

## GO CHURCH CENTURION – 2 SEP 2018

### BULLDOG TENACITY IN PRAYER

#### INTRODUCTION

- Have you ever felt like giving up on praying?
- Does it seem like you have prayed every prayer under the sun concerning your circumstances and yet your prayers seem unanswered?
- Do you have this folder of prophecies, promises over your life and you have very few if any that have come to pass?
- Do you look at your friends, family and colleagues and they seem to be swimming in breakthroughs and yet when you look at your life none of that seems to be happening?
- Are you coming to that place where maybe you are beginning to question your faith in God and His word?

#### What is bulldog tenacity? – Tell the story

Bulldogs were used for bull baiting. Bulls were thought to taste better if they were baited before being butchered and some found it as a form of entertainment. Usually, the dog would grab the bull by the nose and not let go to madden it. The bulldogs face and body were specially developed to help them bait bulls; their smushed-in face allowed them to breath while their undershot jaw clasped the nose of the bull thus forming a vice grip. The bulldog's body was bred to be low to the ground to help them avoid getting caught by one of the bulls horns and all their face wrinkles allowed the bulls blood to drain off their face which kept most of it out of the dogs nose and eyes. The bulldog has a small rear so that if the dog was flung off the bulls nose the damage would be minimized.

#### HOW TO DEVELOP BULLDOG TENACITY IN PRAYER: THE KEY PILLARS

1. **Quality: Bulldog tenacity is about holding on or grasping to something firmly.** A bulldog can hang on to its target forever. Other dogs have to let go after a while or they would suffocate.

Bulldog tenacity in prayer is about holding on, grasping firmly to that which you believe God has laid on your heart. You hang in there against the voices and opposition of man. You refuse to be suffocated by the threats of man. Even in the face of seeming defeat, you bite at this thing no matter how long it is going to take to overcome. You refuse to go down. Period.

It may take a battle to procure even what God has already said is yours. The Israelites had to fight about 7 enemies before gaining full peace in the Promised Land. Did God give them the Promised land? They had to fight the: Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

### **Hebrews 10:23 NLT**

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise

### **Psalms 17:6 (David)**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

### **1 Kings 18:1, 41-46**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

<sup>41</sup> Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." <sup>42</sup> So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, <sup>43</sup> and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea". So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again." <sup>44</sup> Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" <sup>45</sup> Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

- Sometimes God is more interested in building your character than in your breakthrough.
- Sometimes God would rather train your hands for war and fingers for battle than giving you immediate victories.

**Question:**

- Are you prepared to bite tightly and hold on to prayer until God is done with you and the burden has lifted?

**2. Bulldog tenacity in prayer is about the ferocity and bravery to protect what is within your turf not just for you but for the next generation too.**

This means that when the enemy messes with your children, he is picking a personal fight with you. When the enemy muddles with your marriage he has crossed a boundary. When the devil steals your health, you roll-up your sleeves and wage war against him.

- Sometimes God is not in a hurry to answer prayer because He interested in investing in you that which is for you to impart to the next generation. So often we want this prayer answered, this breakthrough to come. You cannot effectively impart what you don't have or what you have not experienced or what to don't have a revelation of. God thinks in generations: He is a multi-generational God. The bible says he is God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**Psalm 78: 5-7**

<sup>5</sup> For He established a testimony in Jacob,  
 And appointed a law in Israel,  
 Which He commanded our fathers,  
 That they should make them known to their children;  
<sup>6</sup> That the generation to come might know them,  
 The children who would be born,  
 That they may arise and declare them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> That they may set their hope in God,  
And not forget the works of God,  
But keep His commandments;

### **Goliath vs Saul vs David**

Goliath was Saul's problem and should not have been David's problem. David was not in Saul's army that had to face Goliath because he was probably deemed too young to be conscripted into the army at the time.

But Saul and that generation of his army were too timid to deal with Goliath to deal with the enemy of their generation. So Goliath became David's problem.

Here's the principle: If we, in our generation do not aggressively fight and pray and uproot today's enemies whether in the Church, our families, business and nation we have just abdicated a responsibility or battle that will have to be fought by our children and the next generation.

That is why we have to have bulldog tenacity in prayer because some of the burdens God's gives us to pray over, their fulfilment will not be in our generation but maybe in the next so we cannot afford to abort certain prayers.

Bulldog tenacity in prayer is critical in guarding even that which belongs to the next generation too.

