

## Session 5

# Types of Prayer Part 2

**In this session, we will continue our study of fifteen different types of prayer. This session covers:**

- Eight more types of prayer

### **Eight More Types of Prayer**

#### **8. Crying Out to God**

- Jesus taught us about crying out to God when He said, "Now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who *cry* to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7-8).
- Our church is called to pray for America. Recently, when we had two openings in the Supreme Court, we prayed fervently that God would appoint conservative judges who would uphold the constitution. Prior to the appointment of Samuel Alito, Harriet Miers was nominated. We were unsure if she was the right person for the job. So our Church began to pray fervently for God's will to be done in this situation. As we prayed one night, *our prayers went to a much deeper level*. We were no longer just praying; we were *crying out from the heart*. That night we knew something was different about our prayers. Our words were not any more elaborate. Nor did we pray any longer. We just poured out our soul to the Lord, crying out something like, "Just move, God; move in this situation. Let Your will be done." In desperation, we were crying out for a godly judge to help bring righteousness back to our land. Shortly after these prayers, Ms. Miers withdrew her name from consideration and Samuel Alito was nominated for the job. We experienced

firsthand the power of crying out to God with a desperate heart.

- When we cry out to God, we don't necessarily say anything different. We don't even necessarily pray with more fervency; however, something unique takes place in the spirit realm. The cry, which is initiated and empowered by the Holy Spirit, is a heartfelt, earnest prayer that gets God's attention and moves Him to action.
- Isaiah wrote, "Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him....He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you" (Isa. 30:18-19).
- Once again, this verse shows us the power of crying out to God. The Lord already longs to be gracious to us. He is in heaven waiting to have compassion on us. Isaiah said that the Lord will "surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry." Sometimes it takes heartfelt cries to activate God's grace in our situation. At times, the Lord will wait to answer our prayers until we are desperate enough to cry out with everything in our heart and soul.

## **9. Praying in Agreement**

- Jesus said, "Again I say to you, that if *two of you agree* on earth about anything that they may *ask*, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where *two or three have gathered together* in My name, I am there in their midst" (Matt. 18:19-20). This verse reveals that there is power when we pray in a group and when we agree with others' prayers.
- However, this is not some kind of magic formula. Jesus was not teaching us to act like robots and say "we agree" after every prayer. Instead, Jesus was teaching us about the power of true agreement in group prayer. When as little as two or three gather in the name of Jesus with unified hearts and fervently ask God to move in an area of need, He will hear and respond.
- Many husbands and wives have experienced the power of praying in agreement. There is not a greater unity than a husband and wife interceding for their children. A father praying for his son is a powerful thing. And a mother praying for her son is a powerful thing. But when a father and mother come together in agreement and intercede for their child, God hears and responds.
- There are two critical factors for the prayer of agreement to be successful. The *first* is the number of people coming together to pray. This does not mean that God will not respond to the prayers of a few. However, greater power is released when a large group of people storm the gates of heaven asking for God's will to be done on earth.
- The *second* principle is unity. Psalm 133 tells us how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity—for that is where God commands the blessing. It is better to have two or three praying together with a unified heart than a thousand with different agendas, burdens, and philosophies. However, when a group comes together who loves one another, has a similar prayer burden, and a common vision, then God moves powerfully.

## **10. Binding and Loosing**

- Jesus said to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you *bind* on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever

you *loose* on earth shall have been loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:19).

- The word translated *bind* means to bind, tie, fasten, forbid, prohibit, or declare to be illicit.<sup>1</sup> The word translated *loose* means to loose any person (or thing) tied or fastened, to undo or dissolve anything bound, tied, or compacted together.<sup>2</sup> It also carries the meaning of permit.<sup>3</sup>
- Binding and loosing is powerful. Jesus said that whatever we bind or loose on earth will be bound or loosed in heaven. Jesus said that the Church has been given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. And when we understand this, the gates of hell will not overcome the Church (Matt. 16:18). Whatever we bind and loose through our prayers will be done by our Father in heaven.
- Binding and loosing are powerful tools for the serious intercessor. We can use the prayer of binding and loosing to forbid the enemy from harassing God's people. We can use this type of prayer to stand against or restrain the enemy's work in cities and nations. We can use it to declare God's written judgments against principalities that would hinder the gospel from flourishing in geographic areas. We can loose people from the enemy's grip, we can set them free from oppression, and we can release the kingdom of God over a region or territory.
- To illustrate binding and loosing, consider two examples. First, suppose that you were planning a city-wide evangelistic crusade. As you pray for this event, you experience the enemy harassing and oppressing you. The heavens seem closed. Nothing is working out. The enemy appears to be hindering the event from being successful. After struggling for a while, you finally decide to bind the enemy from harassing and hindering all who are involved in this crusade. Then you loose God's purposes, His anointing, and the people from the oppression of the enemy. After this prayer, things suddenly began to change. There is no longer a sense of oppression and the work is carried out smoothly. Things that were being hindered are starting to work and the crusade results in thousands coming to Christ.
- A second example is shared by Cindy Jacobs. She writes,

