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\*THE POWER OF PRAYER\*   
  
Mark 1:35:  
\*"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where HE prayed".\*   
  
Our Lord Jesus demonstrated in many instances the importance of creating time to pray.   
  
Without doubt, prayer is the most potent weapon He taught every believer.   
  
Since there is a God that answers prayers then men ought to pray and not faint.   
\*Luke: 18:1\*   
  
My first glaring experience of the significance of prayer, took place in the early hours of the12th of December 1992- which happens to be my birthday.  
  
We were woken up by gun shots of about 10 hired killers in our house.  
  
Four of us were at home that day ; My late mother, my 2 elder brothers and myself.   
  
They forced their way into our house as they have sounded warning of their task to kill our mother and if the boys should resist them, they will fire.  
  
In the process, my two brothers escaped through the back fence, as instructed by our mother who was not ready to lose any of her children.  
  
In the twinkle of an eye the gang had surrounded the premises and three of them entered the living room where I was left with my mother.   
  
She told me to flee the scene, but by that time I was left with no other option than to flee for cover within the house; which I did underneath a bed.😲  
  
Two of the gang members came into the room where I was and I noticed one bending his legs to check under the bed I was hiding; I closed my eyes in order not to have any eye contact with him.  
  
Then, I offered the most \*desperate\* prayer I have ever prayed in my life:   
  
" \*Lord if you will safe me from this; I will serve you"\*   
  
Afterall, God says:   
"Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I shall rescue you and you will honour Me"  
Psalm 50:15.  
  
After few seconds, I opened my eyes and I saw the legs coming closer to the wide side of the bed; as if he was going to draw me out;  
  
Then he stood still for about 5 seconds and  flipped over the mattress of the second bed in that room then he stormed out of the room and said to others "there is nothing here".   
  
It was the most terrifying scene I have ever seen.   
  
I was so sure the man saw me; but God preserved my life.   
  
"He frustrated the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise".  
Job 5:12.  
  
They inflicted grievous life- threatening injuries on her mother; she was in a pool of her own blood, but miraculously she survived the incident.  
  
She later went to be with the Lord, 6 years ago.  
  
Looking back at that horrible incident with the prayer I prayed and reconciling all with what God is using me to do now; I cannot but submit that we serve a God that answers prayer.  
  
James 5:13 :   
"Is any among you afflicted? \*Let him pray\*".  
  
The following are some of the key components of prayer:  
  
✅Prayer is to God.   
"There is one God and one mediator between God and men; the man Christ Jesus"  
1st Tim 2:5.  
  
" \*I am the way, the truth and the life;no man comes to the Father, but by Me"\* John 14:6.  
  
"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..."  
\*James 1:17\*.  
  
A Yoruba adage  says - "Eni to to ni gba lo ye ka foro lo"  
Meaning :  
  
It is better to share your problems with the One that can deliver you.  
  
Hannah stayed back in Shiloh to pray to God and God answered.  
  
She later named her son: Samuel -which means :  
  
" \*Because I asked him of the Lord".\*   
1st Sam1:10-20  
  
The disciples said to our Lord Jesus in Luke 11:1:saying :  
" \*Lord teach us how to pray"\* .  
  
Then, He taught them; what is now referred to as: " The Lord's  
Prayer"; which is very instructive.  
Luke 11:2-4:  
  
✅ Praise and appreciate God first. "Hallow God-revere and honour God for who HE is.   
  
\*Psalm 150:6:\*   
"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord"  
  
Thank Him for what He has done & things He has not done  
  
\*1Thess 5:18\* "In everything give thanks"  
  
"With thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God"  
\*Phill.4:6.\*   
  
✅Pray for forgiveness of sins.  
The Lord's Prayer says: forgive us our sins.  
\*Luke 11:4.\*   
  
"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in His holy place? he that hath a clean hands & a pure heart...."  
Psalm 24:3 & 4.  
  
God expects us to live a holy and a sin free life.  
Isaiah 59:1& 2.  
  
We are to ask for grace to forgive those that have wronged us.  
  
A true believer should not keep malice.  
  
When you have \*unforgiving spirit\*; you are deliberately delaying your own prayers.  
  
✅Be specific in your prayer. Ask for the exact thing you want God to do.  
  
Jesus asked Blind Bartimaeus:  "What do you want me to do for you"?  
Bartimaeus replied "Lord That I might receive my sight  
\*Mark 10:51.\*   
  
✅Pray with faith.  
"But let him ask in faith; without doubting"  
\*James 1:6\*  
  
Faith is the fuel that moves prayer.  
  
\*Hebrews 11:6\*:  
"Without faith it is impossible to please God...."  
  
✅Lastly, the bible says in 1st Thess. 5:17: "pray without ceasing".  
  
Persistence in the place of prayer is key to receiving answer.  
  
Elijah prayed that there might not be rain and it rained not for 3 years and six  
months;  
  
The bible says \*he prayed again\* and the heaven gave rain.  
James 5:17&18.  
  
The fact that God answered my desperate prayer, 25 years ago and HE has spared my life up till this moment is a testament that He is taking me somewhere!  
  
I conclude by sharing one of  the powerful prayers my late mother always prayed for me:  
  
" Since nobody can stop the glory of the Sun and that of the Moon; No one will be able to stop my destiny in Jesus name".  
🙏🏼🙏🏼🙏🏼.  
  
Later in life, I discovered Jeremiah 33:20 & 21; I then realised my mother was  prophesying  into my life since I was younger.   
  
May her soul continue to rest in peace. 🙏🏼  
  
\*Prayer\* :God I pray for myself and everyone reading this message that no matter what the enemy does to try to destroy our destinies; they will continue to fail in Jesus name. 🙏🏼🙏🏼🙏🏼.  
  
However, let no man glory that: "I am a prayer warrior’’ "God always answer my prayers".  
  
Same prayer that I prayed that day; many have prayed it and did not come out alive.  
  
Hence, my prayer is never complete until I plead for God's Mercy.  
  
"It is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth, but of God that shews mercy"  
Romans 9:16.  
  
Perhaps, you are yet to surrender  your life to the Owner of life?  
  
\*Repent now\*, before it's too late.  
  
May \*JESUS\* meets us well prepared for Him. 🙏🏼  
  
Shalom.   
  
Signed, Bro Cole