

WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

Happy New Year! I welcome you to 2022 and this new month's edition of Watchman's Trumpet. This month, our theme is "Asking and receiving from God"

Prayer and praying is an essential component of believer's life and ministry It is an important key that unlocks the door to great treasure and a ladder that connects earth to heaven; a bridge of two worlds. Since the days of Seth when men came to the understanding of prayer as a channel by which they can secure God's attention receive His blessings, great and tremendous transformation has been brought to our world by praying men.

On the day that Jesus atoned for our sins, He prayed landmark prayers which include - 'Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth, I wish that they whom thou have given me shall be with me where I am,' 'I pray not only for these people but for those who shall through their word believe in me, that they might be one as thou art in me'. 'Forgive them for they know not what they do' and 'Father into thy hand I commit my spirit.'. These prayers form the lips of our Lord Jesus shaped and re-shaped our world and it is still doing so today. A praying man may die but his prayers will never die; especially if these prayers are for things that has eternal value and significance.

To maximally benefit from praying exercises and receive tremendous blessings in time and in eternity, we must take praying to the level of a ministry, duty and responsibility that we owe God and humanity. We will need salvation

because 'the prayer of the wicked is abomination in the sight of God'. Secondly we must be unequivocally committed to holy living because it is the 'prayer of the righteous man (and woman that availeth much. Finally, we must exhibit unselfish family spirit in prayer. We must show clear concern for the plight of others especially those who are yet to find salvation.

Since it is usual that flurry praying activities are witnessed in our world at the beginning of a new year, I consider it a duty to use the opportunity of the new beginning to direct our attention to the facts, factors and keys that will make our prayers in 2022 to be one with unparalleled answers, rewards and outcome. As we feed on this edition of Watchman's Trumpet, it is my prayer that unprecedented miracle will be experienced by everyone of us this year in Jesus name. Welcome !

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" 1 Timothy 2:1-4.



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"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" Acts 12:5.

We have been commanded to pray, so praying is not for a few people or believers who take it as a ministry. God Himself invited us to pray and seek His face. We must not wait for good feeling or good time before we pray. Whatever our state of mind or situation in life, we must pray. From the examples and exhortation in the scriptures, we learn that we ought to pray always. In the day of trouble, in great extremities, when human help fails, when under chastisement for sin, at all times, and without ceasing (Luke 18:1, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, Psalm 60:15, Jonah 2_7, Psalm 116:1,2). To please God, we must pray. To receive help for ourselves and others, we must pray.

We shall consider three points:

1. Men who Pray
2. Ministering through prayer
3. Matters for prayer

1. Men who pray

“Is any afflicted, let him pray, is any merry, let him sing psalm. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit” James 5:13-18.

The names of praying men and their prayers in the Bible is a long list. The intercession of Abraham for Lot, and Sodom and Gomorrah, intercession of Moses for the pardon of sinful Israelites, Daniel’s prayer for return of Jews from Babylonian exile, David’s prayer for frustration of Ahithophel’s counsel, Jonah for an end to his chastisement, Habakkuk for revival, Hannah for a baby boy, Paul for the conversion of his kinsmen and establishment in faith of Gentile converts, and the churches he planted, Elijah for fire and rain and Jesus for sanctification of believers and their preservation from corruption by worldly influence; all are cases that provided all men with encouragement that when we pray, God will hear and answer. However, we need to realize that there are conditions for answered prayers. We do not set the conditions. God Himself set conditions to be fulfilled for our prayers to be answered.

A foundation of righteous living is essential for all who come to God in prayer for blessings and help. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. They will see God manifest in their affairs on earth and answer to their prayers; they will see Him eventually in heaven and dwell with Him after their earthly sojourn is over.

2. Ministering through Prayer

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” Ephesians 6:18-20.

Much can be accomplished for ourselves and for other through prayers if we pray:

- i. For ourselves Psalm 106:4,5
- ii. For fellow believers James 5:16, Romans 1:9
- iii. For ministers of the word Colossians 4:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2
- iv. For our converts 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- v. For sick brethren James 5:14-16
- vi. For Backsliders 1 John 5:16
- vii. For all saints Ephesians 6:18
- viii. For our children 1 Chronicles 29:19
- ix. For our rulers 1 Timothy 2:1,2
- x. For the city where we live Jeremiah 29:7
- xi. For Israel Romans 10:1, Isaiah 62:6, 7
- xii. For our persecutors Luke 6:28, Mathew 5:44
- xiii. For all men 1 Timothy 2:1



3. Matters for prayers

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” Mark 11:23, 24.

