**Hagin, Kenneth E.**
The Art of Prayer

# 28. Excesses

The chapter warns against errors and exaggerations that creep into prayer, especially intercession. It teaches that every believer — not a special class — is anointed as a priest to pray, and that genuine groaning and travail come only by the Holy Spirit, never worked up in the flesh.

## Key takeaways

- Every born-again Christian is a king and priest, anointed to pray; prayer is not a special calling for an elite few.
- Spiritual pride ('we're a special class') is the same sin Lucifer fell into — avoid it.
- There is no 'office of intercessor.' The fivefold ministry gifts (Eph. 4:11) are apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher — prayer isn't listed because it isn't a ministry gift; it falls under the ministry of helps.
- Prayer helps and blesses people but does not 'perfect' the saints — that's the job of the fivefold offices.
- Groaning and travailing are real but happen only when the Spirit takes hold; you cannot produce them by willpower, mimicry, or laying on of hands.

- You can stir yourself up to seek God, and then the Spirit joins you — but we need all kinds of prayer, so follow the Spirit's lead.

## Passages worth keeping

> *"Thank God, we are all anointed to be priests; let's get after it!"*

Reframes priesthood as shared, not a basis for pride.

> *"You can do all the groaning in the flesh you want to, but without the anointing you are not going to produce anything."*

The core test for genuine intercession.

## How it connects

The chapter's balance point is 2 Timothy 1:6 ('stir up the gift') held alongside Romans 8:26: we can rouse ourselves to pray, but real intercession is Spirit-led, not self-manufactured.

## Scripture referenced

- **Revelation 1:6; 5:10** -- All believers made kings and priests.
- **1 Peter 2:5,9** -- The whole Body is a royal, holy priesthood.
- **Ephesians 4:11,12** -- The fivefold gifts that perfect the saints — prayer not among them.
- **Romans 8:26** -- The Spirit, not the flesh, makes intercession with groanings.

- **Galatians 4:19** -- Travail compared to birth — only when there's something to bring forth.
- **Ephesians 6:18** -- Pray with 'all prayer' — many kinds, not one.