

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

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

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

Our Ambassadorial Status in Spiritual Warfare!

2 Corinthians 5:20

“Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Ephesians 6:19-20

“...and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an **ambassador** in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

The word ambassador is the Greek word “presbeuo” and it is rendered “to be a representative of a ruling authority.” In the days of the early church, ambassadors were chosen from the ranks of mature, experienced men, hence to be an ambassador for Christ necessitates spiritual maturity.

A definition from the encyclopaedia reads:

Ambassador – An official of diplomatic service. The ambassador is the highest-ranking official of diplomatic service. Unlike a minister, an ambassador is supposed to represent, in theory, the person of his or her sovereign.

This is a very significant position and we need to fully understand this in the context of spiritual warfare. Let us examine the reality of our status as pray-ers.

Initially, God set up an outpost of His heavenly kingdom upon earth, (what we may call an embassy). This was in response to the rebellion of satan, for as we look at Genesis 1:1-2 we read “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth **was without form, and void**; and darkness was on the face of the deep.” I submit to you that satan had already been cast to the earth and caused chaos. This had to be so because we read that the earth was void and without form and we know that everything that the Lord created was good; and Genesis 1:1 declares that He at that point had already created the heavens and the earth. This initial outpost was headquartered in Eden and an ambassadorial team called Adam (which comprised of both male and female) was placed there, whose job specs or mandate was:

- 1) Progressively subdue
- 2) Conquer
- 3) Take back the entire earth
- 4) Establish kingdom rule

The first ambassadorial team failed in the Garden of Eden, but that did not thwart the plan and purpose of God. Rather, it intensified them. So God sent His second man, the last Adam in Christ, to re-establish His heavenly embassy in the earth.

“And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.” 1 Corinthians 15: 45-47

John the Baptist announced the arrival when he proclaimed that “the kingdom of God is at hand” – Matthew 3:2. From that time, Jesus spent the next 3 1/2 years of His life training ambassadors, in order that they will effectively maintain this heavenly embassy.

Ambassadors are very bold and confident, as they know that they have the full support of the country they are sent to represent. Regardless of the situation they find themselves in, **boldness** is always a key feature of their existence. This is why Paul asked that the saints pray that he may open his mouth boldly and proclaim the message he was sent to deliver as an ambassador from heaven, even though he was in chains.

Ambassadors also enjoy something that is called “diplomatic immunity”.

Diplomatic Immunity (law) is an exemption or freedom from liability or penalty under criminal or civil law. In international law, accredited representatives of foreign governments are granted **diplomatic immunity** from liability in criminal and civil actions in the countries in which they serve.

This same ambassadorial role has been passed on to us, so as we decree and declare through our Kingdom Advancing Prayer, let us be bold and recognise the authority we have in Christ and bring it to bear upon principalities and powers.

We enjoy diplomatic immunity as ambassadors from another country (heaven) here on assignment.

The word of God declares in **Philippians 3:20**

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We are not to be brought under the power of any demonic authority in the world. The Lord encourages us to live in the world but not to become part of it. When most of us read this scripture, we think of the earth, but there are several Greek words that translate our English word “world.” Let us look at the two most commonly used.

One is the word “**oikoumene**” which describes the earth, terra firma, the land mass, and the globe as is referred to in the following scriptural texts (**Matthew 24:14; Luke 2:1; Acts 11:28; Revelation 3:10; etc**).

The other is the word “**kosmos**” which describes the philosophy; the values; the thinking; the standards; the behaviour; the principles that essentially shape human nature in the world and is referred to in (**John 3:16-19; 1 Corinthians 1:20; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Peter 1:4; etc**).

So when the Lord encourages us to live in this world but not be a part of it, He is referring to the “**kosmos**” and not the “**oikoumene**.” The apostle Paul adequately describes the warfare and our strategy in **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Special Report - Pastor Chu's cousin passed away last Thursday but not before receiving Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour! To this we are very thankful as we were praying to that end as her family are strong unbelievers and her untimely death has now prompted serious and sincere questions about life and the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have decided to have this letter sent out a bit early this week so that you can remember Pastor Chu as he has been asked to minister at the funeral where he would get an opportunity to share Jesus to over 200 Asians, some of them would be hearing the gospel from this position for the first time. Let us lift him up in prayer!

Dominion-Life International
September 21st, 2002