



THE
AWAKENing
PRAYER GUIDE

— **How to
pray
for Holy
Spirit
Inspired
Awakening**

ELIM PRAYER

The Aim

To see God's people stirred, re-energised, and motivated to pray in such a way that God hears, and we get answers!

The Prayer Background

For many years there has been the temptation to allow prayer to take a back seat and have little priority. Valid programmes and activities went ahead with little or no prayer preparation, thereby allowing some spiritual vulnerability. In other words, there was an assumption God's presence would follow as we stepped out in faith. But no more! Today, the church has been awakened to the power of prayer right across this land, and around the world. Every Church plant, programme and outreach is being soaked in prayer before, during, and after it is actioned.

The Present Prayer Growth

As an Elim movement, we have been in the vanguard of promoting 'life transforming prayer', and there has been a growing momentum and intensity over the last decade. This is echoed in Elim, and other churches across the nation. The people of God are arising to the challenge of seeing our nation transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. In this brief guide you will find simple pointers that will aid individuals, groups, and churches to see God move in increasing power through prayer and intercession.

It is only the beginning!

God wants us to engage with Him in prayer regularly. Jesus is at His right hand praying for us. **Romans 8:34 NIV - Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

Surely this is the example we should follow. This is awakened prayer. It is a continuous dialogue in relationship with God. Again, Jesus modelled a lifestyle of prayer:

- "In The Lord's Prayer, Jesus puts relationship ahead of results" **Jodie Berndt – Bible Gateway**
- He Abided and Soaked in His Father's presence continually. **(See John 15:4)**
- Jesus used God's written word (**Logos**), and so should we. He is at work in us, and we are made alive by the (**Rhema**) of the Holy Spirit. **(see John 15:7-12)**
- Jesus' life demonstrated the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and we have access to the same, to guide our thoughts, actions, and reactions! **(See Galatians 5:22-23)**

'Hey JESUS...!'

Prayer is one of those vital, and interesting aspects in our walk with Jesus that many may perceive they are not qualified or equipped to do with any sort of authority. In the western church our prayer meetings can often be the hardest to get full engagement in. We are sure you've heard many people say, 'Oh I can't pray like you ...'.

But what if praying was as simple as saying **'Hey Jesus...?'** Does this sound irreverent? It isn't intended to be. It is like calling God **'Abba Father'** which means **'daddy'** – Jesus used the word **'abba'**. The Greek translation of father. Paul the Apostle's use of **'abba'** links the use of **'abba ho patēr'** to the reception of the Holy Spirit. This is a very personal and intimate relationship language. Our prayer life should become like this, whilst retaining reverence for our Holy God.

What is Awakened Prayer?

We invite you to ponder in respect to prayer, and how we might engage more deeply ourselves, as well as how we might help guide our congregations and peers. Here are some fundamental thoughts to aid us in becoming 'Awakened' in prayer to Jesus:

1) TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

It all starts with Jesus. This is foundational. It is only through authentic connection with him that we can hear his heartbeat, get a sense of his priorities. Thankfully we have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God alongside what we sense to guide us as leaders and as followers of Jesus. But it starts with Him. And a Hey Jesus.

2) TWO WAY RELATIONSHIP

Listening is as important as speaking in a healthy relationship, isn't it? There is an unburdening that happens when we take our concerns to Jesus. And there is an empowering that happens when we make time to listen to him in response. God uses our senses to speak to us – seeing, hearing, touch, taste, smell – how does God speak to you?

Specifically, we need to listen, and hear from God in scripture prophecy, vision, and then share this in the power of the Holy Spirit. A deepening relationship with Jesus results in intuitive understanding; knowing his mind will and purpose for us, and his church. Also responding to what he reveals and being willing to act upon it. Prayer is not passive, but active, revelational, just like Jesus!

Growing closer to Jesus, and deeper in relationship with Him will result in intercessory prayer, interrogation of God's heart, researching, walking the streets, sensitively getting creative, awakened to insights for breakthrough.

3) RESPONDING - WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

"Everything we are and do is enabled by everything He is and has already done".
—— **Victoria Fagg**

Awakened prayer means developing intimacy with Jesus, that enables us to lean into him even when we don't fully understand what is going on. We experience His goodness even in the midst of the messy of life. What bubbles up within us is a response to his love, even with our human limitations and beyond. Our response is to go where he calls us to go, not just in prayer but practically too.

"We should be prepared to be the answer to our prayers". —— **James Aladiran**

1 John 4:18 NIV - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...

This scripture is so helpful, and leads us towards breakthrough, healing, restoration, and transformation of us, and our communities.

4) UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR HOLINESS

Holiness isn't something we do or attain; it is something we reflect – through closeness to Jesus. So, what if we understood holiness differently? It's not about us, but about Jesus, and his life at work in us! By thinking this way, we become freed up and inspired to draw closer to Jesus, and our first and last thought is about the One who loves us most. The consequence of understanding the need for holiness is an awakening!

It tells us in the scriptures that when we see him, we will be like him **(See 1 John 3:2-3)**. To be like Jesus will automatically adjust our focus and choices, affect our desires and behaviours. Holiness comes out of response and surrender, and we become his reflection to others in a world so in need of hope and goodness.

'Hey
JESUS...!'

5) REFLECTED HOLINESS – A PARTNERSHIP

It's worth saying that as we reflect the holiness of Jesus; the way we live our lives does matter. We are not talking about behaviour modification here, rather it's about the condition of our hearts which is so important. It's not about portraying a perfect life; it is about being honest and walking with integrity. It's carrying a purity of spirit that causes someone to pause and consider what is it about that person. It's about being other-centred.

Hebrews 12:14 - Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

It's not righteous living, it's living right. It's modelling what grace and mercy look like, being quick to own our mistakes and make right our stumbles. It's walking with humility. It's making sure we don't give room for the enemy to pitch his tent through our ignorance, pride or self-righteousness.

It's all about partnership. We get to participate in what Jesus is already doing.

Our responsibility in this partnership is to do the work of self-awareness, to know your strengths and weaknesses and to hold yourself to short account, turning back quickly when you veer off track.

It's about consciously leaning in daily, hourly really, letting Jesus have access to all of you; the good, the bad and the ugly!

And it's about actually responding to the nudges of the Holy Spirit, even when it's hard or inconvenient.

Lastly, it requires connection to healthy community. We are better together. Sometimes when the Holy Spirit wants to do a work in your heart, it helps to have others by your side holding up your arms in prayer.

Ultimately, playing our part – participating in God's awakening of his Church and this world - through honest and heartfelt relationship with Jesus. It shields us from giving the enemy any legal ground in our lives to operate contrary to God's will and purpose, and causing disruption, division and strife. We are encouraged to make a conscious effort to:

Jude 1:21 - (Living Bible) ...stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach and bless you.

6) DEEPER STILL – A JOURNEY OF CHANGE

The deeper we go; our perspectives will change. This is ok. Life is challenging at times. The more we anchor into Jesus, the more we are strengthened in him. Resilience grows. Our lives bear the fruit of this union in many ways – often unseen, seemingly insignificant but so precious. Pruning will happen, embrace the journey. Lean in – let the fruit multiply.

Awakened Prayer is achieved by establishing depth in our two-way relationship with Jesus, keeping our eyes on him always, receiving and giving in love, and living holy lives. These are the key ingredients necessary to strengthen our foundations, because deep calls to deep:

Psalm 42:7 NIV - Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

Some Inspiration: Allowing God to overwhelm us, and our yielding to His ways will result in an awakened prayer life that gets answers.

An Invitation to Awakened Prayer

Jesus calls us to abide in Him. As He abides in the father, we are to abide in him. — (See John 15).

Let's finish up these thoughts about Awakened Prayer with an invitation for you to discover what that might look like for you, in your rhythms and situation. The invitation comes with a challenge. If you embark on this journey, you may have some of your presumptions turned upside down. That is quite normal. In fact, it is a good thing. Also, when we align our hearts with God, we will undoubtedly experience some lament as we are faced with challenges that form part of breakthrough towards Awakened Prayer. Be prepared for this. There is much for the church to lament at this time.

Overall, the question is, will you be curious enough to let the Holy Spirit Awaken Prayer in your heart and your life for such a time as this?

This is Awakened Prayer!

Growing closer to Jesus unlocks a two-way relational flow. As we unburden, listen and respond – our lives take on his holiness, our hearts entwined to his.

Prayer/Action:

Let's Pray...

We humbly come before You with hearts that are aching, and yearning for a fresh move of Your power in our lives and communities. Lord, we intercede for our church, and nation.

We long to see a spiritual awakening sweep across our land, turning hearts back to You. Lord, in Your mercy, pour out Your Spirit on all people. Open blind eyes to see Your truth, soften hardened hearts to receive Your love. Let righteousness and justice prevail as we seek Your guidance and healing.

We acknowledge our dependence on You, O Lord, and we earnestly pray for new awakening, and the revival of our nation. In Jesus Name. - Amen.

Quote:

"We are awakening to that marvellous truth, that Christ is not in the heavens only, nor the atmosphere only, but Christ is in you" — John G. Lake

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