

The Prayer in His Name and the Prayer of Authority

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:9-11; John 16:24, 26; Eph. 6:12-13, 18-19

I. The Bible shows us what prayer is. First, God has a need; He has a purpose. Second, He puts this purpose within man through the Holy Spirit so that man feels this need as well. Third, man responds by uttering this purpose back to God through prayer. Fourth, God does His work and accomplishes this purpose. This is the meaning of prayer-Matt. 9:36-10:1; Ezek. 36:37; Isa. 62:6-7.

A. All proper prayers issue from God's heart and express God's desire. Prayer implies that God has a desire. He wants to fulfill such a desire, yet He does not want to do it directly; He wants man to cooperate with Him on earth.

B. God's will is never hindered in heaven. His will is frustrated from being executed on earth because the earth has been corrupted by Satan. When the kingdom comes, the earth will be completely recovered, and God's will and desire will be executed on the earth as it is in heaven. Today the Lord wants men to pray for this and to hasten the manifestation of His will.

II. No one on earth can be saved without the name of the Lord Jesus, and no one can be useful in the hand of God without knowing the name of the Lord Jesus. We must know the meaning of the name of the Lord Jesus.

A. The name of the Lord Jesus is something special. It is something that the Lord did not have while He was on earth. After He ascended to heaven, in His exaltation, the name which is above every name, "the name of Jesus," was bestowed upon Him.

B. Not only did Paul receive the revelation of such a change in the Lord's name, but also the Lord Jesus Himself spoke of a great change in His own name in the Gospel of John-16:24, 26. On the day the Lord spoke this word, He had not yet received the name which is above every name. It was not until "that day" that He received the name above every name.

C. This name signifies authority and power. This shows us not only that He would one day receive a name above every name, but also we can use this name. This name is the name God gave to His Son Jesus, which has, in turn, been put in our hands.

- D. Being in the name of the Lord is like the Lord Jesus giving us His seal. It means that the Lord Jesus has given Himself to us and that He is willing to acknowledge everything that we do in His name. He is willing to bear all the consequences of us doing things in His name.
- E. God trusts us and commits the Lord Jesus' name to us. Whatever we do in His name, God will take responsibility for it.

III. Today the Lord accomplishes His work through the church rather than directly by Himself. This is why He has committed His name to the church. But what a great responsibility He has to bear.

- A. He has committed His work to the church. All the works of the Lord Jesus today are in the church. Today the church's work is the Lord's work. Hence, He has to take responsibility for everything the church does with His name.
- B. Only by standing on the ground of baptism can we use the Lord's name. If we are not standing on the ground of baptism, we cannot use His name, because the cross will not have a free way in us, and the Lord Jesus will not have any effect on us; we cannot use the name. Only those who stand on such a ground can exercise the Lord's authority, and only they can use the Lord's name.
- C. To stand before God in the name of the Lord Jesus is to say that you do not stand on your own merit but on the merit of the Lord's name. It is to say that you are not counting on what you are or what you will be, but on what the name of the Lord is.

IV. The Bible contains a most lofty and spiritual prayer, which is the "payer of authority."

- A. A prayer of authority is a commanding prayer. This is the most crucial and most spiritual prayer in the Bible. This kind of prayer is a sign of authority and a declaration of authority.
- B. A prayer with authority has two aspects. One is to bind, and the other is to loose. What is bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and what is loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven-Matt. 18:18; Isa. 45:11; Exo. 14:15-16.
- C. To pray with authority is for heaven to rule on the earth; it is for the earth to exercise the heavenly authority.
- D. This kind of prayer began from the time the Lord ascended to the heavenlies. Just as Christ transcended over all things, the church has also transcended over all things. Just as the Lord transcended over all spiritual enemies, the church has also transcended over all spiritual enemies. Just as all spiritual

enemies have been overcome by the ascension of the Lord, the church has also overcome them by being joined to Christ in His ascension. Hence, all the spiritual enemies are under the feet of the church-Eph. 1:20-22; 2:6.

V. The prayer of the overcomers

- A. The heavenly position is a position of victory. If Satan succeeds in dragging us down from the heavenlies, we will be defeated. Victory is standing continuously in the heavenly position of victory.
- B. A prayer with authority does not ask God to do something. Rather, it exercises God's authority and applies this authority to deal with problems and things that ought to be removed. Every overcomer has to learn to pray this kind of prayer. Every overcomer has to learn to speak to the mountain-Mark 11:23-24.
- C. Prayer with authority has much to do with the overcomers. Only prayer can activate the power of God. If one does not pray, he cannot be an overcomer. The most important work of the overcomers is to bring the authority of the throne to earth.
- D. In order to have a share in this authority, one must pray. Those who can move the throne can move everything. We must see that Christ's ascension has made Him far above all things, and we must see that all things are under His feet. For this reason, we can rule over all things with the authority of the throne.
- E. If a man wants to be an overcomer, he has to learn to pray with authority. If more people rise up to pray this way, many problems in the church will easily be solved. We should exercise dominion through prayer and manage everything in the church through prayer.
- F. Finally, there is a sober warning: we must submit ourselves to God's authority. If we do not submit to God's authority, we cannot pray with authority. Not only must we submit to God's authority with respect to His position, but we also must submit to His authority in our daily living and in all practical matters. Unless we do this, we cannot pray with authority.

VI. Prayer is a kind of service and should be given the utmost priority. But Satan's strategy is to put everything related to the Lord before prayer and make prayer the least important matter.

- A. In spite of the fact that we have been reminded of the importance of the matter over and over again, not many people pay much attention to prayer.

Many people are enthusiastic about attending preaching meetings, Bible study meetings, and other meetings of the church. But whenever there is a prayer meeting, the number is amazingly low.

- B. Despite the facts that problems are piling up and that we acknowledge with our mouth that prayer is the only way to solve them, we talk more than we pray, and we worry and resort to methods more than we pray. In brief, everything comes before prayer; everything is important. Prayer is always placed last and considered least important.
- C. Therefore, we must be watchful, discover Satan's stratagems, and detect his wiles. We must not allow him to cause us to be relaxed or blind.

Further Readings:

Chapter 2, God's Eternal Plan, Watchman Nee

Chapter 3-5, the Prayer Ministry of the Church, Watchman Nee

Message Twelve, the Crystallization Study Outlines-Colossians, Witness Lee