



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

A Touch of His Power

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The touch of God's power comes through prayer. Although we may enjoy it, power is not the ultimate thing that we are looking for, but the presence of the almighty God.

Power is might. It is strength. It has authority, jurisdiction, and dominion. It can govern and control. Ultimately, it can enhance our potential. It drives us toward our desire, our passion.

Power may be dangerous because it may blind people if it is not well managed. We need prayer for us to manage accordingly the power that God gave us. For only if we can manage it, would we be able to do what we want and what God wants us to do.

The Lord already knew our end while we are still in the beginning. Prayer will guide us into the direction He wants us to be.

"With great power comes great responsibility." – Spider-Man

This means that we are supposed to handle the power given by God and be mature enough to be able to do what we are supposed to do.

"I'm nothing without this suit." - Peter Parker/Spider-Man

In the story, when Peter Parker wears his Spider-Man suit, he can do a lot of things and without it he was just an ordinary young man.

"I'm nothing without prayer." - Bro. Dinky Florentino

For prayer should be our ultimate possession for it is where we take our strength. We must realize that the birth of Divine power is in prayer.

What is prayer?

- Two-way communication
- Dialogue between You and God

- God talks, you listen.
- You talk, God listens.
- A way to release the supernatural power of God in our lives, marriage, family, work, service and all our endeavors.
- Key that unlocks the Door of Heaven and closes the gates of hell.
- Prayer can break bondages that were given to us by Satan in our lives, marriage, family, work, finances, health, and services.
- Prayer is not sending God to do your errands.
- Prayer is not commanding God to immediately act upon to what you want and what you prayed for.
- Prayer is more on us preparing and doing the will of God.
- In times of trouble, remember and be inspired by Jer. 33:3: *"Call to me, and I will answer you; tell you great things beyond the reach of your knowledge."*

When did the first prayer happen?

- After God created Adam, God instructed him and he listened. After sometime, Adam disobeyed God. Immediately after Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree, God went into the paradise in a cool environment (Gen. 3:8).
- Like Adam, we forget to pray when we are staying in a cool place and when we enjoy another's company.

Prayer is our greatest power (Mt. 18:18). So, never doubt the power of prayer (Mk. 11:24). Ask the things that are impossible, because with God nothing is impossible. Prayer is invisible, but it makes impossible things possible. Through prayers ask God to defeat the giants in our lives.

We need to pray. When we are tempted, lonely, weary, confused, stressed, or whatever our situation is, we must pray for everything boils down to prayer. All we need to do is pray for there is power in prayer.

The statement, "Go down on your knees and pray" suggests that you need to pause for a while and pray.

Pray not because you need something but because you have a lot to thank God for.

1. Take time to pray.

- Reflection: Do you have time to pray? How much quality time do you spare for your prayer time?
- Before Jesus began His Ministry, He prayed. He prayed during His ministry, until his last breath. In short, Jesus did nothing but pray.
- Very early in the morning, Jesus got up and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mk. 1:35). Jesus prays very early in the morning because He is excited to be in His Father's presence.

A. 9 Instances when Jesus prayed in the Book of Luke:

- Lk. 3:21 - Baptism of Jesus
- Lk. 5:16 - Withdrawal from the Crowd
- Lk. 6:12 - Choosing the 12 Apostles
- Lk. 9:18 - Went to the Mountain to Pray the Whole Night
- Lk. 9:29 - Transfiguration
- Lk. 11:1 - Lord's Prayer
- Lk. 22:32 - Prayer for Peter's Faith
- Lk. 23:34 Forgive Them for They Do Not Know What They Do
- Lk. 23:46 - Father Unto Thy Hands I Commit My Spirit

2. Continue earnestly in prayer.

- Daniel continued to pray despite the danger in his life (Dan. 6:10-12).
- Prayer does not require eloquence but earnestness.

3. Discipline of Prayer.

- Two important spiritual disciplines in Christian Life:
 - Word of God
 - Prayer
- Prayer does not need proof.
- Prayer needs practice.
- It is good to give thanks to the Lord (Ps. 92).
- When we pray, include the ACTS of Prayer: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

4. Take time to listen.

5. Keep on praying.

- Prayer is the cure for a confused mind, weary soul and a broken heart.
- One little prayer can change a huge situation.
- Ask and you will receive (Lk. 11:9-10).
- Reflection: Somebody has prayed for you. Who are you praying for?
- We need to devote ourselves to prayer (Col. 4:2) and we need to pray also for others (Jas. 5:16).

We need to have constant communication with the Almighty God so that all of us will receive His power through our prayers.

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