

Overcoming Immaturity in Prayer (Part 3)

In this third part of *Overcoming Immaturity in Prayer*, we move from foundational understanding into deeper spiritual alignment. This message challenges subtle but dangerous forms of immaturity that often go unnoticed—treating prayer as optional, praying without the Holy Spirit, lacking expectation, and failing to watch spiritually. True maturity in prayer is not just about activity, but about alignment with God’s heart, sensitivity to the Spirit, and disciplined spiritual awareness. This teaching calls us higher—from casual prayer to intentional, Spirit-led, expectation-filled intercession.

14. Prayer Is an Optional Extra

Prayer is not something you do after having tried everything else. To the mature praying person, prayer comes first.

Colossians 4:2 *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

Romans 12:12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, Faithful in prayer,*

Ezekiel 22:30 *"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. Maybe the undevoted person still hears what God is saying but doesn't fully pray it through.*

- **Where in your life have you treated prayer as a last resort instead of your first response?**
- **In what ways might you be “praying” but not truly standing in the gap for what is on God’s heart?**
- **What distractions or alternative “sources” are competing with your devotion to prayer?**

15. Prayers are Not Spirit Led

When you are mature, you partner with the Holy Spirit in prayer. Your prayers are not limited to what you know in the natural. We do not know everything that is on God’s agenda right now for the nation. **Have you done a spiritual diagnosis of all the issues affecting your nation?** Have you gone to the root cause? **If there is no supernatural insight from the Holy Spirit, we will be limited to the natural.** When we pray with our own intellect, it becomes difficult to pray for long. **How often do you pray things that were not on your original list or details that emerge that you had not thought of?** Let the Holy Spirit pray through you.

Romans 8:26-27 ²⁶*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words.* ²⁷*And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God....*

- **How often do your prayers go beyond your natural understanding and become led by the Holy Spirit?**
- **What would it look like for you to genuinely yield control to the Holy Spirit in your prayer life?**

- Are there areas where pride or self-reliance may be limiting the Spirit's work in your prayers?

16. You do not come to God with great expectation

Jeremiah 33:3 NLT *Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.*

Ephesians 3:20 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

NLT - *Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

What do your current prayer requests reveal about your level of expectation and faith?

- Where has discouragement robbed you of hope and reduced your expectation in prayer?
- If God were to answer beyond what you can imagine, what bold prayers would you begin to pray today?

17. There is a disconnect between your praying and watching

A watchman is not just someone who “prays,” but someone who is alert, discerning, responsible, and responsive to what God is revealing and what the enemy is planning.

1 Peter 4:7 *The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.*

- How intentional are you about “watching” for what God and the enemy are doing in your life?
- Are there situations where you have observed challenges but failed to respond with strategic prayer?
- In what ways can you grow in spiritual alertness so that your prayers become more targeted and effective?