I. THREE POWERFUL TYPES OF PRAYERS

1. Praying in the Spirit empowers us
2. Praying from the depth (travail) delivers us
3. Praying with the Word matures us

II. WHY WE SHOULD PRAY USING GOD'S WORD

1. IT GIVES US LANGUAGE TO OUR PRAYERS

a) *"The Word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished"* -E. M. Bounds

b) God tells us in His word what to tell Him in prayer

2. IT ALIGNS OUR WILL WITH GOD'S

a) ***If you abide in Me, and My words abide** [live] **in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. -Jn. 15:7***

(1) THE WORD OF GOD IS MEANT TO MOVE US TO PRAY THEN OUR PRAYERS MOVE GOD TO ACT

b) ***And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 -1John 5:14***

3. INCREASES HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVITY IN OUR LIVES

a) The Holy Spirit moves when the Word is spoken (Genesis 1)

4. GROWS OUR FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

a) ***Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God.-Rom 10:17***

5. IT ALLOWS FOR EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

a) Jesus modeled this in Matthew 4:1–11 and Luke 4:1–13. Each time Satan tempted Him, Jesus responded by quoting Scripture from Deuteronomy

(1) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God-Eph 6:17

III. WHAT ARE APOSTOLIC PRAYERS

A. Apostolic prayers are prayers in the New Testament that both Jesus and the early apostles prayed, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There are around 25 of these prayers.

B. I often have said, *"If the Holy Spirit took time to inspire and record prayers in the bible we should take time to pray them"*

C. I have been praying the apotolic prayers for over 15 years and I have seen it do three primary things in my life: 1) Give me language in my prayer life 2) build faith and confidence in my prayer life 3) give me a deep love for the church

IV. 15 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTOLIC PRAYERS

1. <u>GOD CENTERED</u>

a) All the prayers of the New Testament are God-centered prayers; each one is addressed to God and never Satan.

b) All the prayers of Jesus recorded in Scripture are directed to the **Father** (John 14:16; 17:5, 11, 15, 25). Jesus also taught His disciples to direct their prayers to the Father, instructing them to pray, "Our Father in heaven…" (Matthew 18:19; Luke 11:2).

2. <u>FOCUSED ON THE CHURCH</u>

a) The vast majority of the apostolic prayers are focused on strengthening the church, not on the lost or the transformation of society.

b) The only prayer in the New Testament that is focused on the salvation of the lost is Romans 10:1 where Paul prayed for Israel that they might be saved.

(1) ***Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.-Rom 10:1***

c) This does not mean that God does not care about the lost or society or that we are not to pray for these things.

d) God's primary plan to reach the lost or to impact a city is by anointing His church with power and love. When we pray for the whole church in a city to be revived in love and power, the answer to these prayers will have an immense impact on the lost. Many unbelievers will

inevitably come to Jesus and society will be changed as the church in that city walks in the power of the Spirit.

3. **ALL ARE POSITIVE PRAYERS**

   a) Every Apostolic prayer is positive in nature, and not negative. They ask God to release good qualities rather than asking Him to remove negative qualities. They focus on the impartation of something positive, not the removal of something negative.

      (1) Ex: the apostle Paul prayed for love to abound rather than asking the Lord to remove hatred (Philippines 1:9). He prayed for unity in Romans 15:5-7 instead of against division. He did not pray against sin in the church, but asked for an increase of holiness, purity, and love (1Thess. 3:12-13). Prayed for boldness to proclaim the gospel instead of the persecution to stop. (Acts 4:29-31)

      (2) Praying the apostolic prayers will cultivate unity in our corporate prayer meetings. When we pray positive prayers using the scriptures directed at God it is easier to maintain unity in the room.

      (3) The opposite of this reality are negative and preachy prayers that are soulish and bring disunity. It is ineffective to use corporate prayer meetings to rebuke the church, people, or situations. ***Pray spiritual solutions not the problem***

4. **FOCUSED ON THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE CHURCH**

   a) The apostles rarely prayed for the church's circumstances. Instead they prayed for the church to grow through the circumstances.

         (a) Prayer is not meant to remove the trial, but for **strength to endure it well**.

      (2) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer… the peace of God will guard your hearts.- Phili 4:6–7

5. **FOCUSED ON KNOWING GOD MORE**

   a) Focused on knowing Jesus more deeply. The goal is not just blessing, but greater revelation of Christ that will transform the church.

      (1) ***That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened-Eph 1:17-18***

6. **FOCUSED ON INNER TRANSFORMATION**

   a) The apostles prayed for change in the heart and inner life of the believer.

      (1) That He would grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; -Eph 3:16-17

7. **FOCUSED ON LOVE GROWING**

   a) Many apostolic prayers emphasize love as the foundation of spiritual maturity.

      (1) "That your love may abound more and more."-Phil 1:9 (also Eph 3:16-19)

8. **FOCUSED ON SPIRITUAL MATURITY OF THE CHURCH**

   a) 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.-1 Thess 3:10 & 12-13

9. **FOCUSED ON THE CHURCH TO BE FRUITFUL**

   a) 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work-Col. 1:10

10. **FOCUSED ON GOD'S WILL AND PURPOSE**

    a) "That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will."-Coloss 1:9

11. <u>FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH</u>

a) They often prayed for endurance through trials, not simply escape from them.

