

*Prayer that touches heaven
and the earth*

Experiencing Divine Intervention

How many **want** to exp
divine intervention – life –
business – work

Look at **few** passages –
see – keys to touch heaven
and earth

First – first prayer meet –
corp prayer powerful

Honor honour

Enc tre **opp** – threats and
intimidation – new believers
– easy to be **discouraged**

Choice – choose to pray –
touch heaven and earth

Acts 4:31-33

31 After they prayed, the place
where they were meeting was
shaken. And they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit and spoke the
word of God boldly.

33 With great power the
apostles continued to testify to
the resurrection of the Lord
Jesus, and much grace was
upon them all.

**Kind of prayer that
touches ... what so special
about this prayer**

I. Focus on a BIG picture of God Himself

Acts 4:24-25

24 So when they heard that,
they raised their voice to God
with one accord and said:
"**Lord**, You are **God**, who
made heaven and earth and
the sea, and all that is in them.
NKJV

**In just one sentence, 3
names of God"**

**Why did the early church
address God such a way?**

**As Lord – He is in absolute
control**

**Pict of big God - When
your picture of God is too**

small, you will have **fear,
confusion** and **discouragement**

Some peo may pray – **not
effective** – all talk – focus -
problem – long list – oh God – oil
price keep inc, electric bill
doubling, blood pre inc, in law
coming ... By the time finished –
lost all faith

If you want your prayer to be
powerful – not **centred** on the
greatness of your prob but on
Greatness of God

As God – He has all the power
Daniel 2:1-28

King had many dreams – mind
troubled – cannot sleep

Summon magicians – tell us –
no you tell me the dream

*1 In the second year of his reign,
Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his
mind was troubled and he could not
sleep.*

*2 So the king summoned the
magicians, enchanters, sorcerers
and astrologers to tell him what he
had dreamed. When they came in
and stood before the king,*

*3 he said to them, "I have had a
dream that troubles me and I want to
know what it means."*

*4 Then the astrologers answered
the king in Aramaic, "O king, live for
ever! Tell your servants the dream,
and we will interpret it."*

*5 The king replied to the
astrologers, "This is what I have
firmly decided:*

*5 The king said: If you do not tell me
what my dream was and interpret it, I
will have you cut into pieces and your
houses turned into piles of rubble.*

11 What the king asks is too difficult.
No one can reveal it to the king except
the gods, and they do not live among
men."

**All wise men and magicians in
deep trouble!**

Dan – went into prayer

27 Daniel replied, "No wise man,
enchanter, magician or diviner can
explain to the king the mystery he has

asked about, 28 but there is a God in
heaven who reveals mysteries. He
has shown King Nebuchadnezzar
what will happen in days to come.
Your dream and the visions that
passed through your mind as you lay
on your bed are these:

In very desperate situation –
tempted give up – remember –
but there is a God in heaven

Dan – tell what King dreamt
and intp

Finland

**As Creator – He can create a
way when they seem no way**

Why ?

He has not stop the **business**
of creation.

No **soln** – he can create soln

Failure – success

Weakness – strength

Brokenness – acceptance

Confusion – peace

No eye **ball** – eyeball!

I AM ...

I am the door - way

Numbers 11:23

*The Lord said to Moses, "Is the
Lord's power limited (hand too
short)? Now you shall see whether
my word will come to pass. GW*

Ps 77:19

19 Your road led by a pathway
through the sea—a pathway no one
knew was there! TLB

**Powerful prayer – need - big
pict of God**

Hymns so powerful – **Jesus**
sung – bef face Gathesame

Tongues powerful – speaking
wonderful works of God

Acts 2:11

11 we hear them declaring the
wonders of God in our own tongues!

**Sis in chr – started business –
no business –no connection –
suppliers wont supply goods**

She prayed – while praying in
tongues - the Lord led her to
the suppliers that would supply
without paying first. Today, her
business turn over every month
is in millions.

2. Focus on the Truth of God's Word

Acts 4: 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit
through the mouth of your servant, our
father David: "Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in **vain**?

26 The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together **against**
the **Lord** and against his **Anointed One**."

