

# **DANGERS OF PRAYERLESSNESS AND SPIRITUAL SLUMBER**



**BY: PASTOR ISAAC T. ADEOLA**

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## INTRODUCTION

Luke 11:1 – The disciples of Jesus did not ask to be taught how to feed five thousand, neither were they requesting to become prolific orators or have the ability to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons, as they had seen their Master do repeatedly. Rather, they made a stunning request: “Lord, teach us how to pray.”

This goes a long way to point out the fact that the disciples of Jesus understood that the bedrock of all the mighty works Jesus did was a result of prayers. In Matthew 4:1–11, Jesus went into the wilderness to fast and pray for 40 days. And all through the Gospel, we saw instances where Jesus secluded Himself from the crowd to pray.

If Jesus (God in human flesh) prayed, then prayer is an unavoidable tool for a successful Christian.

Bible Text: II Chronicles 7:14; James 4:2; Matthew 26:41;  
Joshua 9:12–14

## **OUTLINE**

- Definition of Prayer
- Causes of Prayerlessness
- Consequences of Prayerlessness
- Cure for Prayerlessness

## **DEFINITION**

Prayer is an act of communicating with God, who is our Healer, Provider, Protector, etc. Prayer is the live-wire of a Christian.

Martin Luther said, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

No wonder Apostle Paul urged us in I Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing.

**NOTE:** Prayerlessness is a lack of communication with God our Father, and it can lead to spiritual slumber.

# CAUSES OF PRAYERLESSNESS

i. Sin: One of the goals of the enemy is to keep us from the presence of God. He does this by luring us to sin. Sin can result in prayerlessness. In Genesis 3:8, Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of God because they had sinned. As Christians, we should quickly retrace our steps back to God. The precious blood of Jesus is always available to cleanse us. Let us not allow the devil to keep us under the bondage of condemnation (Romans 8:1).

ii. Lack of humility (II Chronicles 7:14; James 4:10): Humility is not all about being calm, modest, quiet, solemn, and respectful as the world defines it. Humility is surrendering our will to God. It is recognising that you can't do it on your own. How many of us take decisions, embark on trips, and start projects without consulting God — all because the plan looks too good to be wrong? We forget that the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of men (I Corinthians 1:25). God said, If My people will humble themselves and pray... (II Chronicles 7:14).

iii. Lack of discipline/laziness (Matthew 26:40): Prayer is not always the easiest task, as our flesh has been programmed for pleasure. But we must subdue our flesh and discipline ourselves to pray, and God will give us more grace.

iv. Lack of time (Mark 1:35): We are always so busy that we tend to push prayer aside. But if you give prayer a priority in your scale of preference, you will not just wait for the time to pray — rather, you will create time.

v. Attitude: Someone once wrote that “prayer is not the spare wheel that pulls you out when you are in trouble, but it is the steering wheel that directs the right path throughout life.” Many only learn how to pray when faced with serious challenges. This is a wrong mindset. The Bible admonishes us to pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).

vi. Enemy attacks

vii. Spiritual coldness and lukewarmness

viii. Doubts and unbelief

ix. Lackadaisical lifestyle



x. Spirit of procrastination

xi. Pride and sense of self-sufficiency

# **CONSEQUENCES OF PRAYERLESSNESS**

- i. A prayerless Christian can easily fall a prey to the enemy (John 10:10; Ephesians 6:12).
- ii. Falling into sin and temptations (Matthew 26:41)
- iii. Making wrong and costly mistakes (Joshua 9:14)
- iv. Hindrance to blessings (James 4:2)
- v. Spiritual dryness and wilderness experiences
- vi. Failure in life
- vii. Danger of receiving arrows of sickness and diseases
- viii. Possible evil occurrences like accidents or even untimely death
- ix. Loss of eternity with Christ

# CURE FOR PRAYERLESSNESS

We can consciously, by the help of the Holy Spirit, overcome prayerlessness as well as spiritual slumber.

The following points below might be a good starting point:

- Choose the best time for you to meet with God: Choose the time of the day that is right for you. Time spent with God should be quality time. It could be in the morning, evening, or both (Psalm 55).
- Have a prayer partner: Two are better than one. As iron sharpens iron, sometimes having a Christian partner to pray together could be a good boost for encouragement and motivation.
- Recognise prayer pitfalls: Carefully consider what keeps you from prayer, then map out a way to overcome these problems. You'll be surprised at how God will help you keep your appointment.
- Set priorities: Prayer and Bible reading should be at the head of your list. With discipline and

determination, people can always find time to do the things they really want to do.

- Read, study, memorise Bible passages, and turn specific verses into prayers.
- Depend on the Holy Spirit and ask Him for help.
- Repent from the sins of prayerlessness and spiritual slumber.


## **CONCLUSION**

Prayer is the master key to all issues of life. Do not be tired of prayer. Do not be discouraged from praying. Do not allow something or somebody to stop you from praying. Always trust God for answers to your prayers and always be spiritually awake.

## About the Author

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