

PASTOR E.A ADEBOYE



The Wonder Working
God

Series Two

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Mark 9:20-29

20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

21 And he asked his father, how long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, of a child.

22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.

23 Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, why could not we cast him out?

29 And he said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

(KJV)

The Bible in **Philippians 4:6**: “**Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God**”. Enjoins us not to be anxious for anything, but rather to make our requests known to God through prayer and supplication sandwiched with thanksgiving. The result of this spiritual exercise is found in **Philippians 4:7**: “**And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus**”.

This is the wonder of an effective Christian prayer life. Our Bible text reveals that prayer can work wonders beyond our wildest imagination. It also reveals the inevitability of prayer in our lives. If Jesus could do nothing without prayer, then we should not think that an effective prayer life is optional for our Christian walk. When the apostles wondered why they could not cast out the demons in a demon-possessed boy, Jesus in **Mark 9:29**: “**And he said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting**”. Simply told them that it was due to lack

of prayer and fasting. **James 4:2: "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not"**. Reveals that many children of God are guilty of negligence in prayer. Some of them even become envious of those who take out time to pray to God concerning their needs.

They fail to realize that it is prayer that can solve the problem of lack, and not envy. Like the elder brother of the prodigal son, they are zealous in the work of God but fail to make their requests known to God. They end up becoming envious. The elder brother of the prodigal son even falsely accused his father of partiality. But the father replied that all that he had was his (**Luke 15:31: "And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine"**). The problem with this son was that he would not ask.

After I was commissioned as the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, I travelled to my home town. On getting there, one of the requests put forward to me was about the access road into the town; as at that time, the road was in a deplorable state. Humanly speaking, it was an expensive project for a pastor to undertake.

So I looked up in prayer to the God who called me, just like the Psalmist did in **Psalm 121:1-2: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made**

heaven and earth". The Lord answered my simple prayer a few weeks after my visit. He moved the government to award a contract that got the road fixed.

2 Chronicles 20:21-24:

21 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 forever.

22 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.

23 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.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, be-

hold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

(KJV)

It's a good thing to give thanks to the Lord (**Psalm 92:1: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High"**). One of the wonders of praise is that it ushers you into the presence of the Lord (**Psalm 100:4: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name"**). We know that in the presence of the Lord, there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). It's impossible to be in the presence of God and remain the same.

The Bible speaks of so many weapons of spiritual warfare, but the most effective of them all is praise. The Lord revealed to me years ago that when you are praying and fasting or loosing and binding, you are doing the battle. But when you are praising God, the Lord will do the battle on your behalf. **In 2 Chronicles 20:15-17: " And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear**

not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you”.

After three great kings formed an alliance to fight King Jehoshaphat, he, by the leading of the Spirit of God, realized that it was through high praises that he would win the battle. So he put up a mighty orchestra for the praise of God. As the singers were praising the Lord, the Lord took over the battle and fought on behalf of King Jehoshaphat.

The enemies of King Jehoshaphat helped to destroy themselves, and the task left for Jehoshaphat was to collect the treasures the enemies left behind. I pray that God will fight on your behalf; you will possess the gates of your enemies and you will know peace in Jesus' Name.

In Psalm 67:1-7: “God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him”.

We read of what will happen when people praise the Lord. One of the wonders of praise is that the earth will yield her increase and God will bless His people. Another won-

der of praise is that when the people see the magnitude of the blessings that God showers upon those who praise Him, the whole earth will fear Him. May the good Lord give you the type of blessing that will cause people to fear your God in Jesus' Name. If you really want to go forward, increase and multiply, then you must know how to praise the Lord.

There is this testimony of a couple who after twenty-two years of marriage had no child, until their pastor was led to tell them that they should fill their house with praise twenty-four hours of the day until further notice. Within three months of doing this by way of playing music of praise round the clock, the wife got pregnant and many years of waiting was brought to an end.

To engage in effective praise for wonders, one must ensure that he lives righteously, because sinners cannot praise God acceptably (**Proverbs 15:8: "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight"**). Set out quality time to praise the Lord today, and cultivate the habit of continuous qualitative worship of God in your life.

Isaiah 40:28-31:

28 Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

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.

(KJV)

In Psalm 16:11: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore", the Psalmist reveals that it's in the presence of the Lord we can find fullness of joy. It is wise therefore to be in God's presence. We are guaranteed joy and everlasting satisfaction in His presence.

Sin drives a man from the presence of the Lord. It was after the fall that Adam and his wife ran from the presence of the Lord (Genesis 3:8: "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden"). Prophet Jonah, in disobedience, also ran from the presence of the Lord and ended up in the belly of the fish (Jonah 1:3: " But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he

found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD", 15&17 " So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights"). When a man runs from God's presence, he is half-dead. Only the mercy of God can make him survive it.

Some of the wonders of God's presence are found in the above bible passage. When you make the presence of the Lord your place of abode, you will never be tired because His attributes rub off on you (**Isaiah 40:28-29: "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength"**).

God is never tired, and He is so generous that He shares His strength with those who choose to come into his presence. Prophet Elijah and Elisha after him knew this secret and experienced the wonders of His presence. While Elijah was in God's presence, he enjoyed divinely prepared meals. He became so strong and swift that he did not only overpower 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, he also outran the chariot of King Ahab (1 Kings 18). Another wonder of

God's presence is that it gives divine boldness to those who abide in it. Hear what Elijah said in 1 Kings 18:15 in response to concerns raised by Obadiah concerning the fact that Elijah might get killed if King Ahab saw him: **"...As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him to day"**.

Another wonder of the presence of God is that the more you stay in God's presence, the more you look and behave like Him. The early disciples were with Jesus and within the space of three and half years, the world knew they had been with Him (**Acts 4:13: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus"**). Children of God must take time out of their busy schedule to be in God's presence. This was the habit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He did not compromise the presence of His Father for other activities. The Bible records that He constantly withdrew to the mountain side to commune with the Father (**Matthew 14:23: "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone"**, **Luke 6:12: "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God"**). Become like Him today.