



Sharing

## Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

**Building Fathers House**

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

[www.buildingfathershouse.org](http://www.buildingfathershouse.org)

*(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)*

### Workshop no. 3 : Meaning of prayer – consider who we are.

**1 John 1:3**

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may **have fellowship with us** : and truly our **fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.***

**Purpose of workshop :** To look into the meaning of prayer as a end and not a means based upon who we are in Christ Jesus.

**Intended Goal:** To understand the secret behind the power of prayer as exercised by the believer through a lifestyle of prayer.

#### Scripture readings:

**2Co 6:17-18** *Therefore **go out** from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and **touch no unclean thing**; then I will welcome you, **and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty.***

**Romans 8:10** *But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.***

**1John 3:1-2** *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that **we should be called children of God**; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.*

**Ephesians 4:4-6** *[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **One God and Father** of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all. (the family of Father God)*

**Matthew 6:31** “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but **your heavenly Father** already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**John 4:22-24** You worship what you do not know; **we worship what we know**, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the **Father (relationship) in spirit and truth, (depth of relationship - dimension)** for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**Romans 5:10-11** For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only [so], but we also **joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom we have now received the atonement. (atonement: or, reconciliation)

**2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises : that by these ye might be **partakers** of the divine nature, having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust.

**2 Corinthians 5:19-20** To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath **committed (Greek put in us) unto us the Word of reconciliation**. Now then we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech [you] by us : we pray [you] **in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God**.

**1 Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, by whom you were **called into the fellowship of His Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Mathews 18:20** For where two or three gather together as my followers, **I am there among them.**”

**Rev.3:20** Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and **we will share a meal together as friends**.

In reference to the above mentioned , consider the following :

**We are the sons/daughters of God** - We are **adopted into the family of Christ Jesus**, and are called the **children of God**. This is a name of endearment, meaning that in relationship to Jesus we are His friends, disciples, and imitators; we are also part of the **great family of the redeemed**, of whom God is the Father and Protector.

**God will be a Father unto us** – The Father is our protector, our counsellor, and our guide as we are His children. He instructs us, provides for us, and counsels us in time of perplexity. In accordance with this, God says, that **He** will be to His people their protector, counsellor, guide, and friend. **He** will cherish toward them the feeling of a Father; **He** will provide for them, **He** will acknowledge them as **His children**. No higher honour can be conferred on mortals than to be adopted into the family of God!, and **to be permitted to call the Most High our Father**. No rank is so elevated as that of being **the sons and the daughters of the Lord Almighty**. Yet this is the common appellation by which God addresses His people; and the most humble in rank, the most poor and ignorant of His friends on earth, the most despised among people, may reflect that they are the children of the ever-living God, and have the Maker of the heavens and the earth as their Father and their eternal Friend. **How poor are all the honours of the world compared with this!** To partake

of His grace, and to be heirs of glory with Him; to enjoy communion with Him in private and public exercises of religion, which is an evidence of being in Him, and of union to Him; for it is not merely into the fellowship of his saints or churches, but into the fellowship of his Son and the Father.

*The Greek word for fellowship = koinoinia meaning*

*1) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse*

*1a) the share which one has in anything, participation*

*1b) intercourse, fellowship, intimacy*

## **Food for thought :**

Looking at the Bible, God's Word - we are never described as an object – we are described in a relational manner, being in a relationship.

In relation to God the Father we are called His children. In relation to Christ Jesus we are called His bride, His friends, His brother and sisters and we are called His servants.

