

DISCOVER AND EMBRACE

# God's created design

AND MISSION FOR YOUR LIFE!



## PREPARING TO CRY OUT

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Text: Nehemiah 1:1–3

Prayer is always a **priority** of the mighty men and women of God.

- Great people of the Old Testament were always prayer warriors.
- Jesus would get up early, stay up late, or send the crowd away to pray.
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught His disciples how to pray.
- The early church prioritized prayer.
  - 1 Timothy 2:1
  - Acts 6:4
  - Romans 12:12
  - Colossians 4:2

*There is no greater privilege for you and I—anyone—to be able to personally talk to God—and speak into the ears of the Almighty. It's a beautiful, mysterious, jaw-dropping opportunity that we have every day.*

Prayer begins by **being in Christ**—knowing Him as your Lord and Savior.

*If you have religion but you don't have a relationship with God, God is not obligated to answer your prayers.*

#### Seven Tests of Our Salvation

1. **Obedience** (1 John 2:3–6).
2. A **confession** of Jesus as **God's son** (1 John 2:22).
3. **Repentance** of **sin** (Luke 13:3; 1 John 3:9).
4. The **discipline** of God your **Father** (1 John 3:1; Heb. 12:6).
5. Genuine **love** for other **believers** (1 John 3:14).
6. The **presence** of the **Holy Spirit** (1 John 3:24).
7. Trust in **Jesus alone** for salvation (Phil. 3:4–11; 1 John 5:12).

#### Getting our Hearts Ready to Pray

In Scripture, prayer is evidenced by:

1. **Repentance** before we pray.
2. Praying in **faith**. We claim the **Word** of **God** and base it upon the **character** of **God**.
3. Obeying whatever the Lord tells us to do afterward.

Our prayers will be hindered by:

- Sin we refuse to repent of (Ps. 66:18).
- Bitterness in our hearts (Mark 11:25).

If we are right with the Lord, then we can begin to pray strategically and effectively.

- Pray offensively. Ask for the moon.
- Keep on asking (James 4:2).
- Pray in Jesus' name—based upon His identity, His authority, and His righteousness.
- Get specific. Don't hold back. Then leave it with the Lord.

*This world would never be the same, if women would get right with the Lord, pray in faith, and then obey what God tells them to do.*