

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

Accessing Heaven

Over the next few issues we want to examine the dynamics of our heavenly access by looking at and extracting some principles from the lives of several great heroes of the faith. These were men that had the ear of God and knew it with an unshakable confidence. Their prayers chartered a course in the spirit that we can confidently follow in our day. In the following examples there are principles for success that we can tap into in order to make our Kingdom Advancing Prayer powerful, accurate and just as effective in moving God's hand and in destroying the plans of our invisible spiritual enemies.

Genesis 18: 16-33

Here we see some very significant things occurring between God and Abraham.

Abraham has tremendous authority with God, which is amazing. However we need to understand that the basis for Abraham's authority was in the fact that he had access by revelation to the plans and purposes of God. God, Himself testifies to this fact - in verse 17 He declared:

“And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,”

Please notice that this is not some kind of forced authority, but it is through the release from God because He had confidence in Abraham, that he **“shall surely become”** (He shall fulfill all of My plans for him.)

This is an awesome revelation that we can tap into and be empowered to progressively advance in the will of God.

“And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, ‘since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ‘For I have **known** him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

If we, by the quality of our human effort in the things of God, and our acceptance and submission to the plan and purposes of the Lord for us, bring to a place of certainty the fact that we will complete the work, then God will hide nothing from us. We will always be informed of the present position of the purpose of God in the earth.

In the same way as He did with Abraham, God must have this same confidence in us. *Great authority in spiritual utterance (our prayer) comes when there is a feedback in our spirit from heaven, which indicates that God Himself knows that we shall surely become what He has planned and ordained for us.*

God said that He had **“known”** Abraham. This word “know” is not an arbitrary word. It is the Hebrew word **“yada”** and it carries the connotation of the following: To know by careful observation and reflective thinking, to know by experiencing. It also means to know after a process of careful scrutiny.

In essence, God had thoroughly examined and found that the “Operating System” of Abraham's life was such that His will would surely come to pass. This man Abraham had a correct value system; he ordered his family to follow the ways of the Lord and he loved righteousness and justice. What an awesome place to be! **“To be known of the Lord”**.

This patriarch Abraham had to go through several tests before arriving at this position. The Lord scrutinized him on every front. Let me quickly share with you a few of the things he had to go through that could be very relevant to many of us today as we journey with the Lord:

1. **When God called Abraham (Abram) the first thing that he had to do was to separate him from the place of Familiarity.** Familiarity Breeds Contempt - Genesis 12:1-4 He had to leave his father's house, his kindred, and his country.

We too, must journey away from familiarity, and cut the cords and apron strings of anything that is not conducive to our progression and maturity.

For some of us it may be some “pet doctrine” that the Lord is saying is wrong or inaccurate, and as such He wants us to cut ties with that stream. It is like the Apostle Paul in **Philippians 3:13-15**.

2. **Another point to note in Abraham’s (Abram’s) process, is that Abram had to deal with telling “white lies” when in desperate situations that seemingly challenged his life Genesis 12:11-13.** But you must determine in your hearts to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, when found in seemingly crisis situations and not lie to protect yourself.
3. **God had to change Abraham’s (Abram’s) name.** When he started this journey his name was Abram (meaning, “father of the lofty or high-minded”); **but the Lord had to change his name from Abram to Abraham before his full purpose and destiny could be realized!** Like for so many, you start out on the road to destiny with one name (nature) but the Lord will take you through a sequence of situations designed to get you to the place where He can change your name to be consistent with your destiny.
4. **The next step in Abraham’s processing was his separation from his nephew Lot (Genesis 13).** When he left Ur, he took his nephew with him even though the Lord told him to completely separate from his family. You see, no matter what we think, the Lord will address everything in our lives until we completely surrender to Him so that He can bring us into our destinies.

There are times when it becomes necessary to part company with certain others who may potentially delay, impede, or deter your progress.

