

THE WEAPON. THE PRIVILEGE. THE POWER.

THE POWER OF PRAYER



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FOREWORD BY
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THE POWER OF PRAYER

Discovering the Earthly Permission for Heaven's Intervention

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This is a teaser/ sample of the E-book The Power of
Prayer By **DR. JOSEPH ADEBAYO**

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Scripture Versions

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Chapter One: What Is Prayer?

DEFINING THE MOST POWERFUL ACTIVITY ON EARTH

Before you can wield a weapon, you have to know what you are holding. Before you can draw water, you have to know there is a well beneath your feet. And before you can pray with power, you have to understand what prayer actually is.

This sounds obvious, but stay with me, because here is the strange thing: most people pray for years without ever stopping to ask the question. They inherit a vague, secondhand idea — ‘prayer is talking to God’ — and they never move an inch beyond it. And because their definition is thin, their prayer life is thin. You cannot draw deeply from a well you believe is shallow.

So let's go deep. Let's build a definition of prayer so rich and so true that it changes the way you pray for the rest of your life.

The Simplest Definition: Communion

At its simplest — and we must never lose the simplicity — prayer is communion with God. It is the lifting of the heart and the voice to the One who made you, who redeemed you, and who delights to call you His own. It is fellowship between the creature and the Creator, between the child and the Father.

Notice the word communion, not merely communication. Communication is the exchange of information. Communion is the sharing of life. When you pray, you are not filing a report to a distant office; you are sharing your life with a Father who loves you. Someone once described prayer simply as ‘the conversation of a soul that has fallen in love with God.’ I have never found a better starting point.

This is why prayer is often called the breath of the spiritual life. Think about that picture. Breathing is not an achievement; it is a sign of life. A living person breathes without being commanded to. And a soul that is spiritually alive prays as naturally as the lungs draw air. When a believer stops praying, it is not first a discipline problem — it is a sign that something in the spiritual life has grown faint and needs reviving.

“Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air.”

— James Montgomery, hymn-writer

A STORY TO CONSIDER • The Child Who Wandered Into the Throne Room

There is an old account, told in many forms, of a great king holding court in his palace. Ambassadors waited in long lines, clutching their petitions, rehearsing their carefully-worded requests, terrified of saying the wrong thing before so mighty a monarch.

Suddenly a small child pushed through the crowd, walked straight past the trembling dignitaries, climbed up into the king's lap, and laid her head against his chest. The ambassadors were horrified. But the king only smiled and stroked her hair, for the others were petitioners — and she was his daughter.

Many believers approach God like nervous ambassadors, when He is inviting them to come like beloved children. Both are speaking to the King. But only one of them is enjoying communion. Prayer, before it is anything else, is climbing into the Father's lap.

The Staggering Definition: Permission for Heaven's Intervention

But that tender, simple definition, true as it is, can actually hide the sheer power of what is taking place. So let us go further, to the truth at the centre of this entire book: prayer is the earthly permission for heaven's intervention.

To understand this, we have to go back to the very beginning — to the book of Genesis and the moment God made human beings and handed them something astonishing.

Genesis 1:26

NIV: “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule... over all the earth.’”

NKJV: “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion... over all the earth.’”

Read that carefully. God created the earth, and then He delegated its governance to human beings. He gave us dominion — authority — over the earthly realm. The Psalmist marvels at the same arrangement: ‘The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth He has given to mankind’ (Psalm 115:16, NIV).

This is the key that unlocks the mystery of prayer. The earth was placed under human authority. That is why, again and again throughout Scripture, God moves on the earth in response to the invitation and agreement of human beings. He is not weak — He is sovereign, and He can override anything He chooses. But as a general principle, He has chosen to honour the authority He delegated. He works through the prayers of people who have legal standing on the earth. Prayer is how a citizen of heaven, living on the earth, grants heaven the welcome, the invitation, the legal permission to step in and intervene in earthly affairs.

“God does nothing but in answer to prayer.”

— John Wesley

Wesley's statement is deliberately strong — some would say too strong — but he was reaching for the same truth. He was trying to wake the church up to how much of God's activity on the earth is tied to the asking of His people. This is why Jesus taught us to pray, ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’ (Matthew 6:10). Stop and notice the logic of that prayer. If God's will were automatically done on earth, Jesus would never have told us to pray for it. Heaven's will is not automatically downloaded to earth. It is prayed down. Earth comes into alignment with heaven through the prayers of people who ask for it.

Do you see what this does to your prayer life? The believer who grasps this stops praying like a nervous beggar hoping to be noticed at the back door of the universe, and starts praying like an authorised ambassador of heaven, calling earthly situations into line with the declared will of God. Same words, perhaps. Completely different posture of the heart.

PAUSE & MEDITATE

Read Genesis 1:26 and Matthew 6:10 again, slowly.

Let this sink in: when you pray, you are not begging at a locked gate. You are exercising the authority God delegated to you, inviting heaven to act on earth.

