

Part 2 Climate of Prayer & Intercession

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Lesson Focus: Discerning the Atmosphere in Prayer

Opening Scripture: James 5:16–18 (NLT)

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops."

I. The Power of Persistent Prayer (Elijah as a Model)

Elijah's example teaches us that **prayer must be persistent** and **fueled by faith**. He didn't just pray once and wait—he **prayed through until the answer came**. In *1 Kings 18:41-45*, Elijah sent his servant back seven times to look for the raincloud. On the seventh time, the cloud appeared.

 **Key Insight:** Effective intercession partners with **spiritual discernment** and **perseverance** to shift atmospheres.

II. What Does It Mean to Discern an Atmosphere?

Discernment (Greek: *anakrino*) means "to distinguish, examine, or judge rightly." It is the **ability to sense and interpret spiritual conditions**.

Biblical Understanding of Discernment:

- **Hebrews 4:12** – God's Word is alive and sharp, discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- **Proverbs 8:8–9** – To the discerning, God's words are right and faultless.

- **Hosea 14:9** – The discerning will understand God’s ways and walk in them.

✓ *Key Insight:* Discernment enables believers to recognize the **difference between God’s activity, demonic interference, and human emotion.**

III. Discerning What Heaven Is Doing

Often, people associate spiritual discernment primarily with detecting demonic activity. But this is **secondary** to discerning **what the Holy Spirit is doing.**

📖 **Genesis 1:2-3** shows us that the earth was formless and dark until God spoke. His “**Let there be**” shifted the entire atmosphere.

✓ *Key Insight:* God wants intercessors to discern **His movement** first so they can come into **agreement** with it.

IV. Changing the Climate Through Intercession

The spiritual **climate** refers to the **spiritual atmosphere**—the unseen influences shaping people, homes, churches, and territories. When we intercede, we take spiritual authority over the atmosphere in areas where we have responsibility.

You Have Authority Where You Have Responsibility:

- **Personal Life** – Keep heaven open over yourself through repentance, worship, and obedience.
- **Home & Family** – You are a gatekeeper.
- **Church/Ministry** – You are called to guard the vision and atmosphere.
- **Region/City** – Apostolic and prophetic voices are called to shift principalities.

📖 **Luke 10:19** – Jesus gave authority over all the power of the enemy.

✓ *Key Insight:* You have authority to shift the climate, but only where you are responsible and spiritually submitted.

V. Becoming Self-Governing in Prayer

Being “self-governing” means taking authority over your **inner world**—thoughts, attitudes, behaviors, and spiritual disciplines.

📖 **1 Corinthians 9:27** – Paul says he disciplines his body like an athlete.

📖 **2 Corinthians 10:4–5** – We are called to cast down arguments and take thoughts captive.

✅ **Key Insight: You are responsible for your own spiritual climate.** Govern your temple so the Spirit of God can flow through you unhindered.

Call to Action:

- **Spend intentional time daily in prayer and the Word** to sharpen your discernment.
 - **Begin to pray into atmospheres**—your home, your church, your workplace. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what *He* is doing.
 - **Make declarations based on Scripture** to shift the climate around you.
 - **Repent of areas where you've allowed the climate to be ruled by fear, carnality, or apathy.**
 - **Speak what God is saying**—your “Let there be” can birth change.
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Prayer Focuses Going Forward:

1. **Lord, sharpen my spiritual discernment** so I may know what You are doing and align with Heaven.
2. **Teach me to govern myself well** and to live with purity, discipline, and obedience.
3. **Reveal any open doors** in my life that hinder Your presence.

4. **Help me steward my authority** in every place You've given me responsibility.
 5. **Empower me to change the climate** of my home, ministry, and region through intercession.
 6. **Let my life be a conduit of Your glory**, so others experience transformation through me.
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Reflection Questions (with Scripture References):

1. **What does Hebrews 4:12 teach us about the role of God's Word in discernment?**
➤ *Hebrews 4:12*
2. **What can we learn from Elijah's perseverance in prayer?**
➤ *1 Kings 18:41–45*
3. **How does Proverbs 8:8–9 describe the words of God to those who are discerning?**
➤ *Proverbs 8:8–9*
4. **According to Luke 10:19, what kind of authority has Jesus given us?**
➤ *Luke 10:19*
5. **What does 2 Corinthians 10:4–5 say about handling thoughts that oppose God?**
➤ *2 Corinthians 10:4–5*
6. **How does Genesis 1:2–3 show the power of speaking into a dark atmosphere?**
➤ *Genesis 1:2–3*