

# DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

In this message we want to look at how to have power with God. We continue from where we have shared on the 3 classifications of prayer in the last message. We are talking about the Most Holy Place in our fellowship with God. There are certain things that we must understand about God and how He works. What He likes and what He doesn't like. After all the rest of eternity is going to be spent with God. You can gain the pleasures of this life and this whole world and its nothing compared with knowing Jesus Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit. We have to know how to move into the depths of God in order to have power with God.

*Lets turn to Gen. 32: 22-24 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone, and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.*

Jacob had an overnight wrestling match. We are here tonight for an overnight prayer. Jacob had the angel; you have the Holy Spirit helping you to fight with the devil. After all Paul was the one used the word in Eph. 6:12, *"we wrestle not against flesh and blood."* That means we do wrestle. But we wrestle with spiritual forces. So here Jacob wrestled the whole night. I pray to God that all of us understand this wrestling the whole night.

*Now in Gen. 32: 25-30, Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let go unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He*

*said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed. Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: For I have seen God faces to face, and my life is preserved."*

This is one of the most interesting things in the Bible, a man wrestling with an angel. Of course we know that we don't have that kind of physical strength the angels have. What we have is the authority of Jesus. But at that time, Jesus was not manifested yet. It was under the early dispensation. And here Jacob was wrestling with an angel. You see the angel could have probably won the wrestling match. Don't think that was a weak angel. If it were a weak angel, the weak angel would not be able to bless Jacob. If the angel was weaker than Jacob was, then how could the weaker bless the greater? Even when the book of Heb talks about Melchizedek blessing Abraham and Melchizedek as a type of Christ, it illustrates that the greater bless the lesser. So the one who blesses is greater than the one blessed. So the angel had greater power than Jacob did. The angel had greater blessings than Jacob did. That's why Jacob needed his blessing.

But God seems to have commanded that angel not to use his greater strength in his particular, quote unquote, wrestling match with Jacob. It was like an experience that God wants Jacob to go through because Jacob's character needs to be wrestled through and molded. Even from the time when he was in the womb, he was wrestling. He was born a Sumo wrestler. He does not look like one but he had the character of one. Even in the womb, he was wrestling with Esau. That is why when the children were struggling inside Rebecca's womb and she had to come to God and said, "Lord, what is this inside me?" I mean, twins are okay but wrestling? Some twins are another different story. So she came to God and God revealed to her what it was. Then when Esau was born the wrestling match was going on even up to the time they came out. Imagine they were wrestling all the time in their mother's womb. When Jacob came out from the womb, he was holding on to Esau's leg. They named him cheat, swindler because of that incident. All his life he had to get what he wants by wrestling. We know the story of how Jacob cheated Esau of his birth right blessing just by a bowl of red bean soup. So Jacob had to get what he wanted by wrestling. That was his character.

Then later he had to run from his brother and ended up with his uncle Laban. Uncle Laban was a very cunning businessman. He would have been a typical Chinaman. A five cent coin to him is as big as a bullock cart wheel. He wouldn't give Jacob one bit more. So he didn't treat Jacob well. One had the mentality of a sumo wrestler. The other had the mentality of a Chinaman. Jacob's survival depended on his sumo wrestler ways. See everything he got in life was a struggle. Even when he got his father's blessing, he cheated too.

God would have to have a special event to deal with his life. God knows how to deal with our inner paths. God had to organize a special event where Jacob would wrestle until he nearly gave up and realized that wrestling doesn't work. The angel could have with one hand thrown Jacob. The fight wouldn't have lasted more than five seconds. Sumo wrestler though he be, he was no match for a big angel. Remember what you read in the story is not because the angel had no power. But the angel was to stretch Jacob to the extent until he exhausted himself. See the angel very easily could just touch Jacob like he did at the ending. One touch and Jacob's bone got disjointed. That tells you how much power he had. But there was a purpose. He wanted Jacob to reach to the end of himself until Jacob comes to his senses that he need not get things in life by wrestling. He has to come to the realization that to get things in life he needs the blessing of God.