Prayer points for ourselves and for others may include -

- i. Revival of God’s work and his people Habakkuk 3:2
- ii. More labourers and effectiveness Mathew 9:38, Ephesians 6:19
- iii. Restoration of backsliders Exodus 32:31 32, 34:9
- iv. Forgiveness of sins Acts 8:22, Psalm 51:10
- v. Sanctification 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- vi. Gift of the Holy Spirit Luke 11:13, Acts 8:15
- vii. Healing and deliverance James 5:14-16
- viii. Wisdom Ephesians 1:16-19, 3:14, 16, Colossians 1:9, 10, James 1:5
- ix. Preservation from evil Psalm 17:8, 9, John 17:15
- x. Provision for every need Philippians 4:6, 19





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For January 2022

1. Thank God for the privilege of praying and prayers
2. Thank God for the salvation of our souls and the hope of eternal life
3. Thank God for our access to God’s throne through Christ to receive help in times of need
4. Pray for all those around you who are not yet saved that the light of Christ will shine in their hearts
5. Pray for believers, ministers and ministries dedication to seeking the lost that God will encourage them with results
6. Pray for the peace of God to reign in our land and for rulers to rule in the fear of God
7. Pray for increasing love and unity among Christians
8. Pray for meeting of all your needs in 2022 and solution to all your problems
9. Pray for grace for watchfulness, sobriety, diligence and daily self-examination in our journey to heaven.

“..... *men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*’ **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State. You can also follow us on any of our Social media platforms during the prayer session and send inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

For more info on the Mission, log on to: www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

PRAYING TO RECEIVE

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:9-13

God knows our needs yet He commanded that we should pray. Why? This is because prayer is a vocal expression of our commitment to God and dependence upon Him. Great things are promised those who trust in God, who have confidence in Him and depend upon Him. Prayer is asking from God, talking to God and calling upon God. It is one half of what is regarded as communion with God. The other half is listening to His word and obeying it. The extent to which we are committed to listen to and obey God's word, to that extent we shall enjoy answers to prayer Proverbs 1:24-28.

Prayer is not shouting, jumping or following strict codes, or rules in calling upon God or in the use of the name Jesus. These things when done or encouraged are merely to keep us alert and awake and to get our mind focused. Rather, prayer is sincere passionate connection of our hearts, life, and being with God and with His heart. In prayer we make use of verbal communication and expression to connect with God.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Promise to those who pray
2. Hindrance to prayer and conditions for effective prayer
3. Persistence and importunity in prayer to receive.

1. Promises to those who pray

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" Psalm 50:15.

Several scripture passage gives us assurance that if we pray, God will hear and answer. Examples of such passages include Jeremiah 33:3, Psalm 50:15, James 5:13-16, Job 22:21-28, James 4:2-4. Many times, if we lack the things that God promised it is our fault.

2. Hinderances to prayers and conditions for effective prayers

"But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes" Psalm 50:16-21.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" Isaiah 59:1, 2.

There are things that will not allow God to hear and answer our prayers:

- i. Repentance without restitution and righteousness
- ii. Conviction without conversion
- iii. Asking without giving
- iv. Faith without faithfulness
- v. Industry without integrity
- vi. Duty without diligence
- vii. Love without sacrifice
- viii. Supplication without scriptures
- ix. Prayer without obedience to God

Conditions for effective prayers include the fact that -

1. Those who pray must be children of God
2. Children of God who pray must operate from the platform of i. righteous living at prayer time

3. In spite of righteous living, our prayers must be fervent (i.e. hot, glowing, showing warmth of feelings).
4. Our prayers must be importunate-without fainting or ceasing
5. According to the will of God.

Aspect of the will of God include (i) salvation-of all mankind (1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9) of our children (Mathew 18:14, Acts 16:30) (ii). Our separation from the evil systems of the world (Galatians 1:4). (iii). Our sanctification and holiness 1 Thess 4:3-5,7. (iv). Everlasting life for those who are saved John 6:39,40. (v). Adequate knowledge in spiritual matters Psalm 143:10, (vi). Honesty and dedication at our working places as well as loyalty to our supervisors and employers. Ephesians 6:5-6. (viii). Committing ourselves into God's hand whenever we want to travel Romans 1:10 and (ix). And our plans James 4:13-15. (x). Enduring persecution as Christians 1 Peter 3:17. (xi). Thanksgiving in all things 1 Thess 5:18.

3. Persistence and importunity in prayer to receive

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened:" Mathew 7:7-8.

Prayer is a serious business. Some people did not receive because of sheer laziness. They cannot endure or persist in prayer. Some are lazy to fast. They want to give Pastors and prophets money to do their fasting for them while they run around public spaces looking for money. Those who are committed to PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens) always get up from their knees with great testimonies. One example is Elijah on Mount Carmel 1 Kings 18:1, 41-46, A widow Luke 18:1-8.

