



Sharing

His

Love

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

www.buildingfathershouse.org

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

Workshop no. 13 : "Prayer evangelism" - reason for prayer evangelism.

Isaiah 62:10 Pass! Pass through the gates; prepare the way of the people. Raise up! Raise up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a banner for the peoples.

Purpose of this workshop: To look at the purpose/reason of prayer evangelism.

(Participating fellowship)

Intended Goal: To understand the believer's authority as it is exercised through the power of prayer. We need to get a clear **understanding of the value of prayer and keep it before us day and night to be spurred on to pray.**

Scripture readings :

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. **Go therefore and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

James 5:16-18 Confess faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The **effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much**. Elijah was a man of like passion as we are. And he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for the time of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth caused its fruit to sprout.

Acts 2:46-47 And **continuing with one accord in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, they shared food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

2 Peter 1:19 *We couldn't be more sure of what we saw and heard--God's glory, God's voice. The prophetic Word was confirmed to us. You'll do well to keep focusing on it. It's the one light you have in a dark time as you wait for daybreak and the rising of the Morning Star in your hearts.*

Matthew 4:19 *And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

Mark 1:17 *And Jesus said to them, Come after Me and I will make you fishers of men.*

Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Acts 2:39 *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

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

Matthew 9:37-38 *Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out laborers into His harvest.*

Matthew 6:10 *Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*

Psalms 85:6 *Will You not give us life again, so that Your people may rejoice in You?*

Philippians 2:5-7 *For let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*

Ephesians 6:18-19 *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching to this very thing with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. And pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Food for thought :

In considering prayer evangelism we need to consider what is evangelism = it's **taking advantage of every opportunity** to share what you know about Jesus with others. Sharing what we know about Jesus is for the purpose of leading people into a personal relationship with God, reconciliation with God. **1John 1:3** *that which we have seen and heard we declare unto you, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* The act of contemplating what God has **done in/by praising and glorifying God for what He has done**, inspires us to tell others about Him, this is what evangelism is all about.

Prayer Evangelism is evangelism based on action and prayer. Being willing to pray for people, bringing their needs before God and seeing how God touch that need, opening the door for opportunities to share Christ.

Consider Elijah when he prayed for rain and challenged the prophets of baal:

Elijah did not merely pray, he became **the instrument that responded to the Spirit of God moving within him.** (He created an opportunity for God to work – prepare the way?)

Prepare = to put in proper condition or readiness

Way = opportunity to advance

Prayer evangelism is to sow the incorruptible seed of God's promises through the power of prayer - a declaration of faith demonstrated in prayer. Prayer evangelism is expressed when God through the power of His Word touch the hearts of people. Prayer evangelism have thus the same objective as evangelism - conversion, but with a different approach. **Prayer evangelism is thus preparing or creating a way for the Kingdom of God to be established in the hearts of people.** Instead of relying on human effort to convert people, the reliance is on God and in His ability to draw people unto Himself. *John 6:65 And He said, Because of this I said to you that no one can come to Me unless it was given to him from My Father.*

This does not mean that the gospel must not be proclaimed, or the gift of evangelism have no place. On the contrary, it means that the two work together. The Gospel is still being proclaimed, but strategically through the body of Christ Jesus.

God gave us the strategy, so that no one person can boast in Himself, but that we can boast in Christ and in His ability.

Prayer Evangelism, is placing our trust in God to draw His catch into the nets. Jesus said that He will make us fishers of men, a strategy that call for unity and team effort as we trust in God. As with Peter the human effort did not bring in the catch, but the combined effort, brought in a catch that surpassed all expectations.

The combined effort, human obedience and trust in God (prayer evangelism), as we acknowledge that God called us to pray in the pursue of His purpose for the evangelization of the world. God is thus calling on all of us to :

- Become fishers of men. We are called to throw out our nets in faith as we pray unto God, to **do what no evangelist can do – to draw people unto Himself.** We sow His Word in a prayer of faith, in the knowledge that it will not return void, but will do as it is sent to do.
- Be His servants and His witnesses. Christ instructs us to pray that God will send His people to accomplish the work of evangelization.
- Be instruments for the extension of His Kingdom. To pray for His Kingdom to come is to pray for Christ to be obeyed in faith, for His Kingly rule to be displayed openly, for the powers of darkness to be subdued. The purpose is to transform the whole community to exhibit features of His righteousness and His peace by a **transformed society** that they might demonstrate the love of God, the righteousness of God and the peace He intends for His people.

- Building a dwelling place for God in the Spirit. To build up the body of Christ, by praying that Christ's body will be revived, renewed and built up in order to clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all things.
- To be an evangelist to glorify His name. We are to pray that God will be known, and His glory be demonstrated throughout the world. The ultimate purpose of evangelization is that God will be worshipped and glorified by every tribe and tongue.

In the likeness of the call unto Peter to go and throw out the nets on the others side, so Christ enables us as a priesthood of believers to help Him in His priestly work. As He filled the nets for Peter, so **He enables us by His Spirit to join Him before God's throne in His work of prayer evangelism**. (intercession). Jesus always prayed in preparation for his next preaching/ministry event. This is a very important strategy Jesus followed, that we as His servants should imitate! The works of power which accompanied Christ's ministry were recognized as answers to His prayer and the work of God in response to faith.

True story :

Luke 5:3-10 *And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. **And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them.** And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men'**. This is an example of how when we work together, we as the body of Christ can bring in the harvest.*

John 11:25-45 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee. As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him. Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him. The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou*

wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. **And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.**

Visit in Israel. During a visit to Israel in 2010, The Lord blessed us and we stayed in a place where there were a few muslim women. One day, one of the women walked pass us, and we could see that she was in severe pain. We followed her and offered to pray for her when she asked the owner of the house, who was a Christian, pain medicine for the toothache. They agreed, and we prayed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord then used the opportunity to show Himself mightily to the woman as He immediately took the pain away. We left the house, but on our return a few days later we were informed that the muslim lady received Jesus Christ as her personal savior. Praise the Lord she was also baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit before her return to Iraq!

God's authority :

Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

John 14:13 *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

Revelations 5:8 *And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one having harps and golden vials full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

Revelations 8:3 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer. And many incenses were given to him, so that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints on the golden altar before the throne. And the smoke of the incense which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God from the angel's hand.*

Matthews 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all nations. And then the end shall come.

*2Ch 6:34-35 If Your people go out to war against their enemies by the way that You shall send them, and if they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name, **then hear from Heaven their prayer and their cry and maintain their cause.***

Psalm 106:8 But He saved them for His name's sake, to make His mighty power known.

Conclusion:

Based on the definition of prayer evangelism, being a **declaration of faith, demonstrated in prayer**. Prayer evangelism as said, have **the purpose of conversion while glorifying the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. (John 14:13)** When we offer to pray with and for someone we communicate the very love of God, and our trust in God and in His ability. As God moves in response to prayer He reveals Himself to those who heard the prayer of faith. Prayer demonstrates the gospel, communicates the love and proclaims the very existence of a living, loving, all power full God. As God's people offer to pray for others, His love, His hope, and His blessing are communicated.

As God reveals Himself in answers to the prayer of His saints, attention is drawn to Christ and thus creates an opportunity for the gospel to be communicated through evangelism. The work of prayer evangelism is not restricted to the intercessor, for God invites the whole body of Christ to participate in His plan for world evangelism, a total onslaught. Everyone is enlisted in the army of God, and **prayer is the responsibility of every member. (2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:20-21; Acts 2:42-47).**

God is pleased with united prayer *Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* The unity of the Father and the Son is the unity that Christ desires from us. *John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*** Together we say the words 'Our Father'; we cry out 'Abba' Father, demonstrating that the Spirit is bearing witness to us as children of God and heirs with Christ. We are one family, with one Father and one purpose, therefore when we pray in agreement we are glorifying the Father, as we align ourselves together with His purpose.

The most important human factor in effective evangelism is PRAYER, Every great awakening in the history of the Church from the time of the Apostles until today has been the result of prayer. There have been great awakenings without much preaching, and there have been great awakenings with absolutely no organization, but **there has never been a true awakening without much prayer.**

The first great gathering of new testament saints was in a ten days prayer meeting. We read of the small company of early disciples: "These all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer" . The result of that ten days prayer meeting is recorded in the 2nd chapter of the Acts of the Apostles: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance", and "there were added unto them in that day about 3,000 souls" . That awakening

proved real and permanent; those who were gathered in on that greatest day in all Christian history, “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. “And **the Lord added** to them day by day those that were being saved”.

In considering **2 Timothy 2:4** *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* We are called to be soldiers for Christ, soldiers united in one army, each with different gifts to advance the Kingdom of God. We as a body of Christ should work united in His name so that through the body the manifold facet of achieving the goal is addressed (total onslaught). *Ephesians 4:13-16* *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the **whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*** Like in a defense force, there is many divisions, facets/activities necessary and involved to secure a victory. **Prayer, is the means to secure the victory for Christ, the various members praying together in unity bring in the many facets required for a total onslaught.** Consider a prayer meeting were brothers and sister come together to pray. The one have a burden to pray for the relationships and more love, the other pray for the lost, yet another targets the teenagers and the school, or church and so on. You will find that the army of the Lord gathered together targets every aspect that requires a victory to advance the Kingdom of God, to advance the Gospel.

The fact that prayer has a strong connection with the spread of the gospel ought to urge us to see its crucial role in evangelization today. **In 2 Thessalonians 3:1 Paul asks for prayer. ‘Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you.’**

Questions to be answered :

1. Define prayer evangelism?
2. What is the purpose of prayer evangelism?
3. What is the difference between evangelism and prayer evangelism?
4. How are we effective in prayer evangelism as an army?
5. How can we motivate others to get involved with prayer evangelism?