help."
- Your prayer life brings power to your life. A powerful prayer life means a powerful life. James 5:16b – "... The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective"
- You are part of a house of prayer, a gathering of prayerful people. Matthew 21:13
- Prayer is the means of appropriating the will of God and the promises of God.
- Prayer is the means of using the weapon of your warfare. Ephesians 6:16-18

**What Jesus Has to Say on Prayer**

To know how to have a powerful prayer life, it is essential to start with what Jesus has to say about prayer. Jesus Himself was known to prioritize prayer.

- We know that "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35.
- We also know that He spent the night praying to God before choosing His disciples. (Luke 6:12-16)
- He often went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Matthew 14:23
- At the end of His life, he went to the mountain to pray. Matthew 26:36-40

**Here is what Jesus has to say on the subject of prayer:**

*Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Do not pray as the hypocrites do:

- They love to pray, but they have a wrong motive
- They love public Prayer more than they love private Prayer
- God is not pleased with their Prayer; hence they have no result for their Prayer

Do not pray as the pagans do:

- Pagans also pray but out of ignorance
- Pagans' Prayer is full of drama and manipulation (keep on babbling)
- Pagans pray mainly because of their needs. Matthew 6:32

Prayer like a child of God

- Is to the father: intimacy: "Our Father in heaven."
- Is worship: "hallowed be your name."
- Prayer is designed to change us and our hearts: Is "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. "Prayer is designed more to adjust you to God than to adjust God to you and your desires." – Oswald Chambers/"My Utmost For His Highest."
- Prayer is the means of using the weapon of your warfare: "*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*"

### **Conclusion**

One of the keys to a powerful prayer life is to understand the purpose of prayer. Prayer holds the key to an intimate relationship with God, which is, in turn, the key to experiencing God and everything He promises. Jesus sums us this when He says: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*" (John 15:5)