

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

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

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

PRINCIPLES FOR KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Ephesians 6: 18

Initially God set up an outpost of His heavenly kingdom upon earth, this was in response to the rebellion of Satan.

This initial outpost was headquartered in Eden and the ambassadorial team was called Adam.

Job Specs or Mandate

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

To achieve this man was given a degree of dominion.

Points to consider:

Having given man a measure of rule in the earth God...

- a) In a sense made Himself subject to that measure of rule He gave to man.
- b) Thereby allowing things to operate from a position of servant-hood rather than dictatorship. (expound)
- c) This is why in His wisdom He built into the principle of dominion, the strategy of **Prayer**.

"Prayer, God's gateway to earth enables Him to have His will done without resorting to dictatorship".

Remember that Adam walked in the cool of the day and communicated with God (I submit that it was prayer)

Prayer is our communication channel with the Lord.

Let me categorically state that God would do nothing in the earth apart from first communicating with His delegated authority. Amos 3:7

When God wants anything done in the earth he looks for a man (a corporate man) who will pray in agreement with his desires.

The first ambassadorial team failed in the Garden of Eden, but that did not thwart the plan and purpose of God, but rather intensified them. So God sent His second man the last Adam in Christ and His many-membered body the church (I Cor: 15: 45 - 47).

It all began when Jesus recruited 12 Apostles and trained them. He taught them to pray. Luke 11: 1-13; Matt: 6: 1-15 and Matt: 18: 18-20 showing the power of agreement.

Wuest translation.

Before His departure Jesus passes on heaven's mandate to His Apostles. Matt: 28: 18-20 (Psalm 2)

Eph: 6:20. As ambassadors the same mandate has been passed on to us. This is the same scripture that speaks about prayer and spiritual warfare, very interesting.

In addition to being God's gateway to the earth, prayer serves a further purpose as on the job training for the church.

Prayer prepares us in at least 4 ways.

- 1) Prayer transforms us progressively into the "Image of Christ" II Cor: 3:18.
- 2) Prayer fortifies us against temptations, Luke: 22: 45-46.
- 3) Prayer edifies us, giving us increased insight into the mind and heart of God. I Cor: 14:4. It also helps us discern the heart and mind of God, because true and effective prayer begins in the heavens, Rom: 8: 26-27.
- 4) Prayer baptizes us into a "Mantle of War". In prayer there is a resistance to the works of the devil that takes place, James: 4:7. In Ephesians: 6: 11-18 prayer is a part of our Armour.

Hence the reason we are not whisked off to heaven when we are saved. There is work to be done in the earth, in restoring it to the Lord. Dan: 7: 13-14, 22, 27

Matt: 21: 12-13, establishes the high priority that prayer holds in the heart and mind of the Lord.

The HOUSE of PRAYER: Here we see Jesus being very strong about His stand for the Lord's House as a House of Prayer.

ESTABLISHING PRAYER PRINCIPLES & GUIDELINES

Matt: 21: 12-13

Jesus establishes the temple as a house of prayer based on the spoken word in Isaiah: 56:7 "IT IS WRITTEN".

The Focus of the Temple has changed from being a place of stone and wood to our **hearts and lives.**

God no longer dwells in temple made with men's hands. Acts 17:24 Acts 7: 44-49 establishes this fact.

OUR LIVES ARE NOW HIS TEMPLE:

I Cor: 3: 6 - 17 I Cor: 6: 12 - 20 II Cor: 6: 11 - 16 Eph: 2: 19 - 22

John: 14: 12 - 26

Guidelines for Prayer: Luke: 11: 1 - 13

Verse 1 teaches us two things:

- 1) effective prayer can be learnt, and
- 2) the effective learning environment is the discipleship/relationship (teach us as John taught his disciples)

Verse 2:

1st Principle: "When You Pray SAY"

The art of speaking is very important in the practice of prayer. Words indicate spiritual muscle.

Psalm 8:2

The manner in which words come out of our mouth have an impact in the spirit realm.

Jesus is always our perfect example for accurate spiritual activity.

Rev: 1:16 & Rev: 19:15

Jesus strikes and rules with the **strong words He Says.** There is a power for spiritual dominion in our prayers as we effectively SAY!

Rev: 1:16 & Rev: 19:15

The sword that comes out of the mouth of Jesus is always 'sharp'. The word used here for sharp is the Greek word Oxus that means 'swift' or 'rapid'.

Our words (prayers) must be powerful, thoughtful, incisive, not repetitious and focused on the matter at hand. Our internal strength and commitment to the matter about which we are praying must be released in the words that we pray. The words must bear the strength of our resolve to be heard by God.

Our words are also containers of our Faith (II Cor: 4:13). What do our words release? Ordained Strength; Striking the Nations; Rulership and Dominion; Sharpness Effectiveness and Faith.

Verse 2

2nd Principle: Father is the Source or the beginning of the Power of Prayer!

Verses 5-8

3rd Principle: Know behind which door your answer lie (intercession, thanksgiving, travail or supplication)

The man who has an unexpected visitor at midnight and who finds himself incapable of supplying the need out of his own resource KNOWS that though the hour is late that his need can be met fully through a particular door - the door of supplication.

