



WHAT HAPPENS

IN THE

PLACE OF

PRAYER ?

OLUFEMI SOKUNBI

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLACE OF PRAYERS

Olufemi Sokunbi

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1, Sam Okuala Avenue Irawo Bus Stop, Ikorodu Road Nigeria

dreampowercompany@gmail.com

07032405894

PREFACE

Prayer is communication between you and God. Prayer is an outcry to God. Saint Ambrose noted that “prayer is the wing wherewith the soul flies to heaven and meditation the eye wherewith we see God”. Prayer is a legal right to ask God to do something for you as His child. A. B Simpson said that “prayer is the link that connects us with God. It is the bridge that spans every gulf and bears us over every abyss of danger or needs”.

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” 1John 5: 14-15. Your prayer life will always produce an abundant harvest for you. “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed” **John Bunyan**.

The great people of the earth today are the people who pray.

This book will inspire you to pray because a prayer less soul is a Christ less soul and one method of obtaining spiritual awakening is by prayer. I encourage you to get into the place of prayer for therein lies the secret of success.

Olufemi Sokunbi

CHAPTER ONE

THE PLACE OF PRAYER

Prayer is the most ancient, most universal, most intense expression of the religious instinct. It touches infinite extremes, for it is at once the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try and the sublimes strains that reach the majesty on high. It is indeed the Christian's vital breath and native air.

Prayer is the act of vocal or mental communication with God whether according to set form or by spontaneous utterance.

The statement what prayer cannot do praise will do is incorrect and people support their argument by quoting Acts 16: 26

Prayer may include adoration in worship, of praise, petition for oneself, intercession for others, and thanksgiving. When the disciple asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, Jesus taught them a model of prayer (communicate all forms of prayer to them; praise, worship, intercessory prayer, prayer of request, prayer of forgiveness). **Luke 6: 9- 13**
(KJV)

PRAYER

MODEL

PRAISE

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Matthew 6: 13

WORSHIP

Our father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 6:

INTERCESSORY

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:

REQUEST

Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6: 11

FORGIVENESS

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

Matthew 6: 12

Rev Chris Oyakhilome in his book "Recreating your world", describe prayer this way

"Prayer is important, it not only serves as communication with God in terms of fellowship, but it also affects your life in many other ways. Prayer can shape a man's

future. It will determine the kind of things that will happen or will not happen in a man's life. Therefore, it's important to learn to pray effective prayers that achieve results".

But most of us are plagued with a subtle aversion to prayer. We know that it is constantly enjoined and exemplified in the scriptures. Jesus says "---Men ought to pray and not to faint" Luke 18:1. Despite all, too often we fail to pray.

Let us take encouragement from the lives of men of like passion with ourselves who have conquered their natural reluctance and become mighty men of prayer.

The Biographer of Samuel Chadwick wrote

"He was essentially a man of prayer. Every morning he would be awake shortly after six o' clock and he kept a little room which was his private altar for his quiet hour before breakfast. He was mightily in public prayer because he was constant in private devotion ---when he prayed he expected God to do something. 'I which I had prayed more, even if I had to worked less; and from the bottom of my heart I wish I had prayed better', he wrote toward the end of his life"

MARTIN LUTHER

“Work, work from early till late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer”.

SPURGEON

When Spurgeon was asked the secret of his success, he responded **KNEE WORK!**

KNEE WORK!!

OSWALD J. SMITH

Oswald J. Smith wrote “I am perfectly confident that the man who does not spend hours alone with God will never know the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

D. M. MCINTYRE

D. M. McIntyre, in taking the example of our Lord Jesus Christ wrote:

In Luke 5: 16; we have a general statement which throws a vivid light on the daily practice of the Lord “And He withdrew Himself in the deserts and prayed”. It is not of one occasion, but of many that the evangelist speaks in this place. It was our Lord’s habit to seek retirement for prayer. When He withdraws Himself from men, He was accustomed to press far into the uninhabited country. He was in the deserts.

The surprise of the onlookers lay in this, that one so mighty, so richly endowed with spiritual power, should find it necessary for Himself to repair to the source of strength, that there He might refresh His weary spirit. To us, the wonder is still greater, that He, the Prince of life, the Eternal word, the only- begotten of the Father, should prostrate Himself in meekness before the throne of God, making entreaty for grace to help in times of need.

The Place Of Prayer

The Bible record about a place called “The place of prayer”

“On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer...” Acts 16:13

“Once when we were going to the place of prayer....” Acts 16:16

There is a place of prayer, which you must create for yourself just as Jesus will separate himself to pray.

