

THE LEADER'S PRAYING

(Protection From Burnout And Exhaustion Through Disciplined Prayer)
Exodus 17:8-16



A Leader's Victory

- ◆ The Provocation Of Amalek
- ◆ The Plan Of Moses
- ◆ The Power Of God

*“And It Came To Pass, When Moses Held Up His Hand, That Israel
Prevailed: And When He Let Down His Hand, Amalek Prevailed”.*
(Exodus 17:11)

Bill Kirk

“The Leader’s Praying”

(Exodus 17:8-16)

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand Amalek prevailed”. (v.11)

Introduction

(Israel had just experienced great blessings from God):

1. Deliverance from Egypt. (In chapter 12)
2. Direct guidance by the fire