

## Engaging Heaven

Throughout scripture we see that there are certain things that get heaven's attention. Angels are not just deployed for anything and everything. There are specific activities on earth that appear to trigger some kind of reaction and response from heaven. When believers discover what these things are and begin to do them, we will see greater results in all our endeavours. **In order to do supernatural exploits on earth we need the assistance of heaven, therefore the believer who knows how to engage heaven is more effective on earth.** In this message I will outline some of these activities and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to teach us and impart revelation with regards to these mysteries.

There are certain things that attract heaven more than others. Although it is not the focus of my message, heaven gets excited about missions resulting in salvations. Ever wondered, what makes heaven rejoice?

*Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

Many times we have had a siloed approach to prayer but today we will see that it is about what you bring with your prayer. It's about praying with a heart of praise and thanksgiving. It is about praying with a giving heart. It is about lifting up holy hands in prayer. God inhabits the praises of the saints, so when we praise it attracts His manifest presence. Therefore, prayer must be mixed with praise. This is what gets heaven engaged. If God's people humble themselves, seek His face and turn from their sin then He hears; not just because they have merely prayed. I engage heaven with my whole being not just with my prayers. What am I bringing to God? What comes with the prayer package? Is your prayer packaged with pride? **To the degree to which a watchman has emptied himself will he experience the infilling from God.** There are times in scripture where we see a conflation of heaven and earth. It's like a portal. I believe that watchmen become something like this.

*Gen 28:10-17 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it[a] stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.[b] 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

*16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."*

**I want to align myself with the things that get heaven's attention.** These portals are a place of promise and blessing just as we see Jacob experienced. (Portals are pathways that connect the heavenly realm and the earth realm). In the context of prayer, there are certain things we can do that activate the heavenly hosts to work on our behalf. I want to discuss just four of these with you today.

### 1. Consecrate yourself to be a watchman

A watchman sees. It is one thing to pray it is another thing to be a watchman. **Many people pray only for their own breakthroughs, yet watchmen wait to receive the burden of the Lord.** A watchman is very precious to the Lord. There is sacrifice involved in making yourself available to stand in the gap and be a guardian. A watchman sees, guards and warns. It is like asking someone to watch over your kids. Some people just like seeing without guarding and warning. Some of you are in a season where the Lord is stirring you to widen your jurisdiction of prayer beyond yourself and your family. Perhaps you are now needing to stand in the gap for your industry or the school your kids attend. A watchman gets heaven's attention because God can rely on him or her. God doesn't do anything in the earth without working through watchmen and intercessors. **Therefore, when God establishes things, He first reveals it to these**

**watchmen so that they can pray for a manifestation of it in the earthly realm.** That's how God has chosen to work. **But the starting point is that WE SEE what is going on in heaven and then receive it and inject it into the earth.**

*Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.*

There are levels of seeing. Some prophets were called seers because their eyes were opened by the Lord and they would see. **Many people today are praying "They Kingdom come, thy will be done," but they have not seen or experienced Kingdom realities. We need to first see the heavenly blueprint in order to pray it into the earth.** We need to study the ingredients of the Kingdom, such as righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We need to be aware of the processes of the Kingdom. All of this starts with us seeing. **Heaven is attracted to those that have consecrated themselves to be watchmen because they position themselves to see.**

*John 5:19-20 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.*

The other aspect of being a watchman is hearing. We shut down other voices and live by His voice. We literally hang onto His words.

*Mt 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

What is key about being a watchman who sees and hears is that it gives you the opportunity to make prophetic decrees and declarations. This is one of the dimensions that activates angelic beings. One of the purposes of angels is to respond to the bidding of the Lord's Word. **When God's Words are released as prophetic decrees, heaven mobilizes angels to do their work. But the directive comes from heaven, so it is important to have the words of heaven.**

*Heb 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

*Ps 103:19-20 (Berean Study Bible) 19The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. 20Bless the LORD, all His angels mighty in strength who carry out His word, who hearken to the voice of His command.*

Consecration is key in positioning yourself to see and hear. During an extended time of prayer recently I suddenly saw the flag of France and was led to pray for France. A couple of hours later after praying into other things I saw the flag of India and was led to pray for that country. After doing some research on these nations I found it interesting that France has just come out of elections and India is going into its presidential elections now in mid-July. **God is interested in the destiny of nations but needs us to be available to pray for His agenda to manifest for these nations.**

**It's in heaven's interest to engage with watchmen but they are rare.**

*Ezekiel 22:29 – 31 The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. 30"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. 31"Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.*

This verse shows us the consequences of not having watchers. I was moved to tears as the Lord spoke to me inviting me to be a watchman. I felt for God. I told Him that if that's what He needs then I will make myself available. I am willing. After my time of prayer, I started to update my wife on the commitment I had made to the Lord. I could barely start speaking and was overwhelmed as I fell to the kitchen floor and began to shake with His glory. I knew that I had made the commitment and it was received. I reflect back to a time many years ago when I had a dream where I was one of 8 men standing on the outside of an Octagon shaped building and somewhat guarding it but praying at the same time. I knew this was some kind of watching over a nation.

