

Speak the Word

We all have busy lives, but we must not get so busy that we neglect daily time in the Word and in prayer. God said in Joshua 1:8, **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 4:20-22

Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7

As we keep ourselves built up in prayer, maintaining a strong, bold confession of faith based upon the written Word of God, we will be more apt to resist the attacks of the devil. God wants each believer to be spiritually strong in every area of their lives: physical, emotional, and financial. A strong spirit man is derived from feeding on and hearing the Word, meditating on and speaking the Word, praying the Word and praying in the spirit. God said in Jude 20, **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

Faith comes by hearing the Word, according to Romans 10:17 (*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*), but faith seems to be accelerated through spending time praying in the Holy Ghost and worshiping God. The scriptures say in Acts 3:19 **...when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;**

Our faith becomes much more powerful and effective when we have been doing our spiritual homework on a daily basis. The stronger we keep ourselves spiritually, the better we will do spiritually and physically. The Holy Spirit said through the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 4:8 (AMP), **For physical training is of some value (useful for a little), but godliness (spiritual training) is useful *and* of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life *and* also for the life which is to come.**

Whether a believer realizes it or not, their time in the Word and in prayer can have a great impact on them financially. In Psalm 112:1-3 (AMP), we can see that prosperity manifests to those who have been worshiping the Lord. **PRAISE THE Lord! (Hallelujah!) Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who fears**

(reveres and worships) the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His [spiritual] offspring shall be mighty upon the earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Prosperity and welfare are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

God wants all of us in the body of Christ to be prosperous and successful, healthy and whole, flowing in the anointing of God, being led by the Holy Spirit and being used in the gifts of the spirit. This all begins when a person has a hunger for God more than for anything else. Some signs of spiritual hunger in an individual's life are not being able to wait to put time in prayer and fasting, and desiring to be closer to the Lord. **As THE heart pants and longs for the water brooks, so I pant and long for You, O God. My inner self thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?** Psalm 42:1, 2 AMP

When I got saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit, I couldn't wait to learn more about God's Word. It had gotten to the point that I would go through the religious section of the newspaper looking for churches that were going to be having meetings or revivals. It seemed that every night, I was attending one meeting or another, looking for more of God. Sadly, most of the services that I attended had little or nothing to offer spiritually. I spent a lot of time hanging out with other believers, trying to glean more truth of God's Word. I was seeking a deeper walk with the Lord. I carried my Bible with me everywhere I went, even to work.

1 Peter 2: 2 says, **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

Jesus said in Matthew 5: 6, **Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**

And in John 7:3, Jesus said, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

We never want to lose our hunger for God's Word or our desire to have a closer relationship with Him. When God sees that we have a hunger for Him more than for anything else in this world, He begins to manifest Himself to us at a higher level than others are experiencing. Then, we can receive a stronger anointing and revelation knowledge of His Word. After Jesus spent much time in fasting and prayer, the Bible says in Luke 4:14, **And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee...**

Jesus received something from God that He didn't have before. What He received was God's anointing upon His life and a ministry to be a blessing to others. Believers are not to be powerless. Believers are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, going forth to rule and reign in this life in Christ Jesus. Believers are to be taking authority over the devil and setting the captives free, as well as being a bold witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

God wants to use each believer individually, as well as all believers collectively, to build His kingdom. He wants us to minister to others through witnessing and setting the captives free. So, it's very important that each one of us maintain a close relationship

with the Lord, so that when He speaks to us, we can hear Him. Acts 17:28 says, **For in him we live, and move, and have our being...**

Something that has been coming to me more strongly all the time is to get the church praying for our nation, praying for ministers, praying for the body of Christ, praying for doors of utterance to be opened up, and praying to stay in fellowship with the Lord. It's urgent *today* that the body of Christ pray and intercede. Our nation needs it, our leaders need it, and the lost world needs our prayer. But most of all, we need to be praying because that's how we fulfill our ministry and purpose in life as believers. For the scriptures say in Isaiah 66:8, **...for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.**

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37, 38

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, Galatians 4:19

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Colossians 4: 2, 3 & 12

Before each of our meetings, we have an hour of prayer. I want to encourage you to attend these prayer meetings. If you can't make it to the prayer meetings, pray at home during the time that we are praying. Check our itinerary and take the necessary steps to join us in prayer and attend our teaching sessions. It's a way that God can use *you* to build His kingdom. As you put the time in prayer, you will become a blessing to others, as well as to yourself.

I attended many of Brother Hagin's faith seminars. He had times of prayer before the meetings, and he still does. This is one of the ways that I learned how to pray. In the church where I got saved, the pastor was very strong about putting time in prayer. Jesus' own disciples, after He finished praying in Luke 11:1, said, **...Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.** So, prayer is something that we are *taught how to do*. It is passed on from one generation to another. The greatest investment you can make in your spiritual life is to spend time daily in the Word and in prayer, as well as ministering to the Lord in praise and worship.

We live in a very busy society today, and we can get so caught up in the affairs of life that we neglect our spiritual life. When that happens, it ends up costing us dearly. In order to help you put your spiritual life first, I am offering a recent teaching that I have recorded on cassette tape, entitled, **"Praying the Word in Times of Trouble"**. I also have a new prayer card, entitled, **"Praying with a Purpose: The Believer's Focus"**.

If you have a prayer request that you would like me to agree with you about, please write me back. For the scriptures say in James 5:16, **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed...**We need each other in the body of Christ, for we cannot make it by ourselves. When we come into agreement in prayer, we become

much more effective spiritually and we're fulfilling one of the purposes of the ministry of the body of Christ, *which is to pray for one another*.

I'd like you to be in agreement with me, as my partner in ministry, that every one of our financial obligations is met abundantly and that we're abounding in the work of the Lord. Please agree with me that doors of utterance are opened up to me to minister the Word of faith. I would also like you to pray and ask the Lord what He would have you give this month to help support our ministry. Your partnership and gifts of love send me to take the message out, whether that message is taught in the churches that we're planting and growing, in our seminars, in our Bible school, or in our missionary work.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Your partner in faith,

Pastor Jesse Rich

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