We have a rodeo once a year. Cowboys come from all over to compete in typical cowboy activities such as roping, bronco-busting and calf-tying. The event that best depicts binding is the calf-roping and tying. A cowboy chases and ropes a calf from his horse, pulls it to the ground and ties the calf's legs together so it cannot move around. This done, the cowboy throws up his hands in a gesture of victory. This is what happens in the realm of the Spirit when we pray and bind or tie Satan from having anything to do with a given situation.<sup>4</sup>

- When binding and loosing, use wisdom and be led by the Holy Spirit. As you do this, you will begin to see the kingdom of God advanced in powerful ways.

## 11. Praying in Tongues

- Paul wrote, "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also" (1 Cor. 14:14-15).
- This verse is clearly about praying in the spirit—or praying in tongues. Although Paul does say to pray with the mind, which means to pray in our na-

tive language, it is after we have prayed with our spirit. As we pray in the spirit, our “mind is unfruitful.” That means we are not trying to figure out what to pray. Instead, the Holy Spirit is putting what we should pray into our spirit. After a time of praying in the spirit, Paul says to pray with the mind. Usually after praying in the spirit, we know how to pray and we can pray with the mind in our native language.

## **12. Intercessory Worship**

- We live in a generation that has experienced great advances in worship and prayer. Both of these are the foundation of the end-time move of the Holy Spirit. All around the world, many believers are devoting themselves to worship and prayer like never before. In fact, entire ministries worship and pray twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.
- At the heart of this movement is *intercessory worship*. Intercessory worship is the blending of prayer with worship.
- A few years ago, we experienced intercessory worship for the first time at a Peter Wagner conference. Their conference agenda stated that each day would start with thirty minutes of intercession. When we arrived for the “intercession,” several hundred were singing. But they were not singing songs of worship or praise; they were singing prayers and proclamations—they were engaged in intercessory worship. We discovered that intercessory worship was exciting, easy to participate in, and powerful.
- For years, many have had a time of worship before prayer. Intercessory worship is different than this. Intercessory worship is when singers and intercessors *flow back and forth between worship and prayer*. Worship allows intercessors to receive direction from the Holy Spirit as to how to pray. As participants begin to pray, a phrase or a topic from the prayer will often be sung. The song, often called a prophetic song, is a spontaneous song that God inspires for the moment. The prophetic song becomes a prayer that everybody can sing. As the group sings the initial phrase, God often adds words and sometimes even gives entire songs.
- Many songs that are being produced today are actually prayers put to music. For example, a song that declared “worthy is the Lamb” would clearly be a worship song. On the other hand, a song that stated “break my heart for the nations,” “I need more of You,” or “Your kingdom come, Your will be done” would be a song of intercessory worship.
- Another way to combine intercession with worship is to focus on a particular line in a worship chorus and sing it repeatedly. For example, suppose a song contained the words “the Lord has broken the yoke of bondage.” The Holy Spirit might highlight that phrase to the worship leader. The leader would then sing this phrase repeatedly. Everyone in the room is now focused upon this phrase and a transformation is taking place. This phrase is no longer just the words to a song; it is a prayer and a declaration of victory. As the phrase is sung repeatedly, the Holy Spirit might use this to initiate additional prayer to break the yoke of bondage.
- Intercessory worship is a tremendous way to empower a prayer meeting. When we engage in intercessory worship, the entire group can sing a prayer of agreement. Intercessory worship helps us pray with greater focus, greater determination, and for longer periods of time. Intercessory worship often captivates our heart and takes us deeper into the presence of the Lord so that

we pray with more fervency.

- Intercessory worship is not intended to replace other types of prayer, but it is a powerful weapon in your prayer arsenal.