Daniel is a great example of a humble consecrated watchman who engaged with heaven.

*Dan 10:10-13 Suddenly, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11He said to me, "Daniel, you are a man who is highly precious. Consider carefully the words that I am about to say to you. Stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had said this to me, I stood up trembling. 12"Do not be afraid, Daniel," he said,*

*“for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13However, the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.*

## **2. Participate in Unified God Honouring Conversations**

**When the righteous gather in unity and in the fear of the Lord it seems to attract heaven.**

*Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.*

The concept of a scroll of remembrance was not foreign to them. In the Persian Empire this was very normal. The reward was not always given straight after the action occurred.

*Esther 6:1-3 1During that night the king could not sleep so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. 2It was found written what Mordecai had reported concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 3The king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” Then the king’s servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”*

**Our unity and agreement get heaven’s attention. The result is a commanded blessing.**

*Ps 133:1-3 How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there **the LORD bestows his blessing**, even life forevermore.*

**We are not called to be isolated watchers, rather we are called to be well co-ordinated functioning as one man.**

*Mt 18:19-20 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

**There have been times where my wife and I have not even prayed about something but just agreed and we saw an acceleration in the thing coming to pass.**

**Engaging heaven is not about prayer in an isolated sense, it is about embodying the lifestyle of a true watcher which includes embracing the power of agreement.**

## **3. Combine ongoing persistent prayer with almsgiving**

Almsgiving is giving to the poor and needy. All too often we are passive and fatalistic in the things of God. The reality is that Cornelius the Centurion was not randomly chosen to be the one who gets heaven’s attention. The Bible very clearly states why He got heaven’s attention:

*Acts 10:1-6 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. 3 One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” 4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”*

**The key thing to see here was that this was his lifestyle. God has called us to ongoing persistent prayer in a lifestyle of giving.**

**Don’t judge your spirituality by your peaks, rather judge it by your lifestyle.**

*Rev 5:8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.*

**Could it be, that we have given up praying before the bowls are full?**

## Mix giving into your praying and praying into your giving.

Look how the widow's offering got Jesus' attention. **There is something about sacrificial giving from a heart of prayer and worship that gets heaven's attention.**

### 4. Only pray faith-filled fervent prayers

**It is good to actually wait and delay a prayer until you are filled with conviction about the matter so that you pray it in faith.**

When you read the account of the Centurion, the people thought Jesus would be amazed by the good that he did. However, Jesus was amazed by his faith. **Fervent prayers of faith that come from a place of earnestness seem to get heaven's attention.**

*Luke 7:1-10 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." 6 So Jesus went with them.*

*He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

*9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." 10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.*

**As we go deeper into prayer, we must be absolutely persuaded that God will be true to His Word.**

***Mark 6:1-6 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.***

***"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph,[a] Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.***

***4 Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.***

Interestingly, Jesus seems to also be amazed by a lack of faith. Why wouldn't you believe? It's mind boggling for Him. It is possible for us to spend a lot of time in prayer but still be in unbelief. **Could it be that He is looking at your prayer meeting and shocked by the unbelief? Jesus is sensitive to faith. He is amazed when it is great and also amazed when it is lacking. Don't be deceived. It is possible to pray religious prayers and not be in faith. The Centurion was specifically confident in the authority of Jesus' word.** The fact that Jesus had spoken the word meant it was a done deal for him.

*James 5:16b (AMP) The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].*

*Gen 32:24-31 24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the*

man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. 28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,[a] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." 31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

**Would he have been blessed if he had not asked?**

**Jacob demonstrates the power of spiritual aggression. How desperate are you?**

*May God strengthen you and assist you as you:*

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2. *Combine ongoing persistent prayer with almsgiving*
3. *Participate in Unified God Honouring Conversations*
4. *Only pray faith-filled fervent prayers*