Prayer is the means by which we keep the mentioned relationship in tack, prayer is not just an act of worship, prayer is a relationship expressed in words. (Read Psalm 119)

When Jesus said unto the disciples do not pray like the gentiles, He referred to them knowing that they do not know to whom (relationship) they pray. He said to the Samaritan woman **John 4:22-24** *You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father (relationship) in spirit and truth, (spirit - dimension, truth - depth of the relationship) for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*”

Likewise when Jesus said in **Mathews 7:21-23** *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father (relationship) who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and do many mighty works in Your Name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; (relationship) depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

In the parable of the 10 virgins Jesus said **Mathews 25:10-12** *And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’*

**What is prayer then?** The Greek understanding of prayer was to strike a bargain with one of their idols! but Jesus said unto His disciples **pray not like the Greeks/gentiles** who think that by their many words they will receive something. Prayer to the Greeks/heathens was a means of obtaining something from an idol. An idol was there for the use of the man, and there was no relationship involved just a means. But true prayer in the Biblical sense is to judge oneself in the sight of God, becoming aware of who God is. True prayer is therefore not to convince God to go our way, **but to be convinced by God as our Father to go His way.**

Jesus did not reason with His Father in Gethsemane, He opened His heart to a loving Father in simple surrender to His Fathers will, as we said **true prayer** is not to persuade God to do something, **it is to be persuaded to go according to God's will.** (Like a father and a son, when the

son wants to do something and the father know what is best, it is a dual conversation)

The starting point of understanding prayer is the knowledge of who God is, and our relationship to God as a loving Father. Prayer is not so much about us as **it is about God and the establishment of His Kingdom**, and we being instrumental in it – Looking at what Jesus said we are labourers in God's vineyard – we have only one objective and that is to be a good and faithful son/daughter.

As children in the likeness of Christ Jesus, there is **but one objective and that is to please our Father**, and as friends of our Lord we walk in obedience as ambassadors for the Kingdom of our Father we pray for our lost brothers and sisters to be reconciled through Jesus Christ to our loving Father.

What happened at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ had an direct impact on our relationship to our Father, and to our fellowship in His presence. We have been granted the privilege to enter into the very presence of God as our Father in the name of Jesus Christ. The Bible say that in Christ Jesus we have been recreated so that as we abide in Him we become children of God, in the knowledge that God as our Father had a plan from the beginning for us to bring in fulfilment to the glory of His name. Ephesians 1&2

**Samuel was called into a relationship**, likewise David and the prophets. Jesus said that He only do and say according to what He received from the Father in relationship! t indicating clearly that when Jesus said that our Father know what we need, it is based on the relationship and our Fathers plan, likewise the indication that we do not receive because we do not ask is based on the lack of relationship. The Father knows what we need but gives as we come **into relationship with Him**.

Even though Saul was the anointed of God, he failed because of the lack of relationship.

In Ephesians 3, Paul desires for us **to grow in the relationship**. ***Ephesians 3: 14-15** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family<sup>3</sup> in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:19-20** “...committed unto us the **Word** of reconciliation. (committed...: **Greek. put in us**)..”. The **Word** denotes to a **spoken word** – God said that He will lay His Word on our heart and upon our lips, it is also said that we received the Holy Spirit as a seal of the forthcoming promises. We have received that Holy Spirit that will speak unto us the very Words of God through His Son Jesus Christ.

### **True Story:**

**1 Samuel 3:2-14** *One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. Suddenly the Lord called out, “Samuel!” “Yes?” Samuel replied. “What is it?” He got up and ran to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?” “I didn’t call you,” Eli replied. “Go back to bed.” So he did. So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?” Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went*

back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. I have warned him that judgement is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."

Samuel stayed in the court of God, where he could overhear the call of God. God did not confer anything to Samuel until Samuel came into the relationship, and replied unto God, "Speak, for your servant hears". Samuel in the mentioned conversation not only acknowledged the call of God but also acknowledged his position in relationship to God.

