

**NEW COVENANT CHURCH, NIGERIA**  
**SOUTH-WEST REGION**

**WORD CONFERENCE 2022**

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**THEME:**

**LET US PRAY**

MINISTERING

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Prayer Ministry vs Church

1.2 Prayer Specialist (OT vs NT)

1.3. Private Prayer vs Public Prayer

## 2. TEXT

Matthew 6:5-15 NKJV

[5] *“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

[6] *But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

[7] *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.*

[8] *“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

[9] *In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread.*

[12] *And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*

[13] *And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

[14] *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

[15] *But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

## 3. RELATIONSHIP

3.1 To Whom do we pray?

.... To God the father!

"... In this manner, therefore pray, "Our Father in heaven..... "

Matthew 6:9

3.2 Prayer is not a function of **NOISE, VOCABULARY or VOLUME**

3.3. Prayer is not a function of your Gender, Calendar Age or Spiritual Age

3.4. Prayer is not a function of your posture, physical position or gymnastics.

3.5. Prayer is not a function of Place (i.e. where you pray) (John 4:21-24)

3.6. **PRAYER IS A FUNCTION OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

3.7. We pray to God the Father. Therefore, God must be your father, that is, you must be a child of God- You must be born - again.

3.8 **Your public prayer is a reflection of your private (closet) prayer life and a measure of your relationship with God**

3.9. "OUR FATHER" - You are not the only child of God. Have a good relationship not only with God but also with your spiritual siblings.... other Christians.

#### 4. **FELLOWSHIP**

4.1 *for your father knows the things you have need of before you ask him."* (v8)

4.2. **God knows what you need before you ask so why pray?**

4.3 God knows what you need even before you ask, yet He wants you to come to Him in prayer to forge a **CONTINUOUS RELATIONSHIP** and **FELLOWSHIP** with Him

#### 4.4 **CLOSET**

-A time of personal communion with God.

- **DAILY** (Psalm 55:17)

- **PREFERABLY FIRST THING IN THE DAY** (Psalm 63:1) (Mark 1:35) (Exodus 20:3)

-IF POSSIBLE, IN A **DESIGNATED PLACE** (Luke 22 39)

-A PLACE YOU CAN HAVE **PRIVACY & NO DISTRACTION** (Mark 1:35)

45 PRAYER: **Way out or Way of Life? - Prayer Life or Life of Prayer?**

4.6 THREE POSSIBLE REASONS FOR PRAYER

- DESIRE (Matthew 7:7)
- DUTY (1 Samuel 12:23)
- DELIGHT (Psalm 42:1)

4.7 PRAYER ETIQUETTE

- Respect for the Father
- Talking During Prayer
- Fidgeting or Distractions
- God deserves our undivided attention and reverence in Prayer

**5 IS YOUR LIFE PLEASING TO GOD?**

5.1 You cannot force God to answer your prayers if He does not like you.

5.2 You cannot force Him to like you by praying

5.3 1 John 3:22

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

5.4. 1 Samuel 25:35

*So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."*

5.5. Exodus 32:10

*Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."*

## 6. HIS WILL

6.1 what should we pray for?

6.2 "*Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*"  
(Mathew 6:10)

6.3 We need to pray for God's will. It is only a prayer that is His will, that God answers (1 John 5:14-15)

6.4 Prayer can be answered

- **GRUDGINGLY** by God (Psalm 106:15)
- **DELIGHTFULLY** by God (Proverbs 15:8)

6.5 How do we KNOW GOD'S WILL?

- **Through his word** - (John 15:7)
- **Through this voice** - (Jeremiah 33:3; Eph. 5:17)

## 6.6 DIALOGUE not MONOLOGUE

6.6.1 Prayer is a dialogue not a monologue.

- In prayer, you commune with God.
- You engage in conversation with your heavenly Father. He speaks, you speak

6.6.2 You need to allow God to speak first to let you know what to pray for

In a telephone discussion, you wait for the ring tone to change to a voice on the other end before you proceed to speak

- Moses waited for God to speak before he could enter His presence (Exodus 24:15-16)
- God spoke before Abraham started interceding (Gen 18:17-23)

6.6.3 When you are in God's Presence, do not be HASTY and do not be too ASSUMING

## 6.6.4 ENQUIRE ABOUT YOUR DESIRE

Jeremiah 33:3

## 7. FAITH

7.1) The wing of Prayer is Faith

7.2) Mark 11:24 “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you **ask** when you pray, **believe** that you receive them, and you will **have** them.”

### **PRAYER → FAITH → RECEIVING ANSWER**

7.3. Faith is like a seed (Luke 17:6). It has a life in it. If planted in the right environment, faith will bring results.