(1) "Strengthened with all might… for all patience and longsuffering."-Coloss 1:11

12. <u>FOCUSED ON THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH</u>

a) ***"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <u>21 that they all may be one,</u> as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, -Jn 17:20-21***

b) 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort <u>grant you to be like-minded toward one another,</u> according to Christ Jesus, 6 <u>that you may with one mind and one mouth g</u>lorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.-Rom 15:5-6

13. <u>FOCUSED ON PROTECTION FOR THE CHURCH</u>

a) ***3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. -2 Thess 3:3***

14. <u>FOCUSED ON THE GOSPEL TO PREVAIL THROUGH THE CHURCH</u>

a) ***Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants t<u>hat with all boldness they may speak Your word</u>-Acts 4:29***

b) 19 and for me, <u>that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,</u> 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.-Eph 6:19-20

c) Finally, brethren, <u>pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified,</u> just as it is with you- Thess 3:1

15. **FOCUSED ON THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHURCH**

a) Many begin with gratitude and worship.

(1) ***We give thanks to God always for you.-Thess 1:2***

KEY APOSTOLIC PRAYERS TO PRAY

Pray for revelation of Jesus' beauty that we might walk in our calling and destiny by God's power.
17 That the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may KNOW *[experience]* ***what is the hope of His calling****[assurance/clarity of God's call for our life]****, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*** *[our destiny as Jesus' inheritance]****, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power... (Eph. 1:17-19)***

Pray to receive the Spirit's power so that Jesus' presence would be manifest in us, so we experience God's love.
16 THAT He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 THAT Christ may dwell *[manifest His presence]* ***in your hearts through faith; THAT you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend*** *[experience]* ***with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; THAT you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)***

Pray for God's love to abound in us by the knowledge of God, resulting in righteousness in our lives.
9That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge *[of God]* ***and all discernment, 10 that you may approve*** *[rejoice in]* ***the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere*** *[no compromise]* ***and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness... (Phil. 1:9-11)***

Pray to know God's will and to be fruitful in ministry and strengthened by intimacy with Him.
9 That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy... (Col. 1:9-11)

Pray for unity in the Church and to be filled with supernatural joy, peace, and hope (confidence).
5 May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another...6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the...Father...13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:5-6, 13)

Pray to be enriched by all the gifts of the Spirit, including powerful preaching and prophetic revelation.
5 That you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance *[anointed preaching/singing]* ***and all knowledge****[prophetic revelation]****, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you*** *[by miracles]****, 7so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of...Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:5-8)***

Pray for the release of grace to bring the Church to maturity, and especially to abound in love and holiness.
10Praying exceedingly that... *[God will release His Spirit and grace to]* ***perfect what is lacking in your faith?...12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all... 13 that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father. (1 Thes. 3:10-13)***

Pray to be worthy (prepared or made spiritually mature) to walk in the fullness of our destiny in God.
11We pray always for you that God would count you worthy of *[prepare us for]* ***this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness*** *[plans for us]* ***and the work of faith with power, 12that the name of...Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God. (2 Thes. 1:11-12)***

That the Word will increase its influence (effectiveness) in the city as God releases His power on it.
1 Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly *[rapidly increase its influence]* ***and be glorified*** *[confirmed with apostolic power and miracles]****, just as it is with you... 3 The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one... 5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience*** *[perseverance or endurance]* ***of Christ. (2 Thes. 3:1-5)***

For impartation of boldness (singing and speaking the Word) by releasing healing, signs, and wonders.
29 Lord... grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

Release of God's promise to be endued with power for all who tarry (labor in prayer) for breakthrough.
49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. 50...He lifted up His hands and blessed them... (Lk. 24:49-50)

For the Lord to release His zeal for His people and for His manifest Presence to shake all that resists Him.
15 Look down... and see from Your habitation, holy and glorious. Where are *[the manifestations of]* ***Your zeal and Your strength, the yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me? 16...You, O Lord, are our Father, Our redeemer from Everlasting is Your name. 64:1Oh, that you would rend the heavens! That You would come down****[manifest Your power]****! That the mountains (obstacles) might shake at Your presence—2as fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries*** *[sin, sickness, Satan]****, that the nations may tremble at Your presence! 3When You did awesome things for which we did not look (expect)...4 Since the beginning of the world men have no heard...nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. 5You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, who remembers you in Your ways. (Isa. 63:15-16; 64:1-7)***

For the release of God's promise to pour out His Spirit and release dreams, visions, and prophecy.
17In the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18On My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood, fire and vapor of smoke. 20The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Acts 2:17-21)

Prayer for Israel to be saved and the release of the prophetic anointing, miracles, and righteousness.
1My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (Rom. 10:1) 26All Israel will be saved... The Deliverer *[Jesus]* ***will come out of Zion. He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins. (Rom. 11:26-27)***
1For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace *[be silent; release a prophetic spirit]****, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest*** *[or I will not be inactive: release power]****, UNTIL her righteousness*** *[in all heart issues]* ***goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns*** *[ministry to others]****. (Isa. 62:1)***

Actual OT Prayers for Israel**:** Isa. 63:15-64:12; Dan. 9:4-19; Mic. 7:7-20; Hab. 3:2-19; Ezra 9:5-15; Neh. 1:4-11; 9:5-38; Ps. 44; 45:3-5; 65: 67: 79; 80; 83; 85; 86; 90:13-17; 102:12-22; 110:1-5; 122:6-7; 132:11

OT prophetic promises to pray over Israel *(these truths can also be prayed for the Church*): Deut. 4:27-31; 30:1-10; 31:29, 33:26-29; Isa. 11:10-16; 29:14, 17-24; 30:18-33; 32:15-19;