Verses 8

4th Principle: The Power of Persistence.

Verses 9-10

5th Principle: Ask, Seek and Knock.

We can ask, seek and knock. In essence we can take our prayer encounter through increasing stages of intensity in an unbridled Faith.

Verses 10-13

6th Principle: Be Confident!

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened".

We know that the Lord would respond to everyone who comes to Him in the same pattern taught by Jesus, asking according to His Will (I John 5: 1 - 15)!

OUR CONFIDENCE in prayer is established upon our sense of security with FATHER. This security is vital in the 'Jesus Pattern' of prayer! Bread is not a stone; a fish does not become a serpent; an egg does not mutate into a scorpion (verse 11-12).

Verse 13

7th Principle: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit!

FATHER gives good gifts to His intense and eager praying children. This was Good News from Jesus to His disciples in the 'prayer school'. Every gift that the Father gives comes through the agency of the Holy Spirit (verse 13).

PITFALLS TO AVOID IN PRAYER

Matthew 6: 5 - 13

In Matthew's account there is a focus on the negatives of the 'Pharisee Spirit' in the context of prayer. The 'Pharisee Spirit' is a spirit of hypocrisy, one that has a form of godliness but denies the power of God. Matthew: 23 and warning in II Timothy: 3: 1-9.

This 'Pharisee Spirit' tries to creep into all dimensions of spiritual activity and corrupts its effectiveness and power. It can in effect short-circuit our prayer from reaching the Throne of God. It attempts to make our prayer earth-bound and weak.

Verse 1

1st Pitfall To Be Seen of Men.
Men-Pleasers: Gal: 1:10

Verse 2

2nd Pitfall The Trumpet of the Hypocrites.
English definition: - one who deliberately and as a habit, professes to be good when he is aware that he is not.
Greek: - it is the word 'hyprokrite', which is rendered "A Play-Actor"
Matt: 7: 1 - 6; 15: 1 - 9; Mark: 7:6

Verses 5-6

3rd Pitfall The Open Door.
Shutting of the door here does not limit prayer to a closed room. To shut the door is to bring our heart into proper alignment with God, to find the Father who is in the secret place (verse 6), not in the concourse of the streets or in the play-acting of the hypocrites.

Verse 7

4th Pitfall Vain Repetitions.
In Luke 18: 9-12 we see a classical example of this.

There are basically four categories of prayer, which are:

Intercession

Travail

Thanksgiving

Supplication/Petition

INTERCESSION:

This is a very interesting subject, as the study of the Greek word for intercession would prove. The verb "to intercede" or "to make intercession" is derived from a compounded Greek word: - huperentunkano

Huper - on behalf of, in the stead of or on the account of someone.

En - A prefix which indicates the state or condition in which a thing is done. It implies "remaining, staying or continuing in some state or condition," and the Strong's points out that it is in a state of rest.

Tunkano - To go out (unsought) to meet a person for the purpose of consultation; to hit the mark; to obtain, get or master (something); to pounce or light upon (an object).

Therefore for a working definition, we can render Intercession to mean: -

The process of going out for consultation, with a view to obtaining victory on another's behalf, done from a sustained position of Rest.

This is prayer made on behalf of someone else, either by seeking the Lord's intervention in some satanic attack or seeking the Lord's mercy for someone.

It is almost acting out the role of a peacemaker or the "go between man". It is a dimension that can bring some struggle to one's life, as sometimes it entails fierce battles. This role as an "Intercessor" is done in secret and it is unheralded, however while there are persons who are known as "Intercessors" this activity is not limited to the few. This is an activity that we can all participate in.

Jesus The Intercessor:

Isa: 53: 1 - 12

Heb: 7: 20 - 25

Heb: 9: 23 - 28

Rom: 8: 31 - 34

The Holy Spirit In The Work Of Intercession:

Rom: 8: 18 - 27

Examples Of Intercession By The Saints:

Acts: 12: 1 –17

TRAVAIL

17th-century English made no distinction between the words 'travel' and 'travail', The Eng. word translates a number of Heb. and Gk. words, all of which are normally connected with childbirth.

In every move of God this is one of the most needed ingredients; it is vital that we 'travail'.

We see a powerful example of this in I Kings: 18:41 -46

The word is sometimes employed metaphorically, notably in Rom. 8:22 and Gal. 4:19

THANKSGIVING

This is the Greek word 'eucharistos' which is gratitude or an act of worship to God.

Examples: Ps: 50:14; Ps: 95:2; Ps: 100:4; Ps: 107:22; Phil: 4:6; Col: 4:2

SUPPLICATION/PETITION

This is derived from the Greek word 'hiketeria' which implies a shameless begging or beseeching. Or as in the case of the word Petition, which is a plea.

Examples: Dan: 6:11; Ps: 28: 2 - 6; 116:1; 130:2; 143:1

I Tim: 2:1; 5:5 and one of the most powerful examples in the life of Jesus: Heb: 5:7

Also it is a powerful part of our weaponry in the Spirit as the Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18