

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Moses' Prayer Life (in review) -

- It began in Egypt when he interceded on behalf of Pharaoh.
- When Moses prayed, God answered.

POD - Prayer sets God in motion.



- Prayer enlists God to accomplish what we cannot.

POD - When God answers prayer, He's going to take care of the details in a marvelous way.

POD - Through the leading of the Holy Spirit you are going to be at the right place at the right time to receive your supply bundle.

- After God parted the Red Sea, the Exodus generation entered the desert.
- There is really nothing in the desert unless God provides it for you.
- The desert became a classroom to teach **how to pray** and **how to depend**.

Sheep, if left alone, will perish!

- God the Holy Spirit took up permanent residency in us at salvation.
- The reason for that residency is to **enable** us to live a life that is pleasing, honorable, and glorifying to God.
- Redeemed people cannot live a life pleasing to God apart from divine help.
 - ... and Who has come to help you with that life? God the Holy Spirit!
 - ... are you filled from without? NO!

Often times of no provision are times to pray.

Remember that God stands at the ready to provide everything that you need to accomplish His plan.

POD - A flourishing prayer life prevents bitterness in the life of the believer.

God provides the right man at the right time to do the right thing.

Deuteronomy 9:9-20 "When I went up to the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD had made with you, then I remained on the mountain forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water. ¹⁰ "The LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God; and on them *were* all the words which the LORD had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. ¹¹ "It came about at the end of forty days and nights that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. ¹² "Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go down from here quickly, for **your** people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made a molten image for themselves.' ¹³ "The LORD spoke further to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed, it is a stubborn people.'

Moses stands in the way of the Lord wiping out the people.

¹⁴ 'Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.' ¹⁵ "So I turned and came down from the mountain while the mountain was burning with fire, and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands. ¹⁶ "And I saw that you had indeed sinned against the LORD your God. You had made for yourselves a molten calf; you had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you. ¹⁷ "I took hold of the two tablets and threw them from my hands and smashed them before your eyes. ¹⁸ "**I fell down before the LORD** [*Moses is praying*], as at the first, forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you had committed in doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke Him to anger. ¹⁹ "For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was wrathful against you in order to destroy you, but the LORD listened to me that time also. ²⁰ "The LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him; so I also prayed for Aaron at the same time.

Moses is importunate in his prayer - -

Deuteronomy 9:25-26 "So I fell down before the LORD the forty days and nights, which I did because the LORD had said He would destroy you.

Moses understood the concept of coming boldly before the throne of grace - **Hebrews 4:16** "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Moses was praying while everyone else was grumbling - -

²⁶ "I prayed to the LORD and said, 'O Lord GOD, do not destroy **Your people**, even Your inheritance, whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²⁷ 'Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look at the stubbornness of this people or at their wickedness or their sin.'

Moses does not want his God to be One that doesn't fulfill His promises - -

Moses is building a case before God in prayer.

²⁸ 'Otherwise the land from which You brought us may say, "Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which He had promised them and because He hated them He has brought them out to slay them in the wilderness." ²⁹ 'Yet they are Your people, even Your inheritance, whom You have brought out by Your great power and Your outstretched arm.'

You learn how to pray by praying!

POD - When the believer follows the protocol of prayer he has a hold on God.

- God actually listens to your prayers.
- Moses knew this because he knew the Lord and he knew how much power the Lord gave to prayer.

- Moses would not let go of the hold he had on the Lord *through* prayer.
- Moses, in essence, *wrestled* with God for 40 days.

Fasting - -

- The issue that Moses was praying about was so important to him – because of his love for the Lord and the people the Lord gave him to lead – that he would not let go of the hold he had on the Lord.
- By leaving to eat or drink Moses would be relinquishing his hold on the Lord.
- ***Fasting***, therefore, is a result of **importunate prayer**.
- ***Fasting*** is a result of having God’s attention – not the means of getting His attention.

When D. L. Moody’s Church in Chicago lay in ashes, he went over to England, in 1872, not to preach, but to listen to others preach while his new church was being built. One Sunday morning he was prevailed upon to preach in a London pulpit. But somehow the spiritual atmosphere was lacking. He confessed afterwards that he never had such a hard time preaching in his life. Everything was perfectly dead, and, as he vainly tried to preach, he said to himself, “What a fool I was to consent to preach! I came here to listen, and here I am preaching.” Then the awful thought came to him that he had to preach again at night, and only the fact that he had given the promise to do so kept him faithful to the engagement. But when Mr. Moody entered the pulpit at night, and faced the crowded congregation, he was conscious of a new atmosphere. “The powers of an unseen world seemed to have fallen upon the audience.” As he drew towards the close of his sermon he became emboldened to give out an invitation, and as he concluded he said, “If there is a man or woman here who will tonight accept Jesus Christ, please stand up.” At once about 500 people rose to their feet. Thinking that there must be some mistake, he asked the people to be seated, and then, in order that there might be no possible misunderstanding, he repeated the invitation, couching it in even more definite and difficult terms. Again the same number rose. Still thinking that something must be wrong, Mr. Moody, for the second time, asked the standing men and women to be seated, and then he invited all who really meant to accept Christ to pass into the vestry. Fully 500 people did as requested, and that was the beginning of a revival in that church and neighborhood, which brought Mr. Moody back from Dublin, a few days later, that he might assist the wonderful work of God.

The sequel, however, must be given, or our purpose in relating the incident will be defeated. When Mr. Moody preached at the morning service there was a woman in the congregation who had an invalid sister. On her return home she told the invalid that the preacher had been a Mr. Moody from Chicago, and on hearing this she turned pale. “What,” she said, “Mr. Moody from Chicago! I read about him some time ago in an American paper, and I have been praying God to send him to London, and to our church. If I had known he was going to preach this morning I would have eaten no breakfast. I would have spent the whole time in prayer. Now, sister, go out of the room, lock the door, send me no dinner; no matter who comes, don’t let them see me. I am going to spend the whole afternoon and evening in prayer.” And so while Mr. Moody stood in the pulpit that had been like an ice-chamber in the morning, the bed-ridden saint was holding him up before God, and God, who ever delights to answer prayer, poured out His Spirit in mighty power.

Purpose in Prayer, E. M. Bounds

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.