“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune – telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting,

'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved', she kept this up for many days----"Acts 16: 16- 18

Paul and his company always go to the place of prayer just as Jesus always separate Himself to the mountain top to pray, because they heard the understanding of 'WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLACE OF PRAYER'. This place of prayer is where you communicate with God in whatever way you can.

Note

- J. Oswald "Spiritual Leadership", scripture union (Nigeria) press and book ltd
Ibadan Nigeria PP.121, 122, 124
- The American people "Encyclopedia; Grolier incorporated New York, P. 15
- Christ Oyakhilome "Recreating Your World", loveworld publication, 2000 P. 23

CHAPTER TWO

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLACE OF PRAYER?

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...”

Ephesians 6: 18 (NIV). It means with all communication to God. It could be through praise, worship, request, forgiveness, intercessory or prayer of agreement. Let it be done (communicate) in the Spirit.

What happens in the place of prayer?

YOU GET TO MEET THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The place of prayer is the place you get to meet the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called Him our Helper in John 14: 26 **“But the Helper the Holy Spirit, whom the Father**

will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you". The word Helper could mean Comforter. The Amplified version put it this way, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit.

The word Comforter in Greek means Parakletos which means one called alongside to aid, help or support. Let look at the meaning of these seven words that the Amplified version used to communicate the word comforter.

Counselor - a person who counsels or advice, an adviser, for example: a legal adviser, a legal adviser who may conduct a case in court for his client.

Helper – to support, to help, to join, or to aid

Intercessor – a person who intercedes for another. To intercede means to intervene on behalf of another, to intervene as to attempt reconciliation

Advocate – a person who pleads on behalf of another especially in a court of law, a person who speaks or writes in support of some cause, argument or proposal

Strengthener – someone who strengthen, to make stronger, to become stronger.

Standby – to be present and ready to take action, standby in case of trouble, to be prepared to operate, to back up with support.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” Romans 8: 26- 28.

The Holy Spirit wants to help us in our weakness. The Greek word for weakness is ASTHENEIA and means ‘without strength or ability’. The word is communicating to us our inability to produce results. The place of prayer is the place where the Holy Spirit helps our inability to produce results. He supports us in our strength and intercedes (intervene on our behalf, speak in support of us) with groaning that words cannot express.

I like to relate this true-life story that happened long time ago to a Pastor friend.

“In the middle of one night the Holy Spirit woke me up, but I was so tired and went back to sleep, the second time I woke up and went back to sleep, but the third time I woke up I felt a prompting in my spirit to pray, but didn’t have a clue of what to pray about. Then I began to pray in the Spirit. After some time, tears started rolling down my eyes then a song kept coming from my heart *“You are my hiding place, You always feel my heart with songs of deliverance whenever I am afraid I will trust in You---*”. I started singing until I felt a release in my spirit and I went back to sleep.

The next morning as I was preparing to go to a friend’s birthday party.

Initially, I took some money to buy gifts for him but The Holy Spirit instructed me not to take any extra money except my transport fare. I was obedient to His voice. On my way, back at night, a man sitting beside me in the bus I boarded started shouting “this man has stolen my money”, all the other passengers also joined him in shouting. The driver

had no choice but to stop. Before we could realize what was happening the areas boys from nowhere started coming with sticks, tyres, and matches to set me ablaze. The driver ask me to come down, but I refused. Immediately, I felt an angel stood beside me.

Fortunately, someone confronted the man and asked how much was his money that was stolen, he said N150, when they searched me they only found on me N5.

Immediately the angry area boys started turning back one after the other. At that moment, I remembered what happened in the middle of the night when the Holy Spirit woke me up to pray”.

The Holy Spirit woke him up to intercede (to intervene on his behalf) and saved him from death that day.

This is another true story from a friend:

“I just felt this burden in me to pray for my mother. Then I started praying in the Spirit for my mother. When my mother got back home, she narrated the story of how God saved her life. She went out that day with her car and she got into this terrific traffic and her

fuel was all exhausted on express way and miraculously the car didn't stop until she got to the front of our house gate".

What happened was that Holy Spirit in the place of prayer helped to intervene and save her life through the prayer of her son.

In the place of prayer, we see the Holy Spirit as our Counselor (adviser, a legal adviser), Helper (to aid, to support), Intercessor (to intervene on our behalf), Advocate (to plead on our behalf, speak in support of us), Strengthenener (to make us stronger), Standby (to be present and ready to take action for us, to back us up with support and to standby in case of trouble).