From that time onwards there was a remarkable change in his life. He became Israel a prince with God. Jacob had a reminder all the rest of his life; he had to walk with a limp. That reminded him of the day he was stretched right to the limit. His hipbone got disjointed. The angel did impart certain blessings of God that God had pre-ordained to be brought forth to Jacob's life. But his life begins to change only when his personality is changed and he became Israel, prince with God. A prince is someone who just inherits. A Sumo wrestler had to fight. But a prince is someone who just inherits what the king would give to him. He became the prince of God.

That's what we want to talk about, the secret power with God. The only way by which we could reach to the depths of God's heart is to reach to the end of ourselves and completely die to ourselves. The only power we can exercise is where

we come to a complete end. There are degrees of dying to self. You can walk with God for 20 years and find out after 20 years there are still a lot of things you have to die to. Jesus said, "He who wants to follow Me have to take up his cross." These will be a lot of things that you will be surprised that you got to die to. The blessings and the power with God never come until you die to self. How much power you have with God is in proportion to how much you have died to yourself. There is no way you can use God's power to fulfill your own end. God will not place a level of authority and power in your life until you die proportionately to yourself. In a sense we died in Christ objectively. But subjectively the application of it is a continuous thing. Paul said, "I die daily."

Let me show a few more people so that you will realize that dying to self is not just walking free from sins. That's the Outer Court experience. I am talking about the Most Holy Place. Those things should have been gone long ago. We are not talking about sin. We are talking about a complete death to self. You are not concerned whether you have enough for tomorrow. You are more concerned with, "God, what do you want to do?"

Let's turn to Is. 6:1-5 *"In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and lifted up... For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among people of unclean lips. And my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."*

Isaiah was a very godly and religious man. He had already begun his ministry. From chapter 1-5 he had already been ministering as a prophet of God. But one day when he met God in the Most Holy Place, he discovered there are still a lot of things in him that he got to die to. He discovered his lips were unclean. He may be perfect in his deeds and perfect in the performance of religious duties. But his lips were not perfect. There was still something that he has to die to. Only when he reached that stage did he have a greater blessing of God. He had a realization that he died to himself. God gave him a special blessing from above. He sent a seraph with a coal of fire from the altar of heaven touched his lips and from that day forward a greater anointing came on his life. He moved greater than before with God. He had a greater power with God than before. Think about this man. God could tell him to walk about in a filthy and dirty loincloth and he did it because he had completely died to himself. He couldn't care less what people say. He wouldn't

care what people think about him. He couldn't care for the things around him. He is only conscious of pleasing God, "What do you want me to do and I'll do it."

Think about another person Job. In the beginning he was a very righteous, sincere good man, upright, famous. He was one of the richest men of the east. Then after his tragedy happened where his children died, his possessions taken away, his body was rigged in pain, his friends came to find out what sin he had committed. Job constantly said, "I am alright, I did right, I am righteous." I mean he felt that he was right. He felt there was no reason for anything to happen to him. Quote unquote, he was self-righteous. In Job 38: 1 God appeared to him, *The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said.* So when God appeared to Job in chapter 40: 3, *Job answered the Lord and said, Behold I am vile. What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.*" He never said that until the Lord appeared. As long as the Lord did not appear to him, white looks like white to him. It looks like he had a whitest shirt in town. But when God's dazzling white holiness came before him, his own shirt looks black.

When Job met the Lord, he discovered he had some more things to die to. He had to die to his self-righteousness. But after the experiences, he had twice the blessings that he had before. See if you have power with God, you have power over circumstances. If you have power with God, you have power over the vast resources of this earth. Billions of dollars mean nothing to you because power with God controls the whole planet earth. If you have power with God, you have tremendous resources because millions of angels of God are working mightily on your behalf. But power with God only comes in proportion to your dying to self. There is no way God can tolerate self in His Presence. If you think carefully, there is naturally no reason to live for self. The most complete life you could live is fulfillment in God. Think about what you can do with your own life, not much. But think about what God can bring and do to your life.

There is another dear lady in 1 Sam. 1:6-7. She constantly wept and cried. Her rival also provoked her severely to make her miserable because the Lord had allowed her womb to be closed. So it was, year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, the rival provoked her. Therefore she wept and did not eat until her husband, Elkanah was disturbed. Here is a woman who every year wept before the Lord and

cried. Not to have children was a great disgrace in her days. She constantly wept before the Lord, nothing happened. Nothing changed year after year but one day she changed. See nothing will change around you until you change. If you choose to remain the same nothing will change. You have to change first. Husbands pray for their wives. The wives will not change until you change first. Wives are praying for their husbands. The husband will not change until you change first. When you change then there is greater hope of change of things around you. Nothing changed because she did not change. But one day she changed. She did not look at herself any more. She experienced a dying to self. She said, "Lord it's not important anymore what I am going through the disgrace. But Lord I don't want just a child. I want a child that serve You and I give You back that child.'

She stopped thinking about herself. And she starts thinking about the Lord. She starts dying to self and she starts living for the Lord. And lo, and behold she had a child. She kept her promise she gives him to the Lord. After that she had many other children. See the key to power with God is dying to self. That's the secret.

As we look at these circumstances, there are 4 areas that we have to die to. No.1 in Jacob's life he was to die in using the ways of the flesh to do the things of the Spirit. His motives were right and good. He wanted the right things but he went after it the wrong way. He wanted the birthright, and he went after it by cheating. He wanted the blessing and he went after it by deceiving his own father. He wanted his pay. He went in a very subtle way. He got cheated himself because you always reap what you sow. That's how he ended up marrying two wives. But that was his way.

Sometimes people will think that as long as the motivation is correct, as long as the end is right, it justify the means. There are some Christians that think that they can use the natural and please God. You are Jacob and self is still involved. Any Christians that use natural means to try to please God or do God's work that God has not ordained is displeasing to Him. I mean if God commands you to do something the natural is involved. But when God has not told you what to do and you cook up something to do out of your own intelligence, the natural way to please God, you are Jacob and you will never please God. The stink of self is there. And as long as self is there, the Holy Spirit says, " I want nothing to do with that.' I wonder throughout all the works of the church throughout the whole planet, how

many percent is the work of Christianity done in the flesh under the name of Christ. It displeases God. Only what is born of the spirit is spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh. Sometimes when people see the Lord blessing you with natural things, they don't understand that those things are received not from the natural. They are received from the spiritual. Then when they try to copy the same thing and use the natural, it will never work. Remember we have to die to trying to do God's work with our flesh, with our natural mind and with our natural ability. Unless we die to that, you will never experience power with God. That is why there are a lot of things done but there is no power. There is no power with God, unless there is a death to self. That's the first thing we have to die to. Dying to the Jacob in our life, using the natural to do the spiritual.

The second thing we have to do is in the life of Isaiah. It says in Isaiah 6: 1, *In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord.* See Uzziah was quite a good king but with a bad ending. King Uzziah was a very good king and had the blessings of God. But at a certain time in his life, he went into the temple and he took the censer and he wanted to do what the priest did. He thought by being king, he can do what he likes. Man and ministers must be careful not to overlap their offices and roles. God doesn't care one dot whether you are a king or a pauper. He only wants us to do His will and nothing else. King Uzziah came into the temple, took the censer and the priest said, "This is not proper. It's only for the priest," and he got angry. He offered the censer and leprosy struck him the rest of his life. He lived a leper's life until he died.

In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord. The second thing you got to die to is to die to looking to man. Trusting in man. Leaning on the arm of flesh. That is very hard for people to take. When you really walk with the Lord, the Lord doesn't even want you to lean on any human being. I am not saying that He is asking you to be a lone ranger. Neither am I saying that He is asking you not to work together with others or to fellowship with others. In this life we will always work together as different parts of the body. I am talking about something that happens inside of you when your trust is completely absorbed in God. Something in you has died to leaning on other human being. You can work with them. You can fellowship with them, which you need to. But leaning on them until you became less and less dependent on God but on them is an evidence of the self-life. It's an evidence of relying on the arm of the flesh. We got to die to that. Only those who

understand what the Gospel of John says, "Jesus knew all men and did not give Himself to them, for He knew the heart of all men." It was more or less a statement of consecration and how utterly He depended on God.

Now in Isaiah's life, King Uzziah was the greatest stumbling block in his life. Isaiah was looking to him all the time until he didn't anymore look to the Lord. He had to die to that. I am not saying that there are no good examples to look at. Because Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ. Be imitator of me," he said as he imitated Christ. But even if we learn from all who walk with God, there must be an element in our life that our total leaning is on God. So the second thing that we see in dying to self is dying to being dependent on others. Dependent on others for your encouragement. Dependent on others for your comfort. Dependent on others for companionship. Dependent on others for your emotional nourishment. You got to die to all those things and become totally dependent on God. I am not saying human beings can't give you some form of encouragement, they can. But the difference is you are no more dependent on them. If it comes, praise God but you are no more dependent on that. Can you see what God needs? He needs absolutely yielded people to Him.

The third area we got to die to, in Job 40, saying, "Now I have seen Him. I am vile. I am nothing." The third thing you got to die to is to realize and have a deep sense of knowing that anything even if its one percent of self is vile. This is to have the true perspective of your own self minus God. What Job saw was what he looks like minus God. Your self minus God is the vilest thing on this planet earth. But not everybody sees that. Because deep inside each one of us, we think we are great without God. Or sometimes we think of ourselves too highly. We see in ourselves that we are jolly good fellows. You haven't really seen yourself. You've only seen a plastic self of yourself because the light was not strong enough.

In the third point I am not talking about going against the good self-image. Let me put the balance here. The truly good self-image is the only image you can see that God sees of your potential. In other word you still should have a good self-image. But the self-image is seen through God. There are two sides to a coin. Good self-image is not seeing who you are alone minus God. Good self-image is to really see through God, you plus God. That's a self-image. Some people see this part, "you

plus God" but they didn't see "you minus God," so they don't appreciate "you plus God." You don't appreciate the plus until you see the minus. There seems to be a proposition that the greater we realize how nothing we are, the greater our dependence on God. The greater you realize how vile you are minus God, the greater you realize the grace of God. That God comes into your life could bring beauty out of ashes. When God comes into the picture, beauty comes. This takes a dying to self because the self likes to think well of itself. It naturally wants to cover up the bad points and project the good points. Even the worst criminal in the prison today, bad though they know consciously that they are but deep inside there is still a part of them that say, 'I am not too bad.' That means I still got some good in me. But they have not seen a total devastation of self by the Glory of God. That takes a complete dying where you really see how vile you are with God. Then you realize there is only God who can bring beauty out of the ashes. There is no revelation of great things in God until you see without Him you can do nothing. Jesus said, "Abide in Me and I in you and you shall bear much fruit.' But the other side of the coin is, "Without Me you can do nothing."

The realization that there is nothing good in us is strong in Paul's life. Then the opposite revelation is God who works in me. So in the third point is a complete revelation of what the self looks like to God. In Job's experience it is dying to self-righteousness. Do you know that in everyone there is an element of self-righteousness? But it takes the greater Glory of God to unveil the self and we see how vile the self is and realize there is completely no room even for self-righteousness. That's almost like quote unquote a complete annihilation of self but its not. It is more a revelation of the total inability and the total nothingness of self. Not everybody has a revelation of nothingness of self. We all have a "somethingness" of self. But it takes a revelation of nothingness of self until you just really know you are nothing.

Although we may intellectually accept it now but let me tell you, it can still be there. For example when someone says something bad about your name and you feel hurt and you react, the self-righteousness has not died yet. That's the third point I am talking about. Or when someone can still hurt you, you haven't "died" yet. As long as you can feel the hurt, the feeling, the pain of the self, you are not dead. For example, if I really have this third point of revelation and I know I am nothing, dung, dirt, rubbish, then when someone says something about me, I will

never feel hurt. I will say, "Yes, you are right." I will never feel hurt anymore. When you have fully experienced this third point, there's no way people can hurt you when someone says something against you because you have seen the worse. Do you know that in this world you can't please everybody? There will always be a percentage who will not be happy with you. When you don't feel it, that's where you experience the third point. When someone said you are like this and like that, you try not to react because you've learned that love is not easily provoked. But yet you feel the pain. As long as you can feel the pain, you are not dead.

Is it possible to reach a point where you don't feel the pain? Yes and when you reached that point, the only pain you feel is when people say something about the Lord Jesus or the Father or the Holy Spirit. You are so dead that you realized there is only God and you. People can say anything about you and you don't feel the pain. But the moment they start talking about Jesus, the pain comes; the tears come to your eyes. And you weep, "O Lord they are hurting You." You have become so in union with Him. You are totally nothing and only Jesus in you. That's where Jesus wants to bring us. When you reached the third stage, you have great power with God. You understand God's heart and your heart beats with the heart of God. They could not take the smile out of your face. You know they are right. You are nothing. But the moment they talk about Jesus, you feel it to the very depth. The secret to power with God is dying to self. And you are going to understand God so much that you are literally just flowing in what God is doing on this planet earth and with great power. When you reached that stage and as much as you love God and you honor God's name, God becomes almost to the opposite way where He began to protect your name. He will even go to the extent of showing that this is My precious child, don't touch him or her.

The fourth thing to die from is found in Hannah. Basically, Hannah had to die to the things of this life. It was important that she had a child. But she had to die to all the things of this life, childbearing, motherhood. For us it will also mean finances, a home, a car, big bank account, successful business, large ministry, and established ministry. You have to die to the desire for anything of this life. Not to say that those things are wrong. For God created all these things for us to enjoy. God placed them on this earth. We are not talking about the rightness or wrongness of the things of the life. But we are talking about the consecration and perspective of things of this life in relation to the eternal realm. Everything of this life, even your husband or

wife relationship even being motherhood or fatherhood is only temporary. In heaven we neither marry nor given in marriage. In heaven there is no buying or selling. All these things are only on this life. And the third death is to die to this world.

Paul says in Gal., "In Christ I am crucified from the world." As far as the world is concerned he was crucified. He has died completely. See those who live in the Outer Court do not understand those who live in the Most Holy Place because their perspective is different. In the Most Holy Place you wouldn't care whether you eat with a wooden spoon or a golden spoon, whether you drive an old junk or a nice new car, whether you wear a \$5 Mickey Mouse watch or a \$10,000 Rolex watch. These have become immaterial. You couldn't care for these things anymore. I am not saying that God is not going to provide for you. But I am saying outside God will bless you, but inside you something has died. The desire to own, to have to possessions, to have the best in life has died and that desire can only die when you say, "Lord, You are more precious than silver, more costly than gold, more beautiful than diamonds." In the Most Holy Place, you seek first the kingdom of God and all the things of this life are added to you. Whether they are added to you immediately or not immediately, you couldn't be bothered. You just keep walking with God and living for God.

There are some people who are over concerned with the natural things. They haven't died to the things of this world. Remember we all pass through those stages where we do go through those things in life. Like a little child that wants ice cream, that's no problem. They are just growing stages. But it becomes a problem when you stay there. The Outer Court is to lead you to the inner chamber. Every one of us will know that we have passed through these stages to a certain extent. You could identify with it. You learn those stages of faith and exercise in the Spirit realm. But the problem is many never outgrow. Spiritually many are still in their pampers for the past 20 years old. How would you like to see an adult coming to church wearing pampers with a huge big milk bottle? They never outgrow. Though God blessed them to a certain extent, they don't progress deeper in the things of the Spirit. Press in deeper, further until you are dead to the things of this life. You've passed through those stages where you liked and desired many things and you didn't get them. Many times you got things in life because you exercised your faith. Now you grow until you reach a level where these things that you have been

hankering after are nothings. You have died, you couldn't care for them all you look for is the Lord and His holiness. By the time you died in the fourth area, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father, the Holy Spirit become literally the most precious possession of your entire being and entire life. So when you die completely to self, you have tremendous power with God. It's only when you die to those desires like Hannah in the fourth area, the real blessing comes. Suddenly God will give you more than you could have asked.

The interesting thing is in all these four areas; you can never die until God reveals a part of Himself to you. Jacob died and became Israel when God revealed a part of Himself through the angel. Isaiah died more to himself only when God revealed His glory. Job died to himself and his self-righteousness when God in the whirlwind revealed Himself. Hannah died when she began to get the revelation of having the keys of God that she has something to give to God. See in all these areas there has to be some revelation of God. Tonight as you seek God as you wait upon Him, let God reveal Himself. Only the revelation of His holiness, His light, His power in Himself can cause us to die to ourselves. Only this will give us greater power to move on this planet earth. Power with God and power on the earth to do His will.