I have experienced this and had to let many people go for the higher calling of God. Excessive weight must be dealt with if we are to fulfill our call in God.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (The Message Bible):

“Do you see what this means--all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running--and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. ²Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed--that exhilarating finish in and with God--he could put up with anything along the way--cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honour, right alongside God. ³When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he ploughed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!”

AWESOME!

5. **The next issue he had to deal with was Sarai (Sarah)**

Genesis 16

Sarai came up with the seemingly brilliant idea to have her handmaid Hagar bear a child in her place and thus allowing Abram to have his promised seed. We all know how that worked out – Ishmael was born. However, as we also should know that that which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of spirit is spirit. So there had to be a separation from “the Sarai spirit”; because as her name reveals, her nature had to change. **The Lord changed Sarai (one who lords it over her husband or a bossy/un-submissive, dominant woman) to Sarah (princess, or one who calls her husband lord) before her promise and destiny could have been realized!**

6. After this he went on to deal with Hagar and Ishmael

Genesis 16-17

Now this is very interesting; as Ishmael was in fact Abram’s son. However, he had to make the difficult decision to listen to his wife and cast out both him and his mother Hagar. This is very encouraging because even at this point the Lord did not give up on Abraham’s destiny. Sometimes we do make costly mistakes but if we make things right, the Lord will bring His will to pass in your life - **But Hagar, HAS to GO!**

Hear me today - the key to success in life is perseverance, and the key to perseverance is vision. The key to vision is purpose, and the key to purpose is GOD!

Proverbs 29:18 (The Message Bible)

“If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.”

7. This, for some of you, will be the toughest separation (based on how you view things): Isaac (Genesis 22). The very thing that Abraham desired of the Lord is now required of HIM to give up.

This is incredible and this is where many fail. This seems to be so not like “the god you have made in your own image and likeness”. He doesn’t do these kinds of things; I mean what kind of god will ask someone to give up the son that He prophesied over their lives. This truly had to be the highest form of worship. **To trust God in the process, even when you don't fully understand, is an act of worship.** To willingly give back or to give up unto the Lord what you have longed for your entire life, is one of the sweetest yet courageous acts that there is.

It is like pruning of the tree – the deliberate act by the husbandman to cut off seemingly good and normal branches from the tree in order that it would produce more in its next fruit-bearing season! I mean the tree has been very faithful and produced tremendous fruit for this husbandman and now after a productive season he is deliberately cutting off seemingly good, normal branches.

This was Abraham's most critical test of all that he had gone through. **Some curse their crisis and others just give up themselves, when it comes to this point.** But, it was at this point that Abraham enjoyed the best of the Lord!

As we continue to pray and believe the Lord for this region, and the other regions of the earth He is calling us to, this has to be our heart position and foundation. The Mighty God of Heaven wants to “**know**” us as He did Abraham, so that our Kingdom Advancing Prayer can operate on the same high frequency as Abraham’s did.

Remember, we are into the significant work of advancing God’s Kingdom in the earth!

PRAYER GUIDELINES

- Let us attack the Spirit of Jezebel and Absalom that seeks to fight and war against present-truth churches [such as ours]. These spirits seeks to manipulate and control God-Ordained leadership and seduce them away from the Purpose of God! This spirit must not find any root in our assembly.
- Let us cry out for WISDOM! Let us truly cry out aloud for the Lord to empower us with His Wisdom.
- Let us be in pray for our youths and their leaders (SWAT) as they implement their 3D programme.
- This month marks the beginning of a significant three years of preparation and training for us here at D-LIM. The Lord has spoken and confirmed His dealings and direction for us over the next three years and we are excited to be at this pivotal place!
- For our Children's Ministry – GEMS – We are in the process of writing curriculum for these young ones. Pray resolutely for those involved with this important task
- For Apostle Michael and Elder Sandra who will be doing two conferences in Regina, Canada from January 13 – 18, 2006.
- Pray strongly for Apostle Michael as he prepares to go into South Africa in February 2006.

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