

OPEN HEAVEN 5 OCTOBER 2025 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: CORPORATE PRAYERS

MEMORISE:

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

READ: Acts 6:1-7:

- 1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.
- 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.
- 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghostand wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
- 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
- 5 And the saying pleased* the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a

proselyte of Antioch:

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.
7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 5 OCTOBER 2025 TODAY MESSAGE

In Acts 4:21-30, after the apostles were imprisoned and threatened, they returned to their own company, and with one accord, they lifted up their voices to God. The first result of their prayers was that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to preach the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).

Another result of their corporate prayers was the grace and power to preach the good news of the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, as we see in Acts 4:33:

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Beloved, do you want great boldness to do God's will? Do you want to experience great power and grace? Then, you must live in unity with other believers. Whenever there is peace and unity among believers, God's power is unlimited.

In Acts 12:1-5, Herod began to persecute and kill Christians. He first arrested James, the brother of John, and because there was no resistance from the believers, he killed him. Afterwards, he arrested Peter and imprisoned him, planning to kill him after Easter. However, the church gathered together to pray continuously for Peter and did not stop until he was miraculously delivered from Herod (Acts 12:6-11).

We must also live in unity with other believers if we want to experience exponential increase.

The devil understands the power of unity in the church; therefore, he constantly tries to do all he can to keep us in disunity by making us fight one another and gossip about ourselves.

In today's Bible reading, when the devil tried to cause disunity in the early church, the apostles quickly appointed faithful men to take care of the people who were complaining.

Immediately the apostles solved the problem that threatened to divide the church, the word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied. Churches that are not operating in unity will not see the increase of God's word and power among them until they deal with the things causing disunity.

Beloved, do not neglect the times set aside for corporate prayers in your local assembly. The church is a family, and a popular saying goes: the family that prays together stays together.

This is true because the Bible says that one shall chase a thousand, but two shall chase tens of thousands.

KEY POINT

The church that prays together stays together.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Matthew 10-11

HYMN 22: SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

OPEN HEAVEN DEVOTIONAL 5 OCTOBER 2025 COMMENTARY

The Indispensable Power of Unity

Daddy E.A. Adeboye emphasizes a non-negotiable principle for spiritual power and exponential growth: divine unity. The early church's explosive impact was not a product of individual brilliance but of corporate harmony. Where there is unity, God commands His blessing and power (Psalm 133:1, 3).

The Biblical Evidence for Unified Power

- The Power for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31): When threatened, the church did not scatter in fear; they gathered in prayer. Their unified cry to God resulted in a fresh, corporate infilling of the Holy Spirit that turned timid disciples into fearless witnesses.
- The Power for Deliverance (Acts 12:5-11): Faced with Herod's murderous intent, the church did not resign to fate. They engaged in "continuous and fervent prayer" (Greek: ekten?s) as one body. Their corporate intercession unleashed angelic activity that shattered Peter's chains and nullified Herod's plot.
- The Power for Exponential Growth (Acts 6:1-7): When a threat of disunity arose from a complaint, the apostles acted swiftly to address it. The moment the issue was resolved and unity was restored, the result was immediate: "the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly" (v. 7).

Why Unity Releases God's Power

- 1. **It Pleases God:** Unity reflects the nature of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit) and answers the prayer of Jesus (John 17:21). God delights in commanding His blessing where brethren dwell in unity.
- 2. **It neutralizes the Devil's Strategy:** The devil's primary tactic against the church is **division** (gossip, strife, offense, and competition). A divided church is a powerless church, as seen when Herod killed James and faced no resistance (Acts 12:2). Unity is our spiritual defense.

3. **It Amplifies Faith and Prayer:** There is a multiplicative effect in corporate faith. As Deuteronomy 32:30 states, one can chase a thousand, but two can put ten thousand to flight. Unified prayer creates a spiritual synergy that heaven cannot ignore.

How to Cultivate and Maintain Power-Bestowing Unity

1. Prioritize Corporate Prayer:

The prayer meeting is the powerhouse of the church. Do not neglect it (Hebrews 10:25). It is in the place of unified prayer, as seen in Acts 4 and 12, that strategies are formed, burdens are shared, and heaven's power is downloaded corporately.

2. Address Division Swiftly:

Follow the Acts 6 model. Do not allow complaints, grievances, or misunderstandings to fester. Address them with wisdom, fairness, and humility. Protect the unity of the Spirit at all costs (Ephesians 4:3).

3. Focus on the Common Enemy, Not Each Other:

The early church understood that their fight was not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12). Unity is maintained when we focus on our common mission and adversary, not on our differences.

4. Submit to Leadership and Structure:

Godly order is a hedge against chaos. The appointment of deacons in Acts 6 to handle a practical need preserved the unity of the apostles and the entire body, facilitating growth.

Warning: The Cost of Disunity

A house divided against itself cannot stand (Mark 3:25). Disunity quenches the Spirit, grieves the Lord, and renders the church vulnerable, powerless, and ineffective in spiritual warfare. It is the quickest way to see God's power and grace diminish in a local assembly.

Conclusion: Your Role in the Corporate Anointing

Pray this:

"Heavenly Father, I thank You for the family of believers. Forgive me for any action or attitude that has fostered disunity. Help me to be a peacemaker and a bridge-builder in my local assembly. As we gather in unity, fill us afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Release upon us great power for witness and great grace for living, so that the world may see Jesus in us, amen."

Action Steps:

- 1. **Commit to Corporate Prayer:** Faithfully attend your church's prayer meetings. See it as your spiritual duty and privilege.
- 2. **Be a Unifier:** Refuse to gossip or listen to gossip. Instead, speak words that edify and promote peace (Ephesians 4:29).
- 3. **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** If you have an issue with a brother or sister, go to them directly and privately in a spirit of love and reconciliation (Matthew 18:15).
- 4. **Pray for Your Leaders:** Intercede for the unity and wisdom of your pastors and church leadership regularly.

Remember: The level of God's manifest power in your life is often tied to your connection to the corporate body. You will never fully experience "great power" and "great grace" in isolation. It is upon the "them all."

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). This is where God commands the blessing.

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