Chapter 2
Synopsis and Definitions

In order to better understand this subject, these core questions need to be answered:

A. Prayer

- What is Prayer? Definitions
- What are the linkages between prayer and the will of Yahweh?
- In what way can we rightly describe intercession as the birthing of the will of Yahweh or partnering with Him to bring His counsel to pass?
- What kind of example did Yeshua Jesus leave us in the ministry of prayer?
- What is the pattern of prayer He instructs?
- Why are saints torn between setting aside the pattern He taught and making it a rigid religious construct?

B. Fasting

- What is Fasting? Definitions
- When is fasting to be added to prayers?
- How should Fasting be conducted?

C. Spiritual Warfare

- What is spiritual warfare? Definitions
- How do we distinguish between spiritual, spiritism, soulish and devilish operations in the arena of prayer and spiritual warfare?
- What are doctrines of devils (demons) in the ministry of prayer and spiritual warfare?
- Equipment and Instruments for Spiritual Warfare
- Conventional Spiritual Warfare
- Asymmetrical Spiritual Warfare

Part 1 Prayer

Definition

Prayer is the act and lifestyle of communicating with Abba, our Father in heaven. Effective prayer is a function of a real relationship with Elohim which grants saints access to the Throne on the merit of the Blood shed by Yeshua, Jesus and the Authority of His Name. They are sons of Elohim, neither male nor female, who know their identity in Yeshua and who He is in them. Those who cannot pray gracefully and effectively in faith are those who though they go to church yet operate in the 4 negative types of relationship with Elohim: Strangers, Unwilling slaves, Orphans and Babes.

Explanation

Prayer is an act in the sense that it is something we do, communicating with our heavenly Father, at fixed times such as early in the morning, during mealtimes or late at night. Beyond the specific times, there is a greater and better dimension of Prayer. This is when it becomes a lifestyle of ceaseless communication between our spirit-man, soul, and tongue with Him.

> 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) 17 Pray without ceasing.

This dimension of prayer manifests in those who have learnt the blessedness of waiting on Him and depending on Him as the centre of gravity of their lives. When this is so, our hearts, minds, will, emotion and consciousness gravitate towards consciousness of His Omniscience and Omnipresence.

> Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) 3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

These qualities create value in that they build up the spiritual muscles of saints and cause their faith to be unleashed.

> Isaiah 40:30-31 (KJV) 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31

> But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Prayer, in a real sense is the instrument through which mortal man with limited strength engages with Elohim Who is an immortal Spirit-Being as Father and God. Through prayer, we praise and worship Him to exalt Him for Who He Is.

> Revelation 4:11 (KJV) 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Through prayer also, we draw down His Divine Power to intervene on our behalf, in the earth realm. No less a Person than Yeshua Himself demonstrated both dimensions.

His regular, fixed prayer time

> Mark 1:35 (KJV) 35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

His regular, constant prayer time meant constant access to heaven.

> John 11:41 (KJV) 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

The disciples noted the quality of His Prayer Life and desired to emulate Him.

> Luke 11:1 (KJV) 1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Linkages between Prayer and the will of Yahweh: Kingdom Ambassadors in action

Our definition and the explanations imply that Prayer is not just talking to Abba or dumping our needs on Him and hurrying out of His Presence. It implies rather that, by prayer, we take a posture of coming to Him to forge a strategic partnership through which His strength combines with our legal mandate as His assigns on planet earth to bring all things and events in line with His determinate counsel. Understanding of some scriptures will usher us into a whole new dynamic in the arena of prayer and spiritual warfare:

> Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV) 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Right in the first chapter of the Holy Bible, a critical truth which helps us to pray with burden and authority is established:

- we are created in the image and likeness of Elohim
- we are planted on earth to be His assigns or legal representatives.

Look at this way: those who walk with Elohim, the creator of the universe, and align with Him, in the understanding of why He created them, as expressed in this passage will come to a place where they have a healthy spiritual self-esteem of their mission and mandate. As Ambassadors of the Kingdom of heaven in the earth realm, they know instinctively that reporting for duty before the Throne of the Most High is a normal activity. No Ambassador can successfully represent a King if he has no real relationship. In the same way, that no Ambassador can successfully represent a Kingdom without constant recourse to the capital city of his nation. No prayer warrior can represent heaven on earth without constant visits to the Throne Room of the Most High!

> Genesis 2:15 (KJV) 15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Let this truth sink into us that we are planted in the earth realm to 'dress it and keep it'. This means we cannot be indifferent to things happening in our immediate environment, within our loops of influence and anywhere on the face of this planet. We cannot assume that anything does not concern us. If we truly understand our Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:15 mandate, we will surely seek to know the will of Abba in ALL things so we can align our will and prayers with same!

> Psalm 115:16 (KJV) 16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

This scripture establishes with finality, that the earth realm is given to humans to manage! We may not have political, economic, social, or financial power as humans count such. But if we understand and walk in our spiritual standing as Legal Ambassadors of the Most High who created the earth and dare to constantly seek His will and purpose in everything and pray accordingly, He will simply use us to re-direct the course of life and natural events on earth!

From the day that Yeshua, Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary, heaven invaded the earth realm. The prophecy of the Seed of the woman Who would crush the head of Satan was activated to be fulfilled on Calvary when Yeshua, Jesus pronounced with finality 'It is finished'! Mankind is the legal assign of Yahweh to manage and rule the affairs of the earth. That legal right was stolen by the Devil through subtlety when he deceived Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. At the Cross, Yeshua, Jesus broke that legal right Satan plucked off man and restored us to pre-eminence in Yeshua, Jesus. In teaching us how to pray, Yeshua made the will of The Father a fulcrum:

> Matthew 6:10 (KJV) 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

As long as our lives are under submission to Abba and as long as His Word is our will, we will pray prayers that are after His heart, and we will receive His positive response.

> 1 John 5:14-15 (KJV) 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

In a real sense, those who truly pray act as spiritual mid-wives who posture to know and bring to pass the counsel of the Most High in the earth realm! In prayer, we do not try to dump a wish list on a tight-fisted, impersonal 'god' but come to the fountain of wisdom, intelligence, and knowledge. He knows exactly what is best for us and has a pre-determined plan of when and how to release it. Aligning ourselves to his heart and frame of mind draws down His blessings! To this end, Holy Spirit helps the infirmities of saints for two reasons. The first is that our finite minds may not always comprehend the infinite mind of Yahweh. Secondly, on a day-to-day basis, saints may have allowed clutter and cares of this life to block their spiritual senses. Holy Spirit comes to our rescue at such times.

> Romans 8:26-27 (KJV) 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Implications of Prayer

1. To pray therefore is to exercise confidence and trust in Yahweh our Father and to rely wholly on His ability to take care of the issues we bring to Him!

Whatever therefore that keeps us away from communing consistently with Yahweh in prayer is actually part of the web of intrigue spurn by Satan to make saints lose their precious axe head! It is time to recover the axe head and begin to grow our prayer life to the degree that we all – regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status can literally demonstrate the Kingdom wherever we are on planet earth! The Kingdom to which we are called is not in words but in power so much so that the word "impossible" should never feature in the lexicon of saints.

> 1 Corinthians 4:20 (KJV) 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

This is serious business, saints: we must rise up from slumber and go forth as Ambassadors of the King of Kings with the trademark ability to call forth things that be not as if they were and see them manifested, because we dare to pray with importunity and unwavering faith. This is an inheritance from Abraham who secured the gift of righteousness or right standing with Yahweh by simply trusting Him and hanging on to His word of promise by prayer that is released in unwavering faith!

> Romans 4:16-22 (KJV) 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

With this introduction, we are now ready to dig into deeper waters of this critical subject. A prayerless saint is a powerless saint. A praying saint will tap into the authority of King Yeshua, Jesus and activate the power of His Blood to attract divine intervention into natural issues in the earth realm. Heaven needs more of such people to bring back the fire into the cold pews and altars! Once prayer life of the Church is truly activated anywhere, Evangelism, Discipleship and other expressions of Kingdom Church life can run smoothly! This is why Satan works overtime to quench the fire of prayers of Faith in the Body of Yeshua, Jesus on earth!

Assignment: 1. Define Prayer. 2. Please explain the difference between Fixed Prayer at specific times and what it means to pray without ceasing. 3. What is the linkage between Prayer, the Will of Elohim and functioning as Ambassadors of the Kingdom? 4. Please summarise 3 other things you learnt from this introduction.