**Why did the early focus on the
Word in their prayers?**

The early believers are familiar
with the Scriptures. Focus on the
Word – then we will **know** the **truth**

– not just facts of the circumstances
Truth will set us free

Quote from Psa 2:1-2

Word brings out **truth**: **vain** – **limit**
what they can do

Becos – **against** the Lord

When in troubling situation – think
alone

No – **REAL BATTLE** – not bet you
and d

But bet God and god!

The **battle** belongs to the Lord –
it's not your battle

**Why is truth that the battle
belongs to the Lord so imp?**

When making a **stand** for Christ –
moral value – people laugh – mock -
take adv –

Walking in **calling** – think smooth –
troubles after troubles!

Against the Lord – don't need feel
hurt or depressed

Let the **truth** of the word **shape**
and **empower** our prayer

Word confront us with the truth –
God is still in control – power over
every circumstances

Exodus 14:13-16

13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not
be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation
of the LORD, which He will accomplish for
you today. For the Egyptians whom you see
today, you shall see again no more
forever. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and
you shall hold your peace."

15 And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do
you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to
go forward. 16 But lift up your rod, and

stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. NKJV

Stop crying (cry of joy Ok not cry of despair)
Hold your peace – be quiet
– see God's salvation
Luther told by wife
Katherine

“God is dead”
To shock Luther
He is living his life as if God is dead!

3. Focus on the **Big picture of God's purpose**

Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

28 They did what your power and will had decided (planned) beforehand should happen.

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Didn't pray – remove the threats, not remove the rulers

They pray that they may not be distracted but continue to fulfill God's purpose

Why is it imp't to pray in accordance to God's purpose?

See the **big pict** of what God is doing and not be **distracted** or overwhelmed by **negative** circumstances.

God **didn't** send trouble -

cause

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His **PURPOSE**.

NASU

Joseph suffered – God **caused** – bringing bread to world

If not **sold** – falsely **accused** - prison – if not **prison** – dream went fulfilled

For every door – closed – God open a bigger door.

God **didn't** send trouble -

cause

Prob: when in situation – **don't see** - **overwhelmed**

*God can **cause** be stepping stone*

39, Jacob came

Sometimes, we overwhelmed by trouble

Jacob cried: tien ah, sorgam
Genesis 42:36

Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"

Jacob **didn't know the big picture** - the one on the throne – Joseph - Jesus – suffered to bring us blessings

He can use the troubles to unveil our heart and His heart.

How does troubles unveil our heart?

Unveil our heart – imagine what the brothers felt – guilt, regret, inferiority ...

Real char – revealed – in times of adversity.

How does troubles unveil God's heart?

More imp't - Unveil the heart of God – purpose of God in midst of all the troubles

I am Joseph – the 1 **Removal** from shame – Joseph has every right to punish them and would be just – but he spared them

Same way – thousands of years later – Jesus our propitiation for our sins

2. **INC** – not only they were not punished – they were blessed over abundantly – Goshen – best of land

See **big pict**

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Reason Paul right – saw **big pict**

He was not controlled by emotion or relationships. – timing – not ready – more attacks

Mark was cousin of Barnabas

*It is not that Paul rejected Mark forever. He felt that at that point in **time**, best to leave Mark alone.*

Like the prodigal son – better leave him in the pig sty – learn lesson.

Worst thing to do is to rescue him from the pig sty.

Later on Paul did re affirm Mark.

2 Timothy 4:11

11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

We see things differently because of our **calling**

Big pict – CEO or Senior Pas – see big picture

Eg. **Café** – people laugh – losing business – long term

Mark 14:6

Leave her alone! Why are you troubling and **distracting** her? She has done a BEAUTIFUL thing FOR ME. You always have the poor and you help them whenever you **want** or **feel** burdened. But you will not always have ME. She did what she COULD and has anointed MY BODY for burial. JY

Don't give anything just to needs or **burdens** or feelings;

one thing **NECESSARY**;
give LED by God's **purpose**;
see Big picture – **otherwise** –
distracted by emotion

most important purpose: build His **Church**, Christ's Body; Build LIVES, Matthew 16