

7 ELEMENTS TO THE POWER OF PRAYER

David Yeh, 15 April 2018

WHY SHOULD BELIEVERS PRAY?

MAN LOST DOMINION

Meaning of Dominion in the Dictionary: Power, authority, control, rule, management, regime

God is the owner of the earth but God gave the administration authority to man. But in Genesis 3, man lost this power and authority when the first couple fell into sin. Three things Man automatically lost after the fall: Eternal life, Prosperity and Good health, because we lost the relationship with God, the connection of the source of life and all the goodness.

THE RESTORATION OF DOMINION THROUGH CHRIST

What are the 7 Elements to the power of prayer?

1. The power to contact heaven's throne
2. The power to enforce God's will to our own world
3. The power to resist and defeat Satan
4. The power to transcend the laws of nature
5. The power to obtain angelic assistance
6. The power to move mountains
7. The power to bless

1. The power to contact heaven's throne (Hebrews 10:19-22)

In the OT only the priest can come to the holy place to bring petition to God, and only once a year they were allowed to enter the Most Holy Place to bring atonement for all the people's sin. They would wear belled garment in case they get killed inside the most holy place. This verse tells us that we have the right to come to him anytime of the day, at any place and have the confidence that he will answer all our needs.

When you go to see the president of United States, people go through the check point, if you try to crash through the gate, you will be shot at. But coming to the King of kings, we don't need to fear of being shot at, because there is no guard that hold us from seeing him. There are host of angel around God but we have the verified ID that allows us to come straight to him.

In appearing with the queen or king of England, you have to address them by formality such as "your majesty". You cannot just talk without permission. You were told beforehand what to say and what not to say.

But in speaking to the Lord of the universe, this is completely reverse, Jesus said: Luke 11:2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father, who is in Heaven," - No formal titles! No recommended phrase, No official words you are duty bound to use!

In prayer, we come to God as His children. No introduction from angels is needed because God knows us by name and He always wants to talk with us.

In prayer, we don't need formal appointment or any formal invitation to come to His presence. We have the right to come any time without any legal obligation.

Does prayer position matter? In a way yes, because it expresses what we meant, but doesn't need to have certain physical gesture so that God will hear our prayer.

Joke: Prayer Positions

Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could not constrain himself any longer.

"Hey, fellas," he interrupted, "the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole, when I was about to die!"

It is prayer from desperation that our prayer is most powerful and God hears that kind of prayer.

God is never too busy to listen, he is never too involved to answer.

E.g. Elijah mocked the profit of Bali in toilet.

Buddhism: Idols that don't have ear to listen and mouth to speak

Shintoism: The sound of the bell call God into the shrine, called to attention.

But we have God that is always ready to listen to us.

2. The power to enforce God's will to our own world (1Jn 5:14)

Like the Lord's prayer "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven" What is his will? To restore his kingdom on earth to bring his goodness back

on earth. So when we pray according to his will, for the benefit of his kingdom, than he will hear our prayer.

If our prayer would not have made changes to his will enforced on earth, Jesus would not have taught us to pray this way. So when we pray God's will in heaven become reality on earth.

Israel turned away from God and worshiped idols and did many terrible, and immoral things. It is God's will to see Israel restored back to the rightful situation.

The example of Elijah (1Ki 18:36)

The duel between Elijah and 450 prophets of Baal

Through the prayer of Elijah, it brought the fire from above and burned up, not just the sacrifice but even all the water, the stone and the soil. God has done more than what was asked for, it did precisely what God wanted to do. Because of this miracle it brought repentance to the people and it brought rain on the dry land.

The example of Moses (Exo 17:8-14)

As Moses prayed, Israel won over enemy. But when Moses stop praying, the enemy was winning. The victory depends on the prayer of Moses.

So when you pray on the things you hope to happen but then you stop praying, Satan will start to take away what God was about to give it to you.

For God creates but Satan steals it away from us.

God's will can be enforced only by prayer. We can write the future history of our world through prayer. We can change the fate of our home, our school situation, our visa.

E.g. Church's council consent, God removed the difficult official from us.

God is all powerful, all knowing yet He chooses to use us as His instrument and we can enforce his will to this world through prayer.

3. The power to resist and defeat Satan Mat 26:41

As a Christian, we want to do what is right, we want to live a life that pleases the Lord, but there is a power that try to bring us down, try to make us fall into sin, so that we will be apart from God.

Satan has a plan to take you away from God, he will mock you for your faith.

E.g. people laugh at you for being a Christian, or having the moral of Christian.

Satan will try to take away that relationship you have with God by stopping you to have quiet time, feel careless of QT or having fellowship with the believers on Sunday morning or life group.

Satan sends people to annoy you so make you fall into sin of anger or discouragement. Like Jesus rebuked Peter saying, "Satan get behind me!" for discouraging Jesus to die on the cross for all people, we also can say "Satan get behind me!"

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

a. Prayer can bring the presence of God into manifestation (John 18:6)

b. Prayer can overthrow the plan of Satan (1Jn 3:8)

President Abraham Lincoln

Imagine what a heavy schedule of appointments President Abraham Lincoln had to keep day after day. Yet when an elderly woman with no official business in mind asked to see him, he graciously consented.

As she entered Lincoln's office, he rose to greet her and asked how he might be of service. She replied that she had not come to ask a favour. She replied that she had not come to ask a favour. She had heard that the President liked a certain kind of cookie, so she had baked some for him and brought them to his office.

With tears in his eyes, Lincoln responded, "You are the very first person who has ever come into my office asking not, expecting not, but rather bringing me a gift. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The aim of prayer is not to force God's hand or make him do our will against his own, but to deepen our knowledge of him and our fellowship with him through contemplating his glory, confessing our dependence and need, and consciously embracing his goals. Our asking therefore must be according to God's will and in Jesus' name. Prayer is conversation with God so we speak and listen. If we allow God to speak to us, we may understand why God didn't answer the way we hoped for, then we will not be discouraged or lose faith. We can be relieved from our anxiety and burden as we submit to the will of God.