## **God's authority :**

**Genesis 3:8** *When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man\* and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

**Psalm 91:1-2** *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

**Psalm 84:10** *For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

**Genesis 5 :21-24** *When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. Enoch lived 365 years, walking in **close fellowship** with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.*

**Genesis 6:9-10** *This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and **he walked in close fellowship with God**. Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

**2 Corinthians 13:14** *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***

**Philippians 2 :1-2** *Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and **working together with one mind and purpose.***

**1 John 2:24** *So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. And in **this fellowship** we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.*

**1 John 2:28** *And now, dear children, **remain in fellowship with Christ** so that when He returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from Him in shame. Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children. (I do not know you – wedding dress )*

**1 John 3:24** *Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with Him, and He with them. And we know He lives in us because the Spirit He gave us lives in us.*

**1 John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God has come, and He has given us understanding so that we can **know the true God**. And now we **live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ**. He is the only true God, and He is eternal life.*

**Ephesians 4:12-16** *Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such **unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ**. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

**John 13:35** *Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

**Jude 1:3** *Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the **salvation we all share**. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.*

**Mathews 25:10-12** *And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, '**Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.**'*

**Mathews 7:21-23** *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and do many mighty works in Your Name?' **And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'***

**Mathew 23:27-28** *"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

**Jeremiah 18:15** *But my people have forgotten me; they make offerings to false gods; they made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient roads, and to walk into side roads, not the highway,*

## **Conclusion :**

The Old Testament tells how God began to draw a special people into fellowship with himself. Enoch is described as a man who walked with God (Genesis 5:22, 24). Noah, likewise, walked with the Lord (Genesis 6:9). And Abraham, the father of Israel, is called "the friend of God" (James 2:23). No Old Testament person had deeper fellowship with God than did Moses during his forty-day encounter with the Lord on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24). Later in Israel's history, David wrote Psalms that reflect a heart in tune with the living God (Psalms 16; 34; 40; 63).

Looking through scripture we can see several images to describe the spirit of fellowship and togetherness as a family in Christ Jesus. The first is "**the household of God**" (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15), or "**the household of faith**" (Galatians 6:10). In God's household, love and

hospitality are to be the rule (Hebrews 13:1-2). Further, the church is depicted as the **family of God** on earth (Ephesians 3:15). **God is the Father, and believers are his faithful sons and daughters.** The **life of God's family is to be governed by love, tenderness, compassion, and humility** (Philippians 2:1-4). Finally, the **Christian fellowship is represented as the "one new man" or the "one body"** (Ephesians 2:15-16). In spite of the great differences in the body, the Holy Spirit binds believers together into a single being (4:4-6). **In this fellowship of love, no believer is unnecessary. Each member has been given gifts for the spiritual building up of the entire body.** The prayer-life of the believers is founded in fellowship, fellowship with our Father and His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3)

Why are we afraid to have fellowship with God. Adam and Eve hid from God when they heard him approaching. God wanted to be with them, but because of their sin, they were afraid to show themselves. Sin had broken their close relationship with God, just as it has broken ours. But Jesus Christ, God's Son, opens the way for us to renew our fellowship with him. God longs to be with us. He actively offers us his unconditional love. Our natural response is fear, because we feel we can't live up to his standards. But understanding that he loves us, regardless of our faults, can help remove that fear so that we can start looking at God as a loving Father as we surrender ourselves unto Him and His perfect will, regardless of our own inabilities for the Bible says that we have been recreated in Christ Jesus so that through Him we can do the will of our Father.

Thinking about Moses and the Israelites in ***Exodus 20:18-20*** *When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram's horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear. And they said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!" "Don't be afraid," Moses answered them, "for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!"*

Therefore we can conclude that prayer is a relationship with a living God and for that reason God gave us His Spirit so that through His Spirit in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ we may enter with boldness into His presence and cry "Abba Father". Not to ask but to be drawn into the relationship so that we can receive from our loving Father as we open our hearts in His presence, allowing Him to transform us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ.

### **Questions to be answered :**

1. Why do we pray?
2. What is our relationship to God in Christ Jesus?
3. What is the purpose of prayer?
4. What is the secret of prayer?
5. What should we do/how should we practically fulfil our responsibility in our prayer-life?