

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several circular elements: a large scale on the left with markings from 140 to 260, and several smaller circles with dashed lines and arrows, some containing partial solid lines, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

GRAPPLING WITH GOD IN INTERCESSION - 2

KEZIAH OBI

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- The goal of this training is to inspire, charge and challenge us to rise up in intercession to take a hold of God to bring about changes in the evils in our society and let his purposes/will prevail as we await his soon return

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- The hope is that by the end of our discussion and training, we all will be focused as the Army of God, to ensure that we are in tune with what he is desiring in this season and are able vessels that he can depend upon and use accordingly.

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Isaiah 64

- Wailing Women Worldwide as a move has been on for 24 years now- deeply committed to praying for the Church and the Nations.
- God has been so faithful in keeping a true 24/7 Prayer line. There are many 24/7 prayer lines but while they are open for prayer 24/7 and take calls to pray when needed, we in the USA have been steadily on for 10 years now-since 2012. To the glory of God, we have been recognized and are still recognized as a serious, committed 24/7 prayer group and one of the topmost American prayer leaders dedicated his book on prayer to Wailing Women, in recognition of what we do.
- However, there is always a place to get to, another level, be revived, refreshed and go past the normal.

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SERIOUS HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD

- COVID – 6.28million people have died as of the start of this week
- WHO rising up to take charge of the health of nations- America included.
- Racial tensions/divisions, increase in Christian persecutions
- Right to life or not is being debated upon
- The threat to women- for example sex slavery, kidnappings etc. of women and children
- Political/national crises- Ukraine/Russia; Cameroun, Nigeria and many others
- Challenge to marriage and family life
- Challenges facing the next generation



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What should be our prayer response to these?

- Recently God was speaking to us in prophecy and calling us to wail, cry and weep over issues.
- There can be two destinies for nations and peoples- there is a divine, Godly destiny and the one the enemy tries to push.

When you get born again, you enter a realm, a level in the family of God. Satan does not like that, so he throws things at you and causes things to happen to you. How do you deal with these?

- Complain and grumble like the Israelites in the wilderness.
- Walk away
- Become lackadaisical? Samson-even his parents
- Fight in the flesh like Moses
- Or grapple with God for a change, a divine intervention.

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To grapple is to hold or make fast to something. It is to seize, hold, or fasten; to seize in a grip, take hold of; struggle, contend, wrestle, cope, tussle.

The opposite of *grapple* is to agree with, to avoid, be immune, cancel, disconnect; dodge, free or give

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WHY GRAPPLE WITH GOD

- The earth and the people belong to God- made by him and for him. We have been positioned where we are as God's stewards- to take charge and dominate.
- The church is being systematically silenced, weakened and compromised
- The alarming and increasing number of deaths with many people unsure of their eternal destinies
- The determination of the enemy to steal, kill and destroy cannot be left unabated- the people of God must prevail
- The coming of the Lord is very near
- Until you rise up when you see negative, contrary and wicked things happening, the plans/destinies the enemy has continues to advance but we can counter this and call forth God's own- personally and corporately
- Sometimes he seems to hide himself or it appears that he is silent as in Psalm 83:1

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WHY GRAPPLE WITH GOD

- Somethings can only come through prayer and fasting- there are tough issues where the enemy seeks to block and hinder answers to prayer like Daniel, or negate what God says by putting obstacles, hindrances that must be pushed out through prayer/intercession
- We wrestle not against flesh and blood-the determined efforts of the enemy to keep us from possessing the promises of God
- God wants us to have markers in our walk with him- for Hannah, he shut her womb until she grappled with him in prayer
- There are key things God wants to do- new levels or heights/seasons that we have to grapple with him to enter into- like Jacob did.
- Each season we need to have an encounter for the next levels even though we are doing good. We should rise up to meet the challenges/demands of a new season.
- This calls for praying from the heart not a formula.

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WHAT PRAYER IS

We all pray but what really is prayer?

- **ASKING**
- **CONVERSATION**
- **PASSIONATE REASONING**
- **TOUCHING GOD**
- **OTHER ASPECTS** of prayer include beseeching the Lord (Exodus 32:11); pouring out the soul before the Lord (1 Samuel 1:15); praying and crying to heaven (2 Chronicles 32:20); seeking God and making supplication (Job 8:5); drawing near to God (Psalm 73:28) and bowing the knees (Ephesians 3:14).

Someone said Prayer presupposes a belief in the personality of God, His ability and willingness to communicate with us, His personal control of all things and of all His creatures and all their actions.