Ask and ye shall receive! The promise of God covers every aspect of human needs. Determine your own most important need today and pray about it. God will answer.



LEAVING OUR BURDENS WITH THE LORD

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” **Philippians 4:6.**

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” **1 Peter 5:7.**

Today, a lot of people carry loads that the Lord could have carried for them. If you are going to travel far, you should travel light. The race to heaven is not a 100metres dash but a long distance endurance race. We cannot travel far if we are overloaded and over-burdened. Every day we spend on earth has its own share of evils (Mathew 6:28-34) so much that without grace, without the help of the Holy Spirit, without the Bible and its promises, without the hope of everlasting life, without an ever-abiding presence of a eternal God, the burdens of life will be unbearable. Paul described his own experiences in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, 2 Timothy 4:10, 16-18, and 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.

Faith in Christ is an anchor to stabilize our ship in the storms of life. We are to use providences' smiles to strengthen our relationship with God, fortify our position in His kingdom and obtain insurance cover for an eternal heritage (Luke 16:9), that is why we are here. Everything in life has an expiry but if we are grounded in Christ, we are to allow the burden bearer to bear our burdens. Life in Christ should provide a glorious rest; this is what He promised those who come to Him Mathew 11:28-30. Take your burdens to the Lord and leave it there.

We all have burdens as part of the consequences of living in this sinful world - a sick body, a troubled mind, frustrating relationship, failed goals and aspirations, uncooperative subordinates, a nagging wife, an

an overbearing superior or husband, a troublesome child, delayed or deferred expectation betrayal by trusted friend, confusion at the crossroad of life, an unprofitable business, unjust treatment and cheating, inadequate means of livelihood, loss of job, properties or precious relationship, shame, ridicule, persecution, temptation to sin; added to these for those who have responsibilities in the church are the care of the brethren and the necessity of ministering to the saints. These are some of the many circumstances in life that can weigh us down and discourage us. But we must never forget *“Burdens are lifted at Calvary, Jesus is very near”*

In difficult times, one responsibility you owe God and owe yourself is prayer. You should be able to call upon God. Anything that threatens your prayer life will kill you very fast. In talking about prayer, I am not talking about *“a fire Brigade approach”* to life's issues or challenges but an outward expression of consistent relationship with God. 'Ye must be born again'. Christ taught prayer as being within the framework of a consistent abiding relationship with God *“Our Father which art in heaven ...”* But if you are a believer, then you should have the boldness to pray for divine intervention and succour Hebrews 2:18, 4:14-16.

You need to add faith to your prayers. The unbelieving and doubters cannot receive anything from God 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17, 20. What burdens do you have today? Remember - the secret of victory is leaving our burdens with the Lord



We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Leaning on the Lord through prayer
2. Assurance of answer to prayers
3. Open cheque, open doors and listening ears

1. Leaning on the Lord through prayer

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” **Mathew 11:28, 29.**

Praying to God under any circumstance is an expression of our inadequacy, insufficiency and dependence upon God because God already knows what we need before we ask Him. The Lord wanted us to come and He is happy when we pray Mathew 11:28-30. Believers of old had problems but translated their problems into prayer points. They committed their burdens to the Lord and left them in His hands. Abraham had a nephew in Sodom and Gomorrah that was about to be destroyed, he prayed Genesis 18:23-32. God answered his prayer and brought Lot out Genesis 19:19-29. God's decision to destroy the children of Israel placed a burden in the heart of Moses, he prayed and God suspended the judgment Exodus 32:10-14, The early church were burdened about Peter's incarceration and imminent execution; they prayed and Peter was delivered Acts 12:5-10. If we can pray, we will experience angelic visitation, prison doors will open, all oppressors, afflictions and torment will end, every hindrance to our ministry will be removed. We will prosper in life and ministry in Jesus name.



2. Assurance of answer to prayers

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” 1 John 5:4.

It is one thing to pray, it is another thing to pray with assurance. We should have faith in God whenever we ask for anything according to His will 1 John 5:14, Mathew 21:22, Mark 11:24, Philippians 4:19.

‘The desires of the righteous shall be granted unto them’, “I am young and now I am old, I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging for bread”, ‘the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance’. ‘The Lord will give grace and glory nothing good will He withhold from those who walk uprightly’. To your hoary heads, He will bear you, to your old age, He will carry you. ‘The angels of the Lord encamps around them that fear the Lord..’. I am engrafted on the palms of His hands, my walls are continuously before Him. ‘In famine thou shall laugh, in famine thou shall be fed’. Whatever else you need, they are all covered by the promises of God. God who answered your prayers in the past is an unchangeable, immutable God. He will still hear and answer your prayers today.

