

1. Does God Need Me To Pray Before He Can Act!

The Different Kinds of Prayer

Sunday 20 February 2022

1. Introduction

The Bible has a lot to say about prayer. Prayer is not some mysterious practice reserved for only a few people.

- i. Prayer involves **communicating** with God – **listening** and **talking** with Him.
- ii. Prayer also involves the believer **accessing the power of God** to see *His kingdom come His will done* in our lives, in our families as well as *on the earth. (Lord's Prayer)*

In this session we will look at the role prayer plays in our lives, and answer the question:

2. Does God need me to pray, or does He simply do what He wants whether we pray or not?

Some people think it is not necessary to pray because God is Sovereign and is in control of their lives and the world. If this were so, then, they are *inferring* that God is behind the wars, and famines in the earth, economies collapsing, children dying etc. These things are happening, yet God does not want *any to perish!* (2 Peter 3:9)

- i. God is Sovereign but He is not arbitrarily ruling over the affairs in the world! Thank God, one day He will! But right now "His will" is not necessarily being carried out on the earth, except in the lives of those who are surrendered to Him **and know their Covenant.**
- ii. If God is in control of the world's affairs and is **forcing people** to do what He wants them to do, then He would make everyone get saved today!
- iii. If God's will came to pass regardless of what we do, then Jesus would not have instructed His disciples to pray for *God's kingdom come, His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven!* [Matthew 6:9-10]

3. Who is in control of the earth – world?

The answer to this question is given in a dialogue between Jesus and the devil in the Wilderness *where Jesus was led by the Spirit to be tempted for forty days by the devil.* This was before Jesus started His public ministry. (Luke 4:1-2)

i. Satan offered the kingdoms of the world to Jesus

Luke 4:5-7 *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him **all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, "**All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.** ⁷Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.*

i. Satan knew who Jesus was, he knew that Jesus had come to take back the 'authority' of the earth

This was a "**bonafide temptation**" that Jesus withstood! Jesus refused Satan's offer! Jesus had come to take the authority of the earth back, but the price to win back the earth – was the Cross!

ii. Jesus told his disciples that Satan was "the ruler of this world"

John 14:30 *I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world** is coming, and he has nothing in Me.*
John 12:31 *Now is the judgment of this world; now **the ruler of this world will be cast out.***

4. How did Satan become ruler of this world? The answer is found in Genesis, God gave man dominion over the earth

Psalms 115:16 *The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; but the earth He has given to the children of men.*

Genesis 1:26a *Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth ...***

God did NOT say to Adam, "I am going to control the earth through you." God delegated/gave Adam dominion and authority to rule on the earth.

- i. Adam had so much authority that *he could choose to give that authority away!*
- ii. If the earth *remained a Paradise*, it would be Adam's *decision.*
- iii. If the earth was *neglected, unkept and ruined*, it would be because Adam *allowed it!*

5. Adam gave the authority/dominion of the earth over to Satan

- i. Satan became “the god of this age” who blinds the minds of those who do not believe (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
- ii. Paul referred to Satan as “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)

Satan is “*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works*” in the lives of the unsaved people on the earth – influencing them and trying to control them.

iii. John said, “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19)

iv. How long will Satan be able to influence the earth?

Some Bible scholars believe Adam was given an “earth lease” for a period of 6000 years. Jesus referred to this “lease” in Mark 12:1-12. Once the “earth lease” is up, Satan will have no legal right to be in the earth.

6. The Good News: the reason Christ came was to undo the works of the devil

1 John 3:8b *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

- i. The first Adam committed high treason and gave the dominion of the earth to God’s enemy.
- ii. The Last Adam, Jesus Christ came and restored the authority / dominion of the earth and delegated it to the born again believers.

7. All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:18-19 NAS ... , “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

After Jesus Christ took back the authority of the earth, He gave the authority to the church.

8. God has given us Power of Attorney to use His Name

i. We have Power of Attorney to enforce Satan’s defeat

Psalm 149:6-9 *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; ⁸ to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹ to execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints.*

ii. We have authority to change things in the earth – One way we are to use our authority and change things in the earth is through prayer.

iii. Power of Attorney is Voice Activated

9. Before God moves in earth, He finds someone and touches their mouth!

- i. The OT is filled with stories of men and women who God used to speak His will into the earth and it brought great delivers, activated angels, affected nations and empires.

Jeremiah 1:5-10 *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then said I: “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, **I cannot speak**, for I am a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me: “**Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’** For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and **whatever I command you, you shall speak.** ⁸ Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD. ⁹ **Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.** ¹⁰ **See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.***

In the NT God has touched our tongue and set it on fire by the Holy Spirit. He has put His Word in our mouth. We determine whether God’s will comes to pass in our lives. It’s not up to God! It’s up to us.

God needs us to pray! God needs our VOICE to activate angels, to activate our covenant, to execute on the enemy the Finished work of the Cross, and turn God’s enemies to flight.