7.4. It is about FAITH not FORCE

### 7.5. CLASSES OF FAITH

7.5.1. Believing (Mark 11:24)

7.5.2. Knowing (1 John 5:14-15, Genesis 15:6,8)

7.5.3. "But if not" (Daniel 3:8)

## 8. PERSUASION

### 8.1. FOUR PARTIES IN PRAYER

- The Judge - God (Hebrews 12:23)
- The Advocate - Jesus (1 John 2:1)
- The Accuser - Satan (Revelation 12:10)
- The Petitioner - You, the Christian (Philippians 4:6)

8.2 Prayer is about persuasion, proving your case, making it almost impossible for God to say "NO".

8.3 Isaiah 41:21

8.4 Genesis 32:9-12

8.5 Rather than shout to pull the crowd or impress the judge, we present our case in a way that will help our Advocate to plead for us.

8.6 Attack the main problem and the little problems will flee e.g. the Philistines fled after Goliath was killed (1 Samuel 17:51)

8.7 We do not stop making our supplication until we have an answer. It is useless jumping from case to case without getting Judgement, just because we are facing multiple issues.

## 9. THE NAME OF JESUS

### 9.1 John 16:23

*"And in that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the father in My name He will give you"*

9.2 We receive answers to our prayer because of the **finished work** done by our Saviour Jesus, so we pray in Jesus' name.

9.3 The name **Jesus is the seal of our prayer**. It is like the **signature on the cheque**. It is like the **passcode** that gives a final authentication to our online bank transaction.

9.4 The name of Jesus is to be hallowed in prayer (Matthew 6:9). It should be accorded the honour it deserves. It is therefore advisable to say the name of Jesus once at the end the prayer.

9.5 the name of Jesus is not a formular to be used at the beginning of, or many times during a prayer. It is tantamount to defacing your cheque by signing it many times.

9.6 The name of Jesus should be hallowed in prayer.

## 10. PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### 10.1 Inter - Between

Ceed - Go

An intercessor is a "go-between"

He stands in place of the one being prayed for

10.2 Jesus now intercedes for us by sitting on the right side of the father as God and man. He reminds the father of His sacrifice and pleads for us (Hebrews 7: 25)

10:3 The Holy Spirit also makes intercession for us (Romans 8:26)

### 10.4 Praying in Tongues

## 11 SPIRITUAL WARFARE

11.1 "We wrestle....." (Ephesians 6:12)

11.2 A born-again christian is a soldier enlisted into God's army (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

11.3 However, we are engaged in a war that Jesus already fought and won on our behalf (Colossians 2:14-15)

11.4 Our responsibility is to enforce the victory won by Jesus and appropriate the spoils of war.... enjoy the benefits of Jesus' Victory (2 Corinthians 2:14)

11.5 Luke 22:31 As a child of God, Satan cannot attack you without God knowing about it. If you need to inform God that Satan attacked you, then you are in trouble.

You must be outside God's will and location - you need to first repent and retrace your steps.

### 11.6 SPEAKING TO THE DEVIL

When Satan attacks you, ignore him and pray to God the Father, and He will rebuke the devil. God will send angels to deal with your enemy (Daniel 10:10-14)

11.7 The only exception is if you are praying for someone who is possessed by demons and the person is physically before you, you can command the demon to leave, in Jesus name. This is Commonly referred to as "deliverance" (Matthew 17:18)

### 11.8 BACK TO SENDER

Anytime you place or transfer a curse, you get more than the recipient, as your mouth becomes a channel for cursing. This is an own goal. You become a double agent (of God and Satan). You invite Satan to anoint your tongue for cursing. Psalm 109:17

11.9 Many times, it is not lack of prayer that is our problem, but concentration on Satan

### 11.10 WHO DO WE TALK TO IN PRAYER?

11.10.1 God (Matthew 6:9)

(John 16:23)

11.10.2 Satan (Matthew 17:18, Luke 8:29)

11.10.3 Circumstances (Mark 11:23)

("This Mountain")



11.10.4 People (Isaiah 3:10)  
("Prophesying")

11.10.5 Yourself (Psalm 118:17)  
("Confession")

11.11 **HOW DO WE WRESTLE?** (Ephesians 6:13)

11.11.1 Ephesians 6:10-18

11.11.2 i) By Putting on our Armour, and  
ii) By Taking our Stand

11.11.3 **THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**

1) **HELMET OF SALVATION**

- Head
- Salvation
- The target of the enemy in spiritual warfare is your salvation

2) **Breastplate of Righteousness**

- Chest
- Righteousness – Right Standing
  - Right Doing
- 2 Corinthians 10:6

3) **Belt of Truth**

- Loins/Waist
- Standing on the side of truth – Always
- John 8:44

4) **SHOES**

- Feet
- Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
- Warfare in furtherance of the Gospel – establishing the Lordship of Jesus Christ

- The warfare should ultimately bring peace

#### 5) SHIELD OF FAITH

- Hand-held
- Defensive
- To quench **all** the fiery darts of the wicked one

#### 6) SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- Hand-held
- The Word of God : Knowing the word of God in your spirit

- Both Defensive & Offensive

#### 7) ALL PRAYER & SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT

A – I – M

A: ARMOUR

I: INFORMATION

- Lord, what is happening?
- How did the devil come in?
- Joshua 4:6-12

M: METHOD

- Strategy to secure victory
- Lord, what should I do?
- Joshua 7:13
- 1 Samuel 29:8

- MAN : Spirit

: Soul

: Body

- Praying with our spirit (Praying in Tongues)

: John 4:24

: Proverbs 20:7

\* Bypasses your soul; overcoming human/natural weaknesses/limitations

\* Enhances Dialogue - You speak to God

- God speaks to you

- Praying in the Spirit is indispensable in Prayer and in Spiritual warfare

### 8. Being Watchful

- Watch and Pray (Matthew 26:41)

### 9. Taking Our Stand

- Maintaining your ground

- Not yielding to the enemy through fear or mis-step

- Resting by Faith in the finished work of the Cross

## 12. CORPORATE PRAYER

12.1 Three levels of God's power manifested in prayer:

12.1.1 POWER of ONE (Job 22:27-28)

Individual Prayer

12.1.2 POWER of TWO (Matthew 18: 19)

Prayer of Agreement

12.1.3 POWER OF THE CHURCH (Matthew 16:18)

Corporate Prayer

12.2 There is tremendous power in the corporate prayer of the Church, if they pray the will of God.

12.3 In Acts 4:24-31, the Corporate prayer was recorded because one person prayed and the rest agreed. It is like someone writes a petition and hundreds Sign it.

12.4 AMEN - means "I agree" or "Let it be" and it is an indication of unity of mind of those present at the prayer meeting  
 - **Amen** is not a mystic. It has no power. It sanctions what you have said. You don't have to say AMEN several times.

## 12.5 FOLLY OF A PRAYER LEADER

12.5.1 Someone leads prayer from the front by dictating to us what we should be saying to the Lord

12.5.2 He keeps on talking to us over the loud speaker, while he expects us to be holding a serious. Conversation with God.

1. Very distracting to those praying, and 2. disrespectful to God.

12.5.3 Then abruptly, he commands us to stop talking to God on that issue, by shouting "**In Jesus name** we pray." At this time, many in the congregation have not concluded their prayer. He then shouts out more topics to pray about.

12.5.4 **PRAYER LEADER** - Not a priest that represents us before God but a leader that goes with us to God in prayer. In the New Testament, every believer is a Priest as well as a King. (Revelation 1:6)

-The Prayer Leader leads us before God who is the only one who can answer our prayer – He is my God.

## 12.6 WHAT A PRAYER MEETING IS NOT

12.6.1 A Corporate Prayer Meeting is not a Bible Study so there should not be too many scriptures.

12.6.2 A Corporate Prayer Meeting is not a Seminar so the prayer leader Should not talk too much but inspire the people to talk to God. I recommend **25-30%** time of talking and **70-75%** time of praying.

## 12.7 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRAYER LEADER

The Prayer Leader has a responsibility to seek the face of God in the closet ahead to know what prayer the Father wants to answer, so we could pray aright at the prayer meeting.

12.7.2 Find the scriptures backing up the prayer points ahead of the prayer meeting.

12.7.3 Explain the prayer point and the relevant scriptures at the meeting.

12.7.4 Ask one person or some persons, one after the other, to present the corporate petitions to God on behalf of the group or congregation.

12.7.5 The congregation choruses “Amen” after each one prays to signify agreement to the prayers.

12.7.6 Corporate Prayer is like A Ladder (Genesis 28:12). Each person who prays should take us further up the rung of the ladder. One person’s faith inspires the next to a higher level. Finally, one person prays through. Then we can move to the next topic.

12.7.7 It is advisable **not to have too many prayer points at a prayer meeting**. It is better to exhaust and pray through on a few prayer points than take multiple prayer points that the congregation can not do justice to in the limited time of the prayer meeting.

## 12.8 CORPORATE PRAYER vs INDIVIDUAL PRAYER IN A CORPORATE SETTING

### 12.9 PRAYER ETIQUETTE

- Don't do any other thing like searching for Bible Passages or reading your notes while all of us are praying.
- Hold the microphone in an appropriate way.

### 12.10 CONCLUSION

12.10.1 Acts 4:23-31, Acts 5:12

12.10.2 James 5:13-16

12.10.3 Heavens can move on behalf of the earth when the church prays.

12.10.4 *“The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available - dynamic in its working.”* James 5:16(b) Amplified.