

PROPHETS BUT NO PRAYERS

Isaiah 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

THERE IS NOT A SHORTAGE OF THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO PROPHECY, "GET A WORD FROM GOD," BE USED OF GOD, WORK IN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT, ETC.

— THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGE WHICH THE CHURCH IS EXPERIENCING TODAY IS THE LACK OF TRULY KNOW HOW TO PRAY AND GET ANSWERS FROM GOD.

Isaiah 63:5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

Isaiah 62:6-7

6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Matthew 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Matthew 11:23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Matthew 11:21-24

21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Luke 10:13-15

13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14 But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

15 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

Ezekiel 22:30-31

30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD (ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) = Diakonia (grk 1248) tou (grk 3588) logou (grk 3056), The deaconship of the word. The continual proclamation of the Gospel of their Lord; and, to make this effectual to the souls of the hearers, they must continue in prayer: **a minister who does not pray much, studies in vain.**

1) THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MEANS REQUIRED TO PROMOTE REVIVAL:

A) TRUTH IS EMPLOYED TO INFLUENCE MEN

B) PRAYER IS USED TO INFLUENCE GOD

— PRAYER DOES NOT CHANGE GOD'S MIND

— IT PRODUCES SUCH A CHANGE IN US AS TO RENDER IT CONSISTENT FOR GOD TO DO WHAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT FOR HIM TO DO OTHERWISE

— ie FORGIVENESS

C) TRUTH, BY ITSELF, WILL NEVER PRODUCE REVIVAL BY ITSELF

— THE SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO ANSWER TO PRAYER

2) EFFECTUAL PRAYER IS THE PRAYER WHICH ATTAINS THE BLESSING IT SEEKS

— THE VERY IDEA OF EFFECTUAL PRAYER IS THAT IT EFFECTS ITS OBJECT

3) ATTRIBUTES OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

A) ONE MUST PRAY FOR A DEFINITE OBJECT

B) THE PRAY MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVEALED WILL OF GOD

— THE EXPRESS PROMISES OR PREDICTIONS IN THE BIBLE THAT HE WILL GIVE OR DO CERTAIN THINGS

— GOD SOMETIMES REVEALS HIS WILL BY HIS PROVIDENCE

— OR BY HIS SPIRIT - ROM. 8:26,27

C) WE MUST PRAY IN SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD

— WHILE THE WILL OF GOD IS NOT KNOWN, TO SUBMIT TO ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WITHOUT PRAYER IS TEMPTING GOD. PERHAPS, OUR OFFERING THE RIGHT KIND OF PRAYER MAY BE THE VERY THING THAT CHANGES A SITUATION — ie THE SALVATION OF A SINNER

D) EFFECTUAL PRAYER FOR AN OBJECT IMPLIES A DESIRE FOR THAT OBJECT COMMENSURATE WITH ITS IMPORTANCE

— IF A PERSON TRULY DESIRES ANY BLESSING, HIS DESIRES WILL BEAR SOME PROPORTION TO THE GREATNESS OF THE BLESSING

— GEN 32:26 - I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME

E) IT MUST BE OFFERED FROM RIGHT MOTIVES

— MUST NOT BE SELFISH

— MUST BE DICTATED BY SOME SUPREME REGARD FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

— ie UNSAVED HUSBAND - WHY? SO YOUR LIFE WILL BE BETTER OR EASIER

— ie UNSAVED CHILDREN - WHY? SO YOU WON'T SUFFER PAIN FROM THEIR LOST CONDITION

— ie LOST - OUT OF SYMPATHY?

F) MUST BE INTERCESSION OF THE SPIRIT

G) MUST BE PERSEVERING PRAYER

— OUR WHOLE MINDS AND SPIRITS BECOME ABSORBED WITH
THE ANSWER

— DO NOT DECEIVE YOURSELVES WITH THINKING YOUR PRAYER
IS EFFECTUAL UNLESS YOU HAVE AN INTENSE DESIRE FOR
THE BLESSING

H) IF YOU INTEND TO PRAY EFFECTUALLY, YOU MUST BE WILLING TO
PRAY A GREAT DEAL

I) PRAYER MUST BE OFFERED IN THE NAME OF (IN THE STEAD OF)
CHRIST

- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

- ACTS 10:2

J) MUST PRAY IN FAITH

— MUST EXPECT TO OBTAIN THE THINGS FOR WHICH YOU ASK

K) PRAYER IS NOT EFFECTUAL UNLESS IT IS OFFERED UP WITH AN
AGONY OF DESIRE

PEOPLE WHOSE PRAYERS AFFECTED THEIR WORLD!

JESUS:

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Luke 22:41-44

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

PAUL:

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

DAVID:

Psalms 119:53 Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.

Psalms 119:136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

Jeremiah 9:1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jeremiah 13:17 But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD's flock is carried away captive.

ISAIAH:

Isaiah 22:4 Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.

MORDECAI:

Esther 4:1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

MOSES:

Exodus 32:31-32

31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

ABRAHAM:

Genesis 18:17-33

17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

20 And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

26 And the Lord said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:

28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

33 And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.