

“PRAYING IN AGREEMENT”

Text: Matthew 18:11, 14, 18-20

Subject: God’s Way to Find Remarkable Answers to Prayer

Introduction

Question: How many of you know that you are in a spiritual war? (A battle)

Question: How many of you know that there is a devil (and his goal is your destruction)?

Question: How many of you know that your battles are not won (or lost) with flesh and blood? And

Question: How many of you know that God has given you the ammunition to enforce the victory that Jesus has purchased:

In His virgin birth, sinless life, death at Calvary, Easter Resurrection, Glorious Ascension, sending the Holy Spirit and promised return

Question: How many of you believe that the hymn is really true: “O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever, He sought me and He bought me, with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him, and all love is due Him, He plunged me to victory, beneath the cleansing flood.”

Question: Do you really believe I John 4:4? “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world”?

(God Has A Message To Us All)

♦ **II Corinthians 10:3-4** “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

♦ **Ephesians 6:12** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

(What Are You Up Against?)

1. **“Principalities”** which are a high order of demons
2. **“Powers”** which are demons in ranks of authority
3. **“Rulers of Darkness”** which are demonic rulers in the upper atmosphere.
4. **“Spiritual Wickedness in High Places”** which are satan’s organized fallen angels strategizing to promote the most vilest and perverted immoralities.

(In Other Words)

- ♦ Satan is a spiritual being who rebelled against God and lost his exalted position in heaven.
- ♦ In his fall, he led one third of the angelic beings with him. (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Revelation 12)
- ♦ These fallen angels (demons) work for satan to oppose the purposes of God on earth.
- ♦ Satan’s greatest methods of attack are through...
 1. Temptation
 2. Deception
 3. Accusation
- ♦ Satan’s greatest purpose is to...
 1. Draw us away from the will of God (Galatians 5:16-17)
 2. Draw us away from the Word of God. (Matthew 16:23)
 3. Draw us away from the worship of God. (I Peter 5:5-11)

**(The Bible Is Clear As Can Be)
In I Peter 5:8-10**

“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking who he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith...so that God can establish and strengthen you.”

Question: What is my place (and my part) in withstanding the evil one?

Question: What can I do to see every family member in the Kingdom of God?

(Jesus Has the Answer in Matthew 18)

◆ For years I’ve taught the “**Acts**” way for praying.

A. Adoration (for who God is)

C. Thanksgiving (for answered prayer)

B. Confession (of personal sin)

D. Supplication (for personal needs)

◆ These are all good for my personal growth, but come up short to Matthew 18.

Question: What is the one way to see satan give up someone he is holding?

Answer: Matthew 18:18: “Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Question: What does it mean to bind on earth? And...

Question: What does it mean to loose in earth?

**Winning The War Involves Three Things:
(All found in Matthew 18:18-20)**

Question What does Jesus provide me so that I can see remarkable answers to prayer?

I. You Have Authority in Prayer (v.18)

“Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Question: What is Jesus saying here? Simply...

- ◆ Satan can be bound by praying Christians! Repeat.
- ◆ Jesus intends for us to exercise authority over satan’s forces! Repeat
- ◆ God will respond from heaven, when you offer prayer on earth! Repeat

(Jesus said)

(Matthew 12:29) “You can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions, if you first tie up the strong man.”

Question: How do you tie up the evil strong man?

Answer: By exercising your authority in binding and loosing?

Question: What does it mean to bind and loose in Jesus’ name?

Answer: The Greek word for “bind” is (DEO) means something awesome to you and me.

◆ It means to restrain satan!

- ◆ It means to compel satan to not do something!
- ◆ It means to hold back his evil work!
- ◆ It means to prevent satan's power from being used to accomplish his evil intentions!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus has delegated to us the authority to act on his behalf (in His name).
- ◆ Jesus has commissioned us to restrain and hold back satan's activity.
- ◆ Jesus has called us to arms, and when we take the initiative, heaven endorses and enforces the victory of Jesus through our praying!!!

#1 You Have Authority In Prayer!

II. You Have Power In Prayer (v. 19)

Question: Where is there power in prayer?

Answer: "If two of you shall agree." (In other words)

1. There is accumulated power in united praying.
2. United agreement is a spiritual missile that will blast through satan's blockade of defense.
3. We can be mighty alone, but we can be mightier with someone joining with us.
4. Praying together in one accord releases God's power from heaven, and defeats satan's strongholds on earth.

(Deuteronomy 32:30 says)

"One can chase a thousand, and two can put ten thousand to flight."

(Acts 4:24 Says)

"When believers lifted up their voice to God in one accord, the place was shaken as God answered prayer."

(What Am I Saying?)

- ◆ That the greatest friends you have are those who know how to pray.
1. In verse 18, we use our authority to bind and loose satan's influence upon people.
 2. In verse 19, we couple that authority with the faith of other people and experience mighty power and spiritual break-throughs in prayer!

(It Is Clear To Us)

1. You have the **authority** to bind and loose in Jesus' name! (v. 18)
2. You have the **privilege** to more power when you agree and unite with other believers.

