

PASTOR KEITH JOEL WALKER

*Prayer*

THE VOICE  
OF FAITH

# PRAYER

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## Introduction

Prayer is not just a ritual; it is the voice of faith. It is through prayer that we express our trust in God, seek His guidance, and align our hearts with His will. Jesus taught us about the power of faith-filled prayer in Matthew 17:20, where He said, “For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

### Notable Figures Who Prayed the Prayer of Faith

#### Old Testament Examples

1. Moses: Prayed for the Israelites when they sinned against God (Exodus 32:11-14).
2. Hannah: Offered a prayer of faith for a child, which God answered (1 Samuel 1:9-20).
3. Elijah: Prayed for rain after a long drought, demonstrating faith in God’s promise (1 Kings 18:41-45).
4. Daniel: Prayed with faith, even when it was against the law (Daniel 6:10).
5. Nehemiah: Prayed for guidance and favor as he

sought to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4-11).

## New Testament Examples

1. Jesus: Frequently prayed, demonstrating His reliance on the Father (e.g., Matthew 26:39).
2. Peter: Prayed for Tabitha (Dorcas) to be raised from the dead (Acts 9:36-41).
3. Paul and Silas: Prayed and sang hymns in prison, leading to their miraculous release (Acts 16:25-26).
4. The Early Church: Gathered in prayer for boldness and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31).

## Quotes on Prayer as the Voice of Faith

E.M. Bounds

- Quote: “Prayer is the voice of faith. It is the expression of our faith in the living God, the God who hears and answers prayer.”
- Reflection: Bounds emphasized that prayer is essential for spiritual growth and the manifestation of faith.

E.W. Kenyon

- Quote: “The greatest thing in the world is to know

how to pray. Prayer is the voice of faith.”

- Reflection: Kenyon highlighted the importance of understanding prayer as a means of activating our faith.

### Billy Cole

- Quote: “Prayer is the key to unlocking the power of God. It is the voice of faith that moves mountains.”
- Reflection: Cole stressed that prayer is fundamental to experiencing God’s power in our lives.

### T.W. Barnes

- Quote: “The power of prayer is the power of faith. When we pray, we are expressing our faith in God’s ability to act.”
- Reflection: Barnes pointed out that prayer is a direct expression of our trust in God’s sovereignty.

### Nona Freeman

- Quote: “When we pray, we are not just speaking words; we are releasing our faith into the atmosphere.”
- Reflection: Freeman emphasized that prayer is a powerful declaration of faith that can change circumstances.

## Smith Wigglesworth

- Quote: “I never pray for more than five minutes, but I never go more than five minutes without praying.”
- Reflection: Wigglesworth’s life demonstrated a constant attitude of prayer, reflecting his deep faith in God.

Below is a section that emphasizes the importance of working behind the scenes in prayer and faith, along with relevant insights and applications. This can be integrated into the previous content or used as a standalone message.

### Working Behind the Scenes

#### Introduction

In a world that often seeks recognition and immediate results, the call to work behind the scenes can be overlooked. However, it is in these hidden places of prayer and service that true faith is often cultivated and powerful outcomes are birthed. As believers, we are called to engage in the unseen work that aligns with God’s purposes, trusting that He is at work even when we cannot see it.

#### The Importance of Behind-the-Scenes Work

## 1. Biblical Examples of Hidden Labor

- **Moses in Midian:** Before leading the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses spent 40 years tending sheep in the wilderness (Exodus 3). This time of preparation was crucial, though it seemed like a hidden and insignificant role.
- **David:** Before becoming king, David was a shepherd, spending years in obscurity while honing his skills and developing a heart for God (1 Samuel 16:11-13).
- **The Little Maid:** As mentioned earlier, the little maid who served Naaman played a pivotal role in his healing by simply sharing her faith in the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-3). Her influence was profound, though she remained largely unseen.

## 2. The Power of Prayer Behind the Scenes

- **Intercessory Prayer:** Many prayers go up from those who may never be recognized publicly. These intercessors play a crucial role in the spiritual battles that shape our communities and the world.
- **Faithful Servants:** Countless individuals work tirelessly in their local churches and communities, serving in roles that may not be visible but are essential to the body of Christ. Their faithfulness in prayer and service creates a foundation for the work of God to flourish.

## Quotes on Working Behind the Scenes

- E.M. Bounds: “The man who is in the secret place of prayer is the man who will be able to do great things for God.”
- Billy Graham: “The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.”
- T.W. Barnes: “It is the hidden prayers of the faithful that often bring about the greatest victories in the Kingdom of God.”

### Analogies of Behind-the-Scenes Work

1. The Iceberg Analogy: An iceberg is composed of a small visible portion above the water and a much larger part hidden below the surface. Similarly, the visible work of ministry often represents only a fraction of the prayers, sacrifices, and preparations made behind the scenes.

2. The Foundation of a Building: A building’s foundation is often unseen, yet it is crucial for stability and strength. In the same way, the unseen work of prayer and faith is foundational to the visible manifestations of God’s power in our lives and communities.

Application:  
Embracing the Call to Hidden Work

1. **Commit to Prayer:** Dedicate time each day to pray for others, your community, and the needs of the world. Remember that your prayers are powerful and effective (James 5:16).

2. **Serve Faithfully:** Look for opportunities to serve in your local church or community, even in roles that may seem small or unnoticed. Your contributions are valuable in God's eyes.

3. **Encourage Others:** Be an encouragement to those who are working behind the scenes. A simple word of affirmation can uplift those who may feel overlooked.

## Conclusion

Working behind the scenes is a vital aspect of the Christian faith. It is in these hidden places that we cultivate our relationship with God, develop our faith, and prepare for the work He has called us to do. Let us embrace the call to labor in prayer and service, trusting that God is at work, even when we cannot see it. Remember, the unseen work is often the most impactful, laying the groundwork for the visible manifestations of His glory.

Prayer is indeed the voice of faith, a powerful tool that connects us to God and allows us to express our deepest needs, desires, and trust in Him. The

examples of faithful prayers throughout scripture and the insights from these influential figures remind us of the importance of cultivating a vibrant prayer life. Let us approach God with confidence, knowing that our prayers can move mountains and bring about His will on earth.