

Overcoming Immaturity in Prayer (Part 2)

In Part 1 we examined several signs of immaturity in prayer and how they hinder spiritual effectiveness. In Part 2, we go deeper by examining subtler patterns that reveal whether our prayer lives are governed by spiritual maturity or by human tendencies. Mature prayer is not simply about praying longer or louder—it is about praying with understanding, alignment, and spiritual authority. As believers grow in Christ, their prayers shift from being reactive and self-driven to becoming Spirit-led, purposeful, and aligned with the heart of God. Continuing from point 9, today's message will challenge us to examine whether our prayer lives reflect spiritual maturity, discernment, and Kingdom alignment.

9. You Lack Discretion

God entrusts mysteries to those who know how to keep them.. The mature intercessor speaks when God says speak and stays silent when God says pray. Corinthians 12:3-4 *And I know that this man—whether in the body or out of it I do not know, but God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise. The things he heard were too sacred for words, things that man is not permitted to tell. If you seek the praise and recognition of man maybe that will end up your reward alone.*

The Discretion Test

1. **When God shows you something about someone, is your first instinct to pray about it or to tell someone about it?**
2. **If someone examined your prayer life, would they see a person who carries burdens before God or someone who quickly broadcasts spiritual impressions?**
3. **Do you ask God what He wants you to do with what He reveals, or do you assume that sharing it is the next step?**
4. **How often have you shared a dream, word, or impression without first praying it through and asking God for clarity?**
5. **If someone evaluated your motives, would they conclude that you are seeking God's purposes or human recognition for being "spiritual"?**
6. **When God entrusts you with insight about someone, do you feel the weight of responsibility to steward that information prayerfully?**
7. **Do you have the discipline to keep silent when the Holy Spirit has not instructed you to speak?**
8. **If God stopped revealing things to you tomorrow, would your desire be more for His presence or for the sense of importance that comes with being "used"?**
9. **Do you recognise that some revelations are invitations to intercede rather than instructions to speak?**
10. **When you feel prompted to share something, do you pause to ask: "Lord, is this for prayer, preparation, or proclamation?"**

10. You are Afraid of the Devil

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

“Fear invites the enemy, but faith enforces your authority

Reflection Questions

- 1. When facing spiritual opposition, do you respond with confidence in Christ’s authority or with anxiety and intimidation?**
- 2. Are there areas of your life where fear has given the enemy unnecessary influence?**
- 3. If someone observed your prayers in spiritual warfare, would they see authority and boldness or hesitation and fear?**

11. You focus on the Devil too much

“Immature believers become devil-conscious; mature believers remain Christ-conscious.”

Colossians 1:17-19 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have preeminence. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him.

Reflection Questions

- 1. When you speak about spiritual matters, do you talk more about what the devil is doing or about what Jesus has done?**
- 2. Have you allowed spiritual warfare to become your main lens for interpreting every situation?**
- 3. If someone listened to your prayers, would they hear Christ being exalted or the enemy being overemphasised?**

12. You pray carelessly whatever you feel

Powerful prayer is not driven by emotion but by alignment with the will of God.”

1 John 5:14 - 15 ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him. You shift from good to great in prayer when you know how to seek His face for His will. You then pray from that place of confidence.

Reflection questions

- 1. Before you pray about something, do you pause to ask God what His will is concerning the matter?**
- 2. Have there been times when you insisted on something in prayer without seeking God’s perspective?**
- 3. If someone evaluated your prayer life, would they see someone aligning with God’s will or simply expressing personal desires?**

13. You pray without a revelation of God’s heart toward You

“Faith rises when you realise you are not begging a reluctant God but approaching a loving Father.”

1 John 5:14 ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 *For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Psalm 18:6 *In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.*

1 John 5:15 *And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask-- we know that we have what we asked of him.*

Luke 11:13 *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Reflection questions

- 1. When you come before God in prayer, do you approach Him with confidence as a loving Father or with hesitation and uncertainty?**
- 2. Do you truly believe that God desires to hear and answer your prayers?**
- 3. If someone observed your prayers, would they see bold faith in God's goodness or a reluctance that reflects doubt about His heart toward you?**