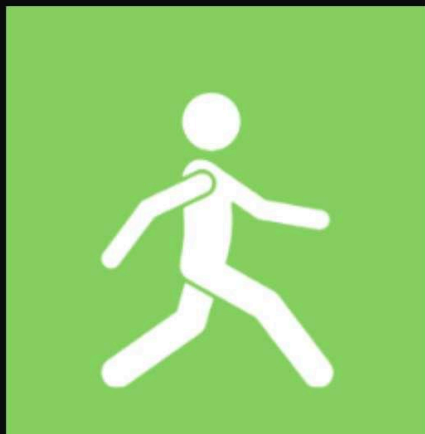


# CALLED TO VISION

WEEK 8  
PRAYER

connect group notes



## **FOR THE FACILITATOR**

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

## **TOPIC : Called to Vision - Prayer**

To find this sermon visit

[www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons](http://www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons)

## **TIME TO PONDER:**

All of us need air, water, food etc. to survive but we also need purpose. We need to run the race that is set before us.

Vision comes in different ways to us. It might be a dream planted in our hearts by God. It can be a feeling of injustice and the stirring to do something about it. It might even be opportunities or an encounter with God that gives us vision.

Today we are going to look at another vision script of Outlook which is prayer:

*“ We at Outlook have been **called to take responsibility for our city in prayer.** To exercise the government of God through prayer into our political, business, spiritual , educational and family spheres of our city.”*

Derek Prince said in his book, 'Secrets of a prayer warrior', that the world is not ruled by worldly government. The real people who rule the world are those who know how to pray.

We as believers have been given dominion and rulership as we are created in the image and likeness of God. We are sons and daughters of God and are seated with Christ in heavenly realms. Prayer is the opportunity to exercise our rulership here on earth.

### *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

**Question 1: What is your response to this question we felt God lay on our hearts as a leadership - 'Will you take responsibility for the state of our City?'**

There is a quote that says Christians get the government they deserve! We are responsible for our city. We cannot blame others because that is not taking responsibility. Do we know the names of those in leadership of our city?

We want to pray prayers and trust that the newspaper headlines on the lamp posts will display the answer to our prayers.

**TIME TO DISCUSS:**

Effective prayer starts by us taking responsibility and asking God what His will is and then praying it into existence. Begging God to answer our prayers is not an effective way of praying. When we pray God's will and come united and put our faith together, we will see an exponential rise in the power of our prayers. One person can put to flight a thousand but two people can put to flight ten thousand. There is a multiplication of power through unity.

How do we grow in prayer? There are 3 things that hold us back.

## **1. We don't have the revelation of the connection between power and prayer**

*Luke 11:1*

*Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him,*

*“Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”*

The disciples saw that when Jesus went away to pray, He came back and performed signs and wonders. Power in public comes from deeper prayer in our secret place.

*Acts 1:14*

***All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.***

Prayer should form part of a devoted lifestyle and not just when we need something from God.

*Acts 4:29-31*

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*

*Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

Deeper prayer leads to the pouring out of the Holy Spirit which leads to powerful testimonies.

**2. We need the revelation of how little we can do in the flesh and our own strength**

*John 5:30*

*I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.*



Jesus had the revelation that on His own He could do nothing. All great testimonies start with the words: 'I felt God say'. Prayer leads us to hear from God and be led by the Holy Spirit. Without the leading of the Holy Spirit our fleshly efforts achieve nothing of eternal significance.

Martin Luther said, 'I've got so much to do today that I need to spend the first three hours in prayer'. We need a similar revelation that leads to intentional prayer.

### **3. We need to know that our flesh is weak**

*Matthew 26:40-41*

*And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"*

Prayer is hard work and everything will distract us and keep us from praying. It is an act of spiritual warfare to get down on your knees to pray.

**Question 2: What are some practical tips that we can implement to keep us focused while praying?**

## **TIME TO REFLECT**

Things we need to remember and do:

### **1. Fellowship with the Holy Spirit**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.*

We need to realise we can live our lives in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We need to cultivate this fellowship relationship with the Holy Spirit. Prayer should be continual and 'on the go'.

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*"Pray continuously"*

## **2. Find your 'Place of prayer'**

*1 Timothy 2:1*

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, **prayers [place of prayer]**, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people*

Prayer in this verse is a place of prayer. We need to develop a place of prayer and develop habits of prayer.

*Colossians 4:12*

*Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. **He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.***

We need to put strong habits in place because when we are weak our habits can strengthen us.

**Question 3: Is prayer a habit in your life?  
What practical ideas can you share about helping to make prayer a habit?**

## ACTION STEP

We have been created in the image and likeness of God who has given us dominion and rulership. God is looking for men and women to release that rulership and authority. In Christ we are invited to take up this vision of rulership in prayer.

How do we do this?

- Find a place to pray

*Daniel 6:10*

*When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, **he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.***

- Prioritise a time of prayer individually and corporately. Our corporate prayer meetings is every Thursday from 5:45pm to 6:45pm

*Acts 3:1*

*One day Peter and John were **going up to the temple at the time of prayer**—at three in the afternoon.*

- Use a prayer app.
- Have a reward strategy for yourself. Eg. “First I am going to pray and then I will .....” (you can fill the blanks)

Will you stand up, begin walking and then running into this exciting part of our vision?