

## ***Living the Apostolic Prayer Pattern: Power, Purpose, and Partnership in Prayer***

### **I. Prayer as a Catalyst for Kingdom Influence**

- a. When we commit to pray as the early church did, we link ourselves with others to accomplish Kingdom work. Paul urges his friends in Rome to “*strive together with him*” in prayer for protection from hostile unbelievers and for the effective reception of his ministry. He is essentially saying, don’t just pray for me, struggle alongside me in prayer as though we are a team or soldiers fighting together. Even though the believers in Rome weren’t physically with Paul, they could actively participate in his ministry through their prayers. When we join together in this kind of intentional, united prayer, we become part of God’s work in ways that extend far beyond what we can do alone.

***(Romans 15:30-32 NASB) “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, 31 that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; 32 so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company.”***

***(Philippians 1:3-5 NASB) “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.”***

***(2 Corinthians 1:11 NASB) “If you also join in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons in our behalf for the favor granted to us through the prayers of many.”***

- b. Prayer opens doors for the gospel to advance effectively. Paul encourages the Colossians to “*devote themselves to prayer*” so that God will “*open up a door*” for the message of Christ to move forward. Even while in prison, Paul recognized that prayer has the power to influence God’s heart in a way that leads to Him removing obstacles, reshaping circumstances, and creating opportunities for His Word to spread. Today, our prayers continue to make an impact that stretches far beyond the limits of our immediate circumstances. Each time we intercede for missionaries, leaders, or our families, we are partnering with God to unlock doors that only He can open, advancing His kingdom in ways we may never fully see.

***(Colossians 4:2-4 NASB) “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way that I ought to proclaim it.”***

***(2 Corinthians 2:12 NASB) “...a door was opened for me in the Lord...”***

***(Matthew 7:7-8 NASB) “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”***

- c. God places people in positions of authority and influence, and the decisions they make often have a profound impact on the social and economic realities that affect our lives. Paul specifically urged the church to pray for these leaders, so that believers might live tranquil, quiet, and godly lives. This demonstrates that prayer is not just for our personal benefit, it shapes the environment in which the gospel can advance. When we pray for those in authority, we partner with God to influence society, opening the way for His purposes to be fulfilled.

***(1 Timothy 2:1-2 NASB) “First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”***

***(Proverbs 21:1 NASB) “The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He pleases.”***

## II. Staying Rooted, Guided, and Awake in Prayer

- a. Prayer is one of the primary ways we express continual dependence on God. Paul said that it is God's will for us to "*pray without ceasing,*" cultivating a rhythm of prayer that keeps us rooted in His presence and aligned with His will. Prayer is not merely a religious activity, it is an ongoing conversation with God that shapes our perspective, directs our steps, and sustains us in every moment of life. In this way, prayer becomes the lifeline that keeps us connected to the Source, that is Jesus.

***(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NASB) "Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."***

***(Philippians 4:6-7 NASB) "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."***

- b. Jesus is the source of all wisdom and strength, and Scripture repeatedly calls us to lay hold of that wisdom. Because God is all-knowing, there is never a situation we face for which He does not already hold the solution or the pathway forward. James gives us a simple yet profound instruction: "*If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.*" The early believers understood this truth well, when they lacked answers, they sought God in faith, confident that He would supply wisdom generously and without hesitation.

***(James 1:5-6 NASB) "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind."***

***(Ephesians 1:17 NASB) "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him."***

- c. Prayer is also the means by which we stay spiritually awake and active, enabling us to effectively engage with the world around us. In prayer, we cannot drift into mindless repetition; we must be intentional, watchful, and resistant to spiritual apathy. Scripture calls us to constantly engage with the Holy Spirit and to persevere in prayer, keeping our hearts fully connected with God rather than merely going through religious motions. When we remain awake and alert in prayer, we're not only connecting with God but we're also aligning our prayers more closely with His will, allowing us to pray with clarity, power, and purpose.

***(Ephesians 6:18 NASB) "With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints,"***

***(Colossians 4:2-4 NASB) "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving..."***

## III. Prayer is Power, Presence, and Partnership

- a. James gives us simple but powerful instructions for prayer in every season of life. If you're suffering, pray. If you're joyful, praise. If you're sick, call for prayer. Prayer isn't meant to be occasional; it's meant to shape every moment of our lives. James says "*the effective prayer of a righteous person can accomplish much*". Through prayer, God brings healing, forgiveness, and restoration, and we're reminded that in every season He is both willing and able to respond to our requests.

***(James 5:13-16 NASB) "Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much."***

- b. As the end of the age draws near, Scripture calls us to prayer as our anchor in the midst of cultural chaos. Peter exhorts believers to “*be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer*”, showing that clarity and devotion are essential for staying rooted in God’s unshakable kingdom. The danger is becoming spiritually “*intoxicated*” by the distractions of this age in things like; materialism, social media obsession, pleasure-seeking, fear-driven news cycles, immorality, or busyness, which dull our hearts and leave us prayerless. By choosing sobriety in prayer, we rise above these distractions, align with God’s purposes in whatever our circumstance looks like, and are strengthened to remain faithful through even tribulation and testing.

***(1 Peter 4:7 NASB) “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”***

***(Romans 12:10-11 NASB) “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer...”***

- c. Prayer also invites God’s joy and “*refreshing*” presence into our lives and relationships. Paul links the prayers of the church to the ability to experience joy and peace within community, showing that prayer is not just about requests but about connection, both with God and with others. When we pray, we participate in the work of the kingdom while being refreshed, encouraged, and strengthened for the journey. Prayer helps us come together in love and anticipation, creating an atmosphere where God’s power can move and where our hearts are renewed in friendship and hope.

***(Romans 15:30,32 NASB) “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me...32 so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company.”***

***(1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 NASB) “For what thanks can we give to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice because of you before our God, 10 as we keep praying most earnestly night and day that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith? 11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”***