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Acceptable prayer must be:

- sincere (Hebrews 10:22)
- offered with reverence and godly fear
- with a humble sense of our own insignificance as His creation
- and of our own unworthiness as sinners
- with unhesitating submission to God's sovereign will
- Prayer must also be offered in faith that God exists, and is the hearer and answerer of prayer, and that He will fulfil His word. "Ask, and ye shall receive" (Matthew 7:7,8; 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14).
- and, generally, in the name of Jesus Christ (16:23-24; 15:16; Ephesians 2:18; 5:20; Col. 3:17; 1 Peter 2:5)

To grapple with God in prayer therefore one must employ different forms of prayer- sometimes fasting is involved, *to produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Is 41:21* and keep at it until you get a breakthrough answer from God.

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EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO GRAPPLED WITH GOD IN INTERCESSION

- **Abraham-** Ex 32; Gen 18.
- **Hannah-** 1 Sam 1
- **Jacob-** Gen. 32:22-32
- **Jesus-** Luke 22:41
- **Nations-** Jonah 3:5

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Intercession

- The word intercession comes from the Greek word paga – that is to *collide* with or *strike against* the determined position of the enemy and challenging situations that seek to undermine God’s plans and purposes for peoples, nations and issues.
- The intercessor stands before God to command his attention and action, on behalf of these. When you are grappling with God in intercession therefore, you are pleading, entreating and making a demand on heaven concerning the pain, burden and challenges of the enemy confronting someone else and beseeching heaven intently that God will bring to pass what will bring glory and honor to him and be a blessing to the person or matter involved.
- It is warring on that matter and refusing for the outcome to be favorable to the counsel and plan of the enemy- so it takes the enemy up in opposition- using the weapons of warfare at our disposal- the aim is to get God’s will to prevail.

1. Esther
2. Isaac for Rebecca
3. Daniel

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WHAT IS ACHIEVED BY INTERCESSORY PRAYER?

- Peace and calm even when the matter is yet to be answered it can serve as a therapy; it lightens the load - a problem shared is half solved
- Gives a different disposition and outlook to the person seeking prayer
- Gets God's attention -
- Miracles take place, breakthrough results from there, answers to prayer
- An atmosphere of fellowship and togetherness is released between those in prayer and with their father
- Unity and agreement on the outcome of the prayer
- The enemy is defeated, and his plans cancelled.
- People are delivered, saved and rescued
- Testimonies come forth to the glory of God
- The faith of everyone is strengthened

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WHAT IS REQUIRED OF THE INTERCESSOR?

- A knowledge of the matter
- An understanding and acceptance that you are a watchman, the nations and the people are in your charge to pray for
- The assignment is to stand in the gap
- Clean hands and a pure heart
- Compassion/empathy
- A conviction about this issue and the desire to see change
- Personally feel the burden on the matter/person
- Passion, conviction on the matter
- Confidentiality

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CHALLENGES IN INTERCESSION

- Sin
- Insincerity or half truths
- Unforgiveness, bitterness
- Carelessness and complacency. We are in a serious battle- see Eli's response- 1 Sam 3:18

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THE PEOPLE WHO GRAPPLE WITH GOD

- **HUMILITY**-Isaiah 57:15
- **HEART CONDITION**- Psalm 24:3-4
- **SACRIFICE** – 1 Sam 17:19
- **STRATEGIC**- James 4:3
- **RELEASE** -Is 55:22
- **COMFORT**- Amos 6:1
- **PATIENCE** Heb. 6:12

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THE PEOPLE WHO GRAPPLE WITH GOD

- **WORSHIP**- 1 Sam 1
- **BE STRONG**- Josh 1:9
- **OBEDIENCE** – John 14:16
- **DEPENDANCE**-Zech. 4:6
- **PERFECT WILL**- Matt. 6:10
- **CAREFULNESS**- Eph. 5:15-17
- **FOCUS**- Phil. 3:14-16
- **FAITH**- James 5:16

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CONCLUSION

Luke 4:3-7

As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

- To prepare the way of the Lord means that we do everything in our power to see that everything aligns with his desire, plan and return.
- All flesh- man, beast and others will see the glory and salvation of God. We are the ones to enforce that.
- We have to rise up with the spirit of Elijah Mal. 4:5
- There is a Day of judgement and coming wrath and we desire for people to escape it.
- There is such fear, heaviness, wickedness, godlessness and evil now but we have good news of great joy (Luke 2: 10), so let people live in the freedom God wrought for them at Calvary as again the Lord will make known his salvation in the sight of the heathen (Psalm 98:23).