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him---

"Romans 8:28. The word And is a conjunction connecting verse Romans 8:28 to verse 26 and 27, Which means, all things will begin to work together for us when the condition of 26 and 27 are met. You can meet this condition in the place of prayer.

Note

1. Dutch Sheet "Intercessory Prayer" Matthew Christian Publication 1996 PP 96- 97.

2. New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary.

THE SECRET THINGS OF GOD IS REVEALED TO MEN IN PRAYER

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing! But the honor of kings is to search out a matter" Proverb 25: 2

"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God! But those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law"

Deuteronomy 29: 29

"However, as it is written, 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him" 1 Corinthians 2: 9

This verses talks about the secret things God has prepared for those who love Him; the ideas, the businesses, the great innovations, the great inventions, the great enterprises, the great ministries etc. But there is only one condition that this secret that is concealed can be revealed to us.

“But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit; the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God for who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we many understand what God has freely given to us” 1 Corinthians 2: 10- 12

In the place of prayer, the Holy Spirit reveals and gives you understanding of the things God has prepared for you. He reveals ideas, dreams, visions and your assignment, and these are the things that controls the world.

I remember after finishing writing my first book, I was a novice in publishing. I didn’t know what’s the next step. What I did was to go into the place of prayer, and when I

was praying, the Holy Spirit revealed to me who to meet concerning the publication of my book, and that was how everything worked together for my good.

My ideas, dreams, vision and purpose was received from the place of prayer. God has prepared something that no one has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived it.

That means if no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for you, with all the inventions, ideas, dreams and all what has been done in the world today.

It means you are very special, unique and very great. But it can only be reveal to you in the place of prayer by the Holy Spirit, so that it can bring honor to you and glory to God.

Get into the place of prayer and search those ideas, businesses, ministries etc. that

God has plan for you, which will give you identity and bring honor to you and glory to

God.

**YOU RECEIVE COURAGE, CONFIDENCE,
BOLDNESS IN THE PLACE OF PRAYER**

In Acts 4; Peter and John were preaching and teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. The priests and the captain of the temple guard sized Peter and John, put them in jail and threaten them not to speak in the name of Jesus again. On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the Chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voice together in prayer to God.

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness--- After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly”

Acts 4:29, 31

If you need courage to do what the Lord has put inside you; the ideas, the plans, the goals, you need to get into the place of prayer. The apostles were called to preach and teach in the name of Jesus Christ but they were being threaten and were afraid. But they knew what could happen when they pray, “After they prayed---they spoke the word of God boldly “Acts 4: 31.

You need courage, boldness and confidence to achieve your dreams on earth. Criticism will come, opposition will come, and it takes a man of courage, a man of boldness and a confident man to overcome criticism and opposition that comes his way. This courage, boldness and confident can be received in the place of prayer.

REFRESH YOURSELF AND BUILD UP YOURSELF

“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church” 1

Corinthians 14: 4

The word edifies means to refresh oneself. You build yourself up.

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit” Jude 20.

There are two ways you can build yourself up:

1. By the word of God

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” Act 20: 32.

2. The second way to build yourself up is by praying in the Holy Spirit.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God-----“Hebrew 11: 6

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” Hebrew 11:1.

What praying in the Holy Spirit does is to help build your faith and make your spirit strong? It will make you to be fully persuaded and being sure of what you hope for and to be certain of what you do not see.

Praying in the Holy Spirit helps to build your faith in the ideas, dreams, vision and purpose that you have and make your spirit so strong that nothing will be impossible for

you to accomplish. Praying in the Holy Spirit will make you believe that all things are possible and in turn pleasing God will be easy for you.

Do you want to get refreshed, edify yourself? Get into the place of prayer. Do you want to fulfill your dreams, vision, and purpose? Get into the place of prayer and let the Holy Spirit build your faith for you. Faith is so necessary in the school of success.

THE PLACE OF PRAYER IS THE PLACE YOU RECEIVE POWER TO DO SUPERNATURAL THINGS ON EARTH

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised which you have heard me speak--- but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be

my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

Acts 1: 4, 8

Jesus commands His disciple to wait in the place of prayer so that they can receive power to do supernatural things on earth. 120 disciples were waiting at the upper room for the gift (Power) which was confirmed on the day of Pentecost.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place (place of prayer).

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” Acts 2: 1- 4

Peter that could not face the crowd, that day after receiving the Power preached and three thousand souls were added to the church. What a miracle! In Acts 3: 1- 8, Peter and John prayed for a man crippled from birth and immediately he was healed and started to work.

The Bible talks about a man Stephen **“Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people “Acts 6:8. Philip was**

also recorded in Acts 8:6-8, "When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did-, they all paid close attention to what he said, with shrieks, evil spirits came out of many and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city".