### **Questions:**

Have you aborted certain prayers that you may need to go back to and pick up again and pursue them in faith?

Do you understand the impact and importance of your prayers on the next generation?

### **3. Bulldog tenacity is prayer is about persistence, determination and stubbornness to pursue what you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you to.**

#### **Luke 18:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!' <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

#### **Mark 11:24:**

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

- God does not begrudge answering prayer. Jesus point is that if an insensitive judge will respond to the continual requests of a widow. God will certainly respond to the continual prayers of a believer. Jesus suggest to us that in this parable teach that God's will—always good—is swayed by persistent prayer. Remember in prayer we are speaking to a Father who is ready to give.

- In the face of delayed response/unanswered prayer:

**We need to have a proper view of God:**

**That He cares for you.**

"Just as a Father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him" (**Ps. 103:13**). "Zion has said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, and the Lord has forgotten me.' Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no

compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; ..." (Isa. 49:14-16).

**God never delays because of a lack of power.** He is the omnipotent God. He is on the throne and has not deserted His post.

**Remember even in the face of delayed response God is still your best bet.** I am not sure that you will always have reasons as to why He has not answered you:

**We need to have a proper view of ourselves:**

- We can trust Him because we know that we are His elect.
- God always has a bigger picture than we envisage.
- Our is to trust in Him.
- Ours it to persistently bring our heartfelt needs to Him and leave the rest to Him. "Pray without ceasing" **1 Thes 5:17**. Let Him work according to His timing. Be active and not passive in your waiting.

**Question:**

**To what degree are you persistent, determined and stubborn in your prayers to pursue what you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you to?**

**4. Bulldog tenacity means to stick with something even when the going gets tough.** "For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." Psalms 33:4 (NIV)

## **CONCLUSION**

**Prime Minister Winston Churchill's address to Harrow School on October 29, 1941:**

Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never--in nothing, great or small, large or petty--never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.

## **House of Commons June 4, 1940**

...We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender...

Never let go of what you are believing God for or what He has said to you. Bite at the promise, hang on to it. I declare and decree over you a double portion of tenacity, determination, patience and strength to wait for all the things that God has shown you and that you desire. Hold fast to the confession of your hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And having done all, stand.

### **DECLARATIONS:**

1. I declare and decree a double portion of tenacity, determination, patience and strength over you as you wait for the fulfilment of God's word over your life in the name of Jesus. Amen.
2. I declare and decree that I will not be one surrender or abort my prayers before I receive my breakthrough.
3. I declare and decree that your prayer life will move from glory to glory in the name of Jesus. Amen.
4. I declare and decree that your prayers will impact both the spiritual and the natural realms in the name of Jesus. Amen.
5. I declare and decree that I will find my strength in God as I wait on Him in prayer in all areas of my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.
6. I declare and decree that the Lord your God will arise for your sake in the name of Jesus. Amen!!!
7. I declare and decree that your God will restore your wasted years in the name of Jesus. Amen.
8. I declare and decree that your God will accelerate your journey and your breakthroughs in the name of Jesus. Amen.
9. I declare and decree that everything you touch will prosper in the name of Jesus. Amen.

10. I declare and decree that windows of great opportunities will open in your life in the name of Jesus. Amen.
11. I declare and decree that you shall overtake your problems in the name of Jesus. Amen.
12. I declare and decree that God will reform your losses and bind your wounds in the name of Jesus. Amen.
13. I declare and decree that you will experience a marathon of favour in your life in the name of Jesus. Amen.
14. I declare and decree that you will receive favour from unexpected places in the name of Jesus. Amen.
15. I declare and decree that the Lord will sweep you into great breakthroughs in the name of Jesus. Amen.
16. I declare and decree that you will jump out from the pit of poverty into the arena of prosperity in the name of Jesus. Amen.
17. I declare and decree that you will fly from the sky of rejection into the firmament of dominion in the name of Jesus. Amen
18. I declare and decree that you will crossover to the arena of victory in the name of Jesus. Amen.
19. I declare and decree that you shall depart from the bus stop of stagnancy to the arena of breakthroughs in the name of Jesus. Amen
20. I declare and decree that your miracle give birth to other miracles in the name of Jesus. Amen
21. I declare and decree that your impossibility shall become possible in the name of Jesus. Amen.
22. I declare and decree that your destiny shall attract colour in the name of Jesus. Amen.
23. I declare and decree that you shall bounce back in the name of Jesus. Amen.