

Effective Prayer

by John Abraham Godson

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8. It is prayer that is thankful

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”.

Phil 4:6-7

The prayer that God answers proceeds from the mouth of people who are grateful and thankful. One of the greatest lessons God has taught me in my walk with Him is the lesson of thanking Him in every circumstance. I do not think I have learnt any other lesson that has brought so much victory and answered prayer in my life as the lesson of thanking God no matter what the circumstances are.

Why should we thank God?

1. We should thank because thanksgiving is an expression of faith in God. When we thank God it is bringing forth that which is not so that is as if it is “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. (Heb. 11:1)
2. When we thank God it is declaring victory over situations that seemingly look impossible or difficult. It shows that God is almighty and is able to do everything.
3. We should thank God because in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, for the good of those who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). No matter what situation you are facing, God will work it out for good. This is why we should trust Him and thank Him.
4. We should thank God because He is under control. Matt 10:29-31 says “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” Isn't this wonderful? Not a sparrow, though very cheap, can fall to the ground without God's permission. God knows the number of hairs on your head. Isn't that enough reason to thank God?
5. Another reason we should thank God in difficult situations is that most blessings come in disguise. Your blessing could come through loss of a job, financial difficulty,

difficult family, etc. Humanly speaking, we do not see these blessings but God does. Moses had to live 40 years in a desert. Joseph had to be a slave and unfairly imprisoned. Jesus had to be unjustly crucified. Thank God, no matter your situation.

6. Another important reason I believe we should thank God is simply the fact that God wants us to thank Him. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thes. 5:18). God’s will for us is that we should thank Him for every situation we come across in this life.

The opposite of thanksgiving is complaining and grumbling.

“And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp”. (Numbers 11:1)

“And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.” (Num 11:4-6)

The old testament is full of examples of people who grumbled and the result and of people who thanked God and its result.

Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 20

Jehoshaphat was the king of the small nation of Judah. Three huge nations surrounded his nation to fight against him and to destroy them. They decided to seek God in prayer and fasting. On the day of war they decided to do something strange. They decided to praise and thank God. And this was what happened.

“And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away

the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.” 2 Chron 20:21-25

They did not fight conventional weapons. All they did was thank God and God did the fighting for them. There is power in praising and thanking God.

Paul and Silas

Paul and Silas were arrested and severely beaten. They bleeding and in chains. They were thrown into the dungeon. They had all the reason in the world to despair and moan. But they didn't. They prayed and sang songs of worship and thanksgiving to God. This is what the Bible said happened:

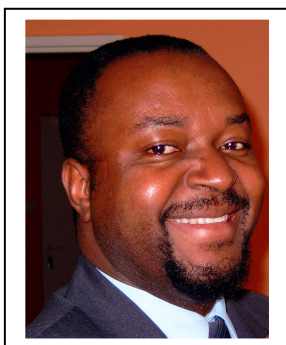
“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed”. Acts 16:25-26

What an example!

Thanking God builds your faith. It brings God into your circumstance. We should thank Him no matter our situation. It is pleasing to God to know that we trust Him. It is pleasing to Him to know that we cling to Him. It is pleasing to Him to know that whatever happens we consider Him to be faithful. Thank God, again I say- thank God.

Previous chapters of this book can be downloaded from our website at: www.pielgrzym.org/articles.html

About the author



John Abraham Godson (formerly Godson Onyekwere) is a Nigerian serving as a missionary in Poland, Eastern Europe for the past 13 years. He is the international director of **Pilgrim Mission International**. The main vision of his ministry is “Revival” which comes through fervent and persevering intercessory prayer and bold uncompromising preaching of the Word of God. He also serves as the chair for the **Lausanne Intercession Working Group** in Eastern Europe/Eurasia, and International facilitator for the **Network of Nigerian Missionaries Overseas**. Together with his wife Aneta and 4 children, they make their home in Lodz, Central Poland.