What an awesome manifestation of God's power. Paul was a man that God wrought special miracles through his hands (Acts 19: 11- 12). The shadow of Peter also healed the sick. Supernatural things can be done on earth by the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is being giving to men in the place of prayer.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him" Acts 10:38. "But Jesus often withdraw to lonely places and prayed" Luke 5:16.

If you want to do supernatural exploits on earth, get into the place of prayer that is where the power and the anointing lies.

IN THE PLACE OF PRAYER DOORS OPENS UNTO YOU AND EVERY CHAIN GET LOOSED

The record in the book of Acts 12; how Herod arrested James and Peter. He killed

James and was planning to put Peter to death in following day.

“So Peter was kept in prison, but the Church was earnestly praying to God for him.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter

on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s

wrists. And Peter was saved from Herod” Acts 12:5.

In Acts 16 Paul and Silas were jailed in prison, **“About midnight Paul and Silas were**

praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the Prison were

shaken. At once all the prisons were flew open and everybody’s chain became loosed”

Acts 16: 25-26.

If you think you are being bound or in bondage by the devil. I encourage you to get into the place of prayer and you will be loosed from every chain of the devil, and be release into your inheritance in Jesus name.

God opened doors to save Paul and Silas because they prayed and sang. Act 11:26-34.

The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them, he was filled with joy because he had come to believe God, he and his whole family Acts 11: 34

The doors of release were open unto them “When it was day light, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order ‘release those men’. The jailer told Paul, ‘The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released’. Now you can leave. Go in peace”. Acts 16: 35-36

YOU RECEIVE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things

(unsearchable things) which thou knowest not” Jeremiah 33: 3

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver

him, and honour him” Psalm 91: 15

“Then shall you call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto

you” Jeremiah 29:12

God want you to pray, so that He can hearken to you and show you great and

unsearchable things. You need to get into the place of prayer and call on Him and in

turn He will show you great things you need to know about yourself, your future, your

nation and the world.

THE PLACE OF PRAYER IS A PLACE WHERE THE HONOUR (GLORY) AND THE MAJESTY OF GOD RADIATE OVER MEN.

“Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary”

Psalm 96:6

“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord’s presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been

commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord". Exodus 34: 29: 35

The splendor and majesty, strength and glory of God was radiating on Moses to the extent that the Israelite were unable to look at his face. **"When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out ----"Exodus 34: 33- 35.**

This is awesome. This can only happen in the place of prayer. God's strength is given for your weakness and His beauty for your ashes.

CONFESSION/ PRAYER

- Father, I ask that you pour upon me the Spirit of prayer and help me to spend time alone with you in the place of prayer in Jesus Name.
- I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to me the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of my understanding may be enlightened, that I may know the hope of your calling, what are the riches of the glory of your inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of your power towards me who believe, according to the working of your mighty power.

Ephesians 1:17-19

- The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1
- I have been crucified with Christ; It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

- The lines have fallen for me in pleasant place; yes, I have a good inheritance. Psalm 16:

6

- My path is like the shining light (because I am the righteousness of God in Christ

Jesus), that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4: 18

- For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant me, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in my inner man, that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith; that I being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that I may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I ask or think, according to the power that works in me, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3: 14- 21

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

About Olufemi

Olufemi Sokunbi is a dynamic preacher called into the office of an Apostolic Pastor. He is the President and Founder of The Beloved Awakening Ministry. A non – denominational Apostolic ministry dedicated to taking God’s presence to the ends of the world and establishing the kingdom of God on earth.. His goal is to win one billion souls for Jesus Christ and to Awakening Millions of believers in their faith in Jesus Christ.

He holds a monthly non-denominational meeting '**Hour Of Miracle (Experiencing The Holy Spirit Meeting)**'. A time of worship, miracles, teaching, a time of refreshing in God’s Presence and a time of revival/ awakening the believers, and '**The Revelation of Jesus Crusade/Outreach**' an outdoor crusade in cities, villages, towns and the nations of the world. He also hold '**Awakening The Youth Meeting**' in Higher Institutions in Nigeria and around the world.

He holds a Diploma degree in Theology from Global Theological Seminary (GLOTES) Inc. NIG. & USA. He is a graduate of Chemical/ Polymer Engineering at Lagos State University.

He also, holds Certifications in Health, Safety and Environment from Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON), and OSHAcademy, Oregon USA.

Olufemi is a Personal Development Coach, an author and a publisher.

He lives in Lagos, Nigeria with his wife Olayinka and daughter.