3. Open Cheque, open doors and listening ears

“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear” Isaiah 65:24.

Promises of God in Christ Jesus are ‘Yes’ and ‘Amen’. It is like an open cheque to fill in our needs. Jeremiah 33:3, 32:27, Psalm 4:3, 18:6, Ephesians 3:20, Isaiah 65:24

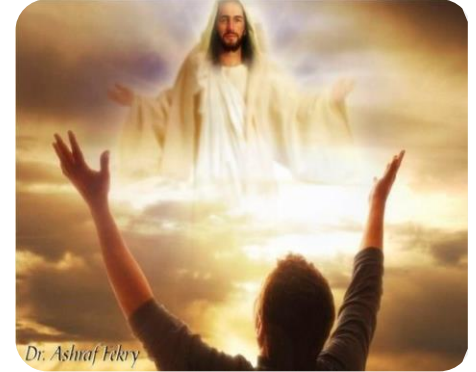
Joseph was sold into slavery and maltreated in Potiphar’s house, David was persecuted for 13 years in spite of his earlier anointing to reign; Moses was exiled in Midian for defending his oppressed kinsmen, Daniel stayed overnight in lion’s den, Jeremiah was cast into a miry dungeon by those uncomfortable with his convicting preaching; his writings were destroyed. Paul suffered shipwreck, Peter was imprisoned, Elijah was threatened by that whore and witch Jezebel, Naomi returned from the land of the Moabites empty, Jacob was cheated and had his condition of service changed more than five times while he was in the employment of Laban his uncle. These were never the end of the story of their lives. God visited them, delivered them and helped them. God will visit you; He will help you and deliver you.

Testimonies of the lives of these people clearly show that things cannot go on like these in our lives, families, offices, churches or ministries.



Better days are coming; things will change, God will visit you, deliver you, meet your needs, solve your problems, give you a new song, put joy in your heart, grace upon your life, grease your elbows, strengthen your arms, preserve you in faith and holiness, get you to heaven eventually and give you an eternal inheritance in heaven. Don’t give up; glorious days are ahead for you. Bring your burdens to the Lord.

He has more resources than we have needs, Our God and Christ is the source of riches that do not rust, rivers ever flowing, calling without repentance, joy without bitterness, peace without fear, vision that is never blurred, glory that does not fade, hope without end. He is the mighty man of valour, the captain of the host of the Lord’s army, the strength of Israel,



our redeemer, Saviour, sanctifier, healer and preserver of life. He is Father to the Fatherless, friend of strangers, husband to widows, helper of the helpless, shepherd of the sheep, the hope of Israel, Lord over all the earth, over all people, over all lands and nations, over all circumstances and situations. Take your burdens to the Lord and leave it there!

“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

Isaiah 62:6, 7

PARTAKING IN THE BLESSING OF NEWNESS IN A NEW YEAR

“And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.” **Mark 2:22.**

Time runs continuously in God’s court from a dateless past to a dateless future. God is not bound by time but mortal men need time for the purpose of reckoning, evaluation and accountability. Every New Year gives us a fresh start on this. It affords us the opportunity of a new beginning; an opportunity to begin well, finish well and achieve something remarkable with our lives in addition to all that we achieved in the previous year. On the other hand, if things have been very challenging for us in the previous year, we have a fresh opportunity to disengage from tales of past woes and misfortunes; and we must begin early.

The power to choose is one of the greatest gifts God bestows on men. This is clearly illustrated in Christ’s parable of new wine and old bottle or new bottle. The greatest damage man has ever incurred was as a result of the manifestation and activities of the old man and old nature. We should set goals this New Year that takes into consideration the necessity of new life and new nature.

My desire to see you achieve in all spheres of life and human endeavors in 2022 make me come to you with these three admonitions:

1. Fight your ungodly passions!
2. Forget the past!
3. Follow the perfect way!

1. Fight your ungodly passions

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the

kingdom of God” **1 Corinthians 6:9-10.**

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” **Ephesians 4:22-24, 31, 32.**

If we are going to benefit from the newness that a New Year brings, we must not import old nature of sin into the New Year. That means we must meet the New Year with whole-hearted repentance, forsaking of sins and turning to Jesus for cleansing and salvation. We must keep ourselves from immorality rampant in our society today. Our new year’s best wishes and prayers for a happy family, academic success or progress in business may not be answered except we are free from fornication, unclean thoughts, unclean acts, immoral communication between opposite sexes, covetousness, anger and malice.



2. Forget the past!

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert” **Isaiah 43:18-19.**

Many people are so tied to their past to the point that they find it difficult to make any or further progress. They frequently speak about their past successes and failures, joy and pains, victories and disappointments. Many brood over past problems and troubles or lost opportunities to the point that they are discouraged from making further attempts at life and living and its vast opportunities. Such people need to remember that “TODAY IS A NEW DAY”. Shake off despair and see new possibilities.

Men need to understand that failure is success with a missing link. The man who failed is better experienced than the one that never tried. All you need to do is to find out the missing link and put it in; you are on your way to succeed even much more than some who initially appear to be ahead of you following your previous attempts. The best in your life is not in the past but in the future, in moving forward in your relationship and partnership with God. Since God will never fail, you will not fail. You will succeed. I will celebrate with you this year!

3. Follow the perfect way!

“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace” **Psalms 37:37.**

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” **Hebrews 6:1**

Jesus Christ is perfect man and perfect God. He is the model, bond and epitome of purity and perfection. You need to be more determined to follow Him this New Year more than at any other time in your life. You will need to quit permissive and effeminate gatherings and avoid the “No problem” people who encourage licentious living and discourage those committed to walk by the dictates of sound doctrine; clear, clean and sensitive conscience; as well as demand for Christian purity. Make the best among God’s children your companion and encourage one another in your walks on the narrow way. Upright walk will not only attract to us the best that God promised and life offers, it will put us in greater readiness for Christ’s second coming which is the ultimate of all blessings that God promised redeemed men.

I wish you a Happy New year, long life and prosperity in Jesus Name!

TO DOWNLOAD INSPIRING SERMONS; BOTH MP3 AND PDF FORMAT, KINDLY LOG ON TO

www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

Edward McKendree Bounds was born on August 15, 1835 as the fifth child of Thomas Jefferson and Hester A. Bounds in Shelbyville, Missouri, and named after the evangelist, William McKendree; the fourth bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Being one of the original settlers of Shelby County, Thomas Bounds served as the first Justice of the Peace and later named County, Clerk then appointed as County Commissioner in 1835.

At age 14 when his father passed away, he moved with other relatives to Mesquite Canyon, California in a quest for gold which they gave up on after four year's futile effort. He returned to Missouri and studied Law in Hannibal, Missouri and came out as the youngest practicing lawyer in that state at age 19. He closed down his Law firm and enrolled in the Centenary Seminary in Palmyra, Missouri after a revival meeting with Evangelist Smith Thomas which finally convinced him though he felt the call to Christian ministry in his early twenties during the Third Great Awakening. At the age of 24 in 1859, after two years of enrolment, he was ordained by his denomination and named Pastor of the Monticello, Missouri Methodist Church nearby.

E.M. Bounds was first married to Emma Elizabeth Barnett from Washington, Georgia on September 19, 1876, a union that fruited two daughters; Celeste and Corneille Bounds and a son; Edward Bounds. Twenty months after his wife died in February 1886, Bounds married Harriet Elizabeth Barnett; his wife's cousin and sired three sons viz. Samuel, Charles and Osborne Bounds, and three daughters viz. Elizabeth, Mary and Emmie Bounds.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

EDWARD MCKENDREE BOUNDS
1835 - 1913



He lost two of his sons, one from each of his wives in their early ages of six years old (Edward) and eight days old (Charles).

Bounds was against slavery but being a pastor he was added to a list of people who were to take an oath of allegiance and post a \$500 bond which he opposed to and was arrested for it in 1861 by Union troops and was released a year and half later. After some time, he pastored the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and established weekly prayer sessions which later grew throughout the country. For eight years he served as an Editor for the St. Louis Christian Advocate and moved on to Associate Editor at The Nashville Christian Advocate which lasted for four years. In Washington, Georgia he developed the habit of waking up at 4am to pray till 7am. Bounds had a passion for lost souls and backslidden Christians. In his lifetime, only two of his books were published, the rest saw the daylight after he passed on. He became well known for his books on Prayer. E.M. Bounds died at the age of 78 on August 24, 1913 and was buried at Resthaven Cemetery.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God"

Philippians 4:6

SONG OF THE MONTH

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
4. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout, while passing through the air,
"Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

Author: William W. Walford

CONTACT DETAILS

Watchman Outreach Mission
78/80 Nepa (IBEDC)
Building,
Opposite U.I Second Gate
Ibadan, Oyo – State, Nigeria

BANK DETAILS FOR DONATION

Bank: FBN PLC
Acct Name: Watchman Outreach Mission
Account No. C/A 2016363366
GSM No. +234-9026840215,
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