### 13. Birthing Prayer

- Intercessors always seem to birth things. As prayer warriors, we can birth new seasons in God, new levels of glory, new ministries, new revelation of biblical truth, and the anointing to minister in new geographic areas.
- Just like a new baby is born into the world, new things in God must be birthed in the spirit realm through prayer.
- Notice how Elijah's prayer created rain in the midst of a drought:

But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and *he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees*. He said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back" seven times. It came about at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'" In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower (1 Kings 18:42-45).

- This prayer took place right after Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal. Because of this victory, the people turned back to the Lord and worshiped Yahweh once again. After such a victory, you would expect the drought to end and the rain to fall. However, this was not the case. Elijah still had to pray. But this was not just any type of prayer. Notice that Elijah "crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees." He was much like a woman who is in labor. Elijah was giving *birth to the rain through prayer*.
- Other Scriptures speak of giving birth through prayer. Paul said, "My little children, for whom I *labor in birth* again until Christ is formed in you" (Gal. 4:19, NKJV). Psalm 90:2 reads, "Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."
- There are times when birthing prayer is necessary. For example, when God wants to bring forth new things in our life or in the earth, birthing prayer is required. Dutch Sheets writes,

There is an aspect of prayer that births things in the Spirit. We are *birthers* for God. The Holy Spirit wants to "bring forth" through us. Jesus said in John 7:38, "From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." "Innermost being" is the word *koilia*, which means "womb." We are the womb of God upon the earth. We are not the source of life, but we are carriers of the source of life. We do not generate life, but we release, through prayer, Him who does.<sup>5</sup>

- Hannah gives us some insight into birthing prayer. Through prayer, Hannah birthed Samuel in the Spirit before he was conceived in the natural. In her desire for a child, Hannah was distressed, oppressed, and willing to dedicate Samuel to the Lord all the days of his life. As she prayed, she wept bitterly

over her bareness, shame, and affliction. Her desire for a child led her to fervent, wholehearted prayer—prayer that did not relent until the breakthrough came (1 Sam. 1:10-20). This describes birthing prayer.

- When God wants to birth new things in our lives, cities, and nations, the Holy Spirit will inspire birthing prayer. Dutch Sheets defines birthing prayer as spiritual travail that “releases the creative power or energy of the Holy Spirit into a situation to produce, create or give birth to something.”<sup>6</sup> Birthing prayer is a time when the call to intercession is intense and focused—and only persistent prayer will bring the needed breakthrough. Birthing prayer can also be emotional and draining. But the good news is that after birthing prayer is finished, a new spiritual baby is born!

#### **14. Prophetic Proclamations**

- What is the purpose of prophetic proclamations? Paul’s words to the Ephesians explain proclamations succinctly. He wrote, “So that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10).
- While praying, there are moments when God calls us to move from *praying* to *saying*. We stop asking God to move in a situation, and in faith, start declaring that God will move. Prophetic proclamations declare the wisdom of God in a particular situation to demonic rulers, principalities, and authorities.
- We see examples of prophetic proclamations throughout Scripture. In Mark 11:22-24, Jesus taught us *to pray and to say* when He said,

Truly I say to you, whoever *says to this mountain*, “Be taken up and cast into the sea,” and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you *pray and ask*, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

- Notice that we are to ask God to move the mountain *and* that we should also speak to the mountain.
- We see another example of a prophetic proclamation in Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones:

He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’”...Then He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life”’” (Ezek. 37:3-4, 9).

- Another example is when the walls of Jericho came down with a shout. The Bible says, “At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, ‘Shout! For the LORD has given you the city’” (Josh. 6:16). Undoubtedly, the people prayed silently as they walked around the city. But the time came when they were called to proclaim the outcome—before it happened. When the people prophetically proclaimed God’s plans with a shout, the walls came down.

- In her book, *Prophetic Intercession*, Barbara Wentroble writes,

Proclamation carries with it a nature of binding, commanding and settling. The word "bind" means "to fasten or to tie up with chains or a cord." Prophetic proclamations released through the mouths of intercessors have the ability to tie up the effect of evil powers like an animal tied with chains or a cord."<sup>7</sup>

- Prophetic proclamations are not just a random cry from our heart. Instead, the Holy Spirit reveals the Father's plans and we proclaim His plans to demonic powers in the heavens. As we do this, we will see breakthrough come.

### 15. Prophetic Acts

- In addition to prophetic proclamations, God will occasionally ask us to demonstrate what He is going to do or how He feels. This is known as a prophetic act.
- The Old Testament prophets frequently illustrated God's displeasure or His intentions with prophetic acts. For example, God told Hosea to marry a prostitute and remain loyal to her in order to demonstrate God's love for Israel despite her unfaithfulness and apostasy. Isaiah went naked and barefoot for three years as a sign that Assyria would take Egypt and Cush into captivity (Isa. 20:2-5). As a prophetic act, Joshua led the people around Jericho for seven days before the walls came down. Many more examples could be cited.
- Often, the Holy Spirit will direct intercessors to foreshadow God's will and intentions with prophetic acts. Examples of prophetic acts are pouring salt into a river to purify the water (2 Kings 2:19-22), driving pegs into the ground to stake out territory for God (Judges 4:17-24), shooting arrows of deliverance to prophesy freedom (2 Kings 13:15-19), blowing a shofar to sound an alarm or to declare God's victory, taking communion and pouring some of the juice onto the ground as a sign of God's redemption of the land, pouring oil on the ground to mark out land for God's purposes, giving the shout of the king (Num. 23:21) to demonstrate that God's people are blessed and not cursed, and waving banners or flags to demonstrate victory. The examples are numerous.
- Prophetic acts should be inspired by the Holy Spirit. This is the secret to success. Only when God leads us to demonstrate His purposes with a prophetic act will He back it up with power to fulfill His will and intentions.
- When used with wisdom, prophetic acts add a powerful dimension to our intercession.

**In this session and in the previous one, we have looked at numerous ways to pray. As we step out in faith and follow the leading of the Spirit, God will expand the ways we pray. His power will go forth from our words and actions as we implement these fifteen types of prayers into our prayer life.**

## **Notes**

1. *The Online Bible Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* (Ontario, Canada: Woodside Bible Fellowship and the Institute for Creation Research, 1993), s.v. "deo," referenced from PC Study Bible v3.2 (Seattle, WA: Biblesoft 2001).
2. *The Online Bible Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* (Ontario, Canada: Woodside Bible Fellowship and the Institute for Creation Research, 1993), s.v. "luo," referenced from PC Study Bible v3.2 (Seattle, WA: Biblesoft 2001).
3. Jacobs, *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*, p. 104.
4. Jacobs, *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*, pp. 105-106.
5. Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer*, p. 116.
6. Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer*, p. 127.
7. Barbara Wentroble, *Prophetic Intercession* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1999), p. 101.



## Review Questions

### True or False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In essence, intercessory worship defines the type of prayer that begins with an anointed time of deep worship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. While praying, there are moments when God calls us to move from *praying* to *saying*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Acts such as pouring salt into a river, putting a peg into the ground, or blowing a shofar are intended to add creativity to our prayer times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Crying out to God is a heartfelt, earnest prayer that gets God's attention and moves Him to action.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Two issues that affect the prayer of agreement are the number of people praying and the unity of those praying.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Even though having some application to prayer, binding and loosing is predominantly a technique used in deliverance.

### Fill in the Blank

- 7. As we pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit prays \_\_\_\_\_ us whatever is on His \_\_\_\_\_ for a situation.
- 8. Intercessory worship is the blending of \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. Intercessory worship is when singers and intercessors \_\_\_\_\_ back and forth between worship and prayer.
- 9. Birthing prayer is used many times to birth \_\_\_\_\_ things in the spirit.
- 10. We use binding and loosing prayer to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy's work in the earth and to \_\_\_\_\_ the work of God in its place.
- 11. The prayer of agreement is the most effective when a group comes together who \_\_\_\_\_ one another, has a similar prayer \_\_\_\_\_, and a common \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. At times, the Lord will wait to answer our prayers until we are desperate enough to \_\_\_\_\_ out with everything in our heart and soul.

13. Praying in tongues is one way to pray in the \_\_\_\_\_.

14. \_\_\_\_\_ is a new thing that God is doing to today to combine prayer with worship as a powerful tool to empower prayer in a greater way.

15. God will occasionally ask us to demonstrate what He is going to do or how He feels. This is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Matching (Place the letter of the type of prayer in the blank that best matches the description.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. Incorporates saying along with our praying

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. Praying in the Spirit

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. Prayers that forbid or permit things to take place

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. Fervent prayer from a desperate heart

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. Two or three gathered together

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Crying out to God
- b. Praying in agreement
- c. Binding and loosing
- d. Praying in tongues
- e. Intercessory worship
- f. Birthing prayer
- g. Prophetic proclamations
- h. Prophetic acts