Is there a situation in your life or family that you have been passively enduring — when God may be waiting for you to actively invite His intervention through prayer?

What the Great Men and Women of God Have Said

Across the centuries, those whom God used mightily have tried to capture the essence of prayer in words. None of them exhausted it — prayer is too rich for that — but each caught a different flash of light off the same diamond. Let me hand you a few of these sayings; tuck them in your heart.

- **Prayer is partnership.** It has been said that prayer is the slender nerve that moves the mighty muscle of omnipotence — a small thing in the hand of man that sets the unlimited power of God in motion.
- **Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance.** The great Archbishop Richard Trench wrote that prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. God is far more eager to answer than we are to ask.

- **Prayer is the real work.** The reformer Martin Luther is famously reported to have said that he had so much to do on a given day that he could not afford to spend less than three hours in prayer. To Luther, prayer was not what kept him from his work; prayer was the work behind all his work.
- **Prayer rings heaven's bell.** Others have pictured prayer as the rope hanging down inside the church tower: small and ordinary in our hands, but when we pull it in faith, far above us the great bell of heaven begins to ring.

Hold all these pictures together — communion, partnership, laying hold of God's willingness, the real work, the rope that rings the bell — and you begin to feel how vast this thing is that we so casually call 'saying our prayers.'

What Jesus Taught About Prayer

If we truly want to know what prayer is, we must sit at the feet of the greatest Man of prayer who ever lived. And here is something I find deeply moving. The disciples lived alongside Jesus and watched Him do everything. They watched Him preach until crowds wept. They watched Him heal the sick and still the storm and raise the dead. And do you know what they never once recorded asking Him to teach them? They never said, 'Lord, teach us to preach.' They never said, 'Lord, teach us to heal.' There was only one thing about Jesus that so arrested them, so clearly held the secret of His power, that they came and begged Him for it:

Luke 11:1

NIV: "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'"

NKJV: "Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'"

They had watched Him pray, and they sensed that this — this — was the hidden spring of everything else. So they asked. And in response, Jesus gave them the model we now call the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13), and in it He quietly revealed what prayer is meant to contain:

- **Relationship:** 'Our Father in heaven' — prayer begins not with a request but with a relationship. We come as children to a Father.
- **Worship:** 'Hallowed be your name' — prayer lifts God's name high before it lowers itself to ask for anything.
- **Alignment:** 'Your kingdom come, your will be done' — prayer surrenders to and invites God's agenda over our own.
- **Dependence:** 'Give us today our daily bread' — prayer admits we cannot supply ourselves and looks to the Father for our needs.

- **Reconciliation:** ‘Forgive us... as we also have forgiven’ — prayer keeps our relationships, with God and with others, clear and clean.
- **Protection:** ‘Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’ — prayer seeks shelter and strength against the enemy.

In other words, Jesus taught that prayer is not one narrow activity — ‘the asking part’ — but the whole of life lifted up to God. Worship, dependence, repentance, surrender, warfare: all of it carried up to the Father in one continuous conversation.

And Jesus taught us how not to pray, too. He warned against the empty theatrics of the hypocrites who loved to be seen praying on street corners, and against the babbling of those who imagined they would be heard for their many words (Matthew 6:5–7). Prayer, He insisted, is not performance and it is not magic. It is the sincere, believing, sometimes secret cry of a trusting child to a listening Father.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE ONE — ABRAHAM: THE FRIEND WHO BARGAINED WITH GOD

Turn to Genesis 18, and you will find one of the most astonishing scenes in all of Scripture. The LORD reveals to Abraham His intention to investigate and judge the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. What does Abraham do? He does not faint, and he does not flee. He steps forward and begins, respectfully but boldly, to reason with Almighty God.

Genesis 18:23

NIV: “Then Abraham approached him and said: ‘Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?’”

NKJV: “And Abraham came near and said, ‘Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?’”

And then — watch this — Abraham haggles. Will you spare the city for fifty righteous people? God says yes. For forty-five? Yes. Forty? Thirty? Twenty? Ten? And each time, the LORD listens and answers. Abraham, a mortal man made of dust, is interceding for an entire city, and the God of the universe is genuinely engaging with him, step by step, like a friend reasoning with a friend. Indeed, James later calls Abraham exactly that: ‘God's friend’ (James 2:23).

Here is everything we have been saying, dramatised. Prayer is intimate communion — Abraham ‘approached’ and ‘came near.’ Prayer is bold intercession — he stood in the gap for others. And prayer is real — God was not putting on a show; He was actually responding to the asking of a man. This is the kind of relationship to which prayer invites you: near enough to reason, bold enough to ask, trusted enough to be heard.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE TWO — JESUS: ALL NIGHT IN COMMUNION WITH THE FATHER

Now lift your eyes from Abraham to One greater than Abraham. In Luke chapter 6, just before Jesus selected the twelve men who would carry His message to the world — arguably the most consequential leadership decision in human history — we are told how He prepared.

Luke 6:12

NIV: “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.”

NKJV: “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”

All night. The sinless Son of God, who was Himself fully God, who needed nothing and lacked no wisdom, spent an entire night in prayer before a major decision. Let that rebuke and inspire us in equal measure. If Jesus needed to pray like that, what arrogance makes us think we can navigate our lives on a few rushed sentences flung heavenward in a crisis?

For Jesus, prayer was not a religious add-on bolted onto a busy ministry. It was the very atmosphere in which He lived, the place where the Father's will was discerned and the Father's power was received. We read elsewhere that He rose before dawn to pray (Mark 1:35) and withdrew often to lonely places to pray (Luke 5:16). Prayer was as natural and as necessary to Him as breathing — and He is our pattern.

PAUSE & MEDITATE

Jesus — perfect, powerful, the Son of God — still spent whole nights in prayer.

What does that say about how much you and I need it?

Picture Jesus on that dark mountainside, talking with His Father until dawn. Now picture Him inviting you to come and sit beside Him there. He is not too busy for you.

So, What Is Prayer?

Let us gather it all up. Prayer is communion with God — the conversation of a soul in love with its Maker. It is the breath of the spiritual life, as natural to the living soul as air to the living body. It is the earthly permission for heaven's intervention, the way a citizen of heaven invites the King to act on earth. It is partnership with omnipotence, the laying hold of God's willingness, the rope that rings heaven's bell. And it is, as Jesus both taught and lived, the lifting of the whole of life — worship, dependence, surrender, repentance, warfare, and request — up to a Father who listens.

Get this foundation right, and everything else in this book will stand firmly upon it. Get it wrong — reduce prayer back down to ‘saying some words to God when I need something’ — and no technique in the world will give you the power you were made to walk in.

This is the end of the teaser/sample of the E-book The Power of Prayer, a sneak peek into 2 of the opening chapters of this amazing book.

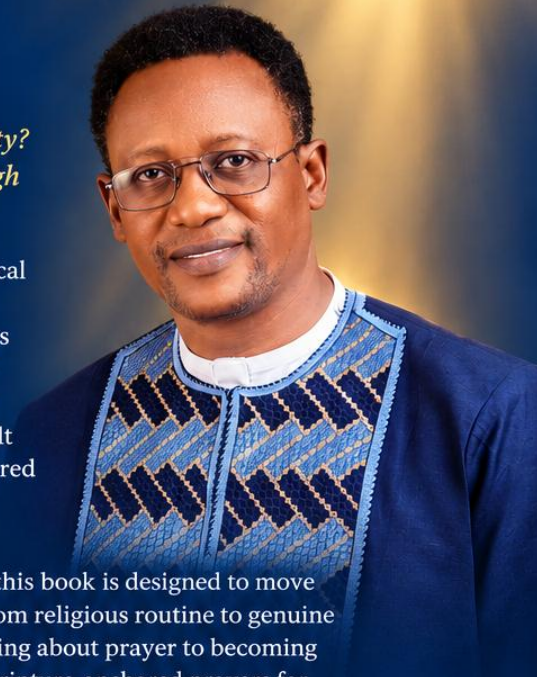
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ABOUT THE BOOK

*What if prayer is more than a religious duty?
What if it is the God-given doorway through
which heaven touches earth?*

The Power of Prayer is a warm, deeply biblical and practical journey into the life-changing power of prayer. Dr. Joseph Adebayo explores what prayer really is, why we pray, when we should pray, the different types and postures of prayer, prayer watch-times, and the difficult questions surrounding answered and unanswered prayer.

Drawing from Scripture, biblical examples, pastoral experience and practical reflection, this book is designed to move the believer from frustration to confidence, from religious routine to genuine communion with God, and from merely knowing about prayer to becoming a person of prayer. It concludes with twelve Scripture-anchored prayers for key areas of life, including healing, deliverance, family, finances, ministry and the nations.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Joseph Adebayo is an apostolic prophet, preacher, teacher, pastor and church planter with a passion for raising leaders and equipping believers for Kingdom impact. Born into a royal family in Ijesha Land, Osun State, Nigeria, he gave his life to Christ in 1989 and entered full-time ministry in 1999.

He is the Founder and Presiding Archbishop of The Lord's Triumphant Ministries & Towers (Blessed Chapel) and Founder of Triumphant Global Networks International, an apostolic network that has equipped and ordained hundreds of ministers worldwide. He holds multiple degrees in ministry and leadership, including five doctoral degrees, and is widely known as "The Unstoppable Oracle of God." Through preaching, teaching, crusades, conferences, media, education and international missions, he has impacted lives across Africa, Europe and beyond.

He is a spiritual father, mentor, author and nation-builder, happily married and blessed with both biological and spiritual children.

— “Lord, teach us to pray.” —

— LUKE 11:1 —