III. You Have Confidence in Prayer (v. 20)

Question: What did Jesus promise those who take a stand and war against satan's kingdom?

(Verse 20) "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, **there am I in the midst of them.**"

1. The **Condition** – “In My name”
2. The **Promise** – “There I’ll be in the midst of you.”

“In My Name” Means:

- We pray in harmony with His will.
- We pray in faith on His merits.
- We pray in His victory over satan’s plan
- We pray in His name for access to God.
- We pray in His name so that we can accomplish His purpose here on earth.

Question: What happens when our prayer life is focused on God’s will and not our own?

Answer: “There I am in the midst.” (**Which means**)

- Jesus attends prayer when we are praying for His will.
- Jesus is present to enforce (through us) power over satan’s strongholds.
- Jesus is anxious to answer, if He can find some believers to take back what the enemy is trying to hold onto.

Question: How do I bind and loose in Jesus’ name, the demonic powers that hold my loved ones? (By using your weapons in prayer).

What weapons do we use in prayer?

1. The Name of Jesus

- Which announces His presence and gives you your **authority**.
- Which represents the person of Jesus and all that He stands for.

2. The Blood of the Cross

- Which represents the death of Jesus at Calvary that defeated satan.
- Which broke satan’s power to rule your life.
- Which gives us **access** to the throne of God in prayer.

3. The Word of God

- Which is our resource manual for battle.
- Which is our promise of final victory.
- Which is our guarantee of heaven’s power to us.
- Which is our source of faith to remain faithful.

4. The Holy Spirit

- Which enables and energizes us to pray beyond our natural, limited abilities.

“For the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God. (II Cor 10:4)

Fact: The word for “mighty” is (DUNATOS) which means:

1. Miracle
2. Divinely powerful
3. Possible now

Question: Have any unsaved relatives that seem impossible?

Question: Will it take a miracle in your mind to save them?

Question: Do you believe that prayer can pull down every stronghold?

Let's believe God

1. Let God plant faith in your heart.
2. Let God show you His power in prayer.
3. Let God provoke you to do battle in secret.

What will prayer do?

“Pull down” (v. 4) and **“cast down”** (v. 5)

Fact: The words “pull down” and “cast down” mean:

1. “To demolish” and
2. “To destroy”

In other words

1. In prayer, we **“demolish”** the three strongholds that ensnare our loved ones.
2. In prayer, we **“destroy”** the prisons that hold people.
3. In prayer, we **“pull down”** and **“cast down”** the fortress where the enemy works from.

In other words

- You have power with God in fervent prayer!
- You have the weapon that wins in secret!
- You have the privilege of capturing rebels for God!

It's only in prayer...

1. That we enforce what Jesus has already purchased!
2. That we represent Jesus and what He completed!
3. That we drive back the forces of evil!
4. That we disappoint satan's efforts against God!
5. That we obtain God's objective by releasing His Spirit to go to work!

Putting God's Word Into Practice In Prayer

1. Pray that God will “pull down” (demolish) the stronghold of pride over your loved ones.
2. Pray that God will “pull down” the thought patterns formed in their minds that are against God.
3. Pray that God will protect your loved ones from the evil thoughts, temptations, schemes and devices to seduce your loved ones.
4. Pray that God will hover over them by His spirit to protect them until they humble themselves before God.
5. Pray that God will send godly people into the pathway of your unsaved loved ones each day, to sow the seed of life.

And finally, remember that satan exists against you as a believer.

1. To keep you from this weapon of prayer shorten your prayer time and distract you.
2. To encourage you to quit and give up before the answer comes.

(Oh, what a promise from the living Bible.)

“These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding Him. With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into men whose hearts desire is obedience to Christ.” (v. 5 Living Bible)

“Lifting Up Our Voices Together Works” (Acts 4:23-31)

“They lifted up their voice to God with one accord...and when they had prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together. (Acts 4:24, 31)

Fact: Persecution was upon the disciples!

Fact: But, their enemies were in greater trouble!

(Characteristics of Effective Corporate Prayer)

1. They “**lifted up**” their voices (Acts 4:24)
 - Prayer was passionate not passive.
 - Prayer was with feeling (they were moved deeply)
2. Their appeal was to “**Divine Authority**” (v. 24)
 - They refused to scheme, politic and look horizontal.
 - They prayed “to God” who gets involved in prayer.
3. Their prayer was **spoken**, not silent
 - They talked to God openly (this encourages others to join in).
 - It’s okay to verbalize to God what we feel.
4. They prayed on the **merits** of Jesus (v. 30)
 - They came boldly, trusting in Jesus to answer
 - They appealed in faith, faith in Jesus to do it.

“May signs and wonders be done in the name of the Holy Child Jesus.”

5. Prayer was offered in **unity** (v. 24)
 - They prayed “**with one accord**” (which means **co-spirited**)
 - Remember, all the trees in the forest are different, but when the wind blows, they all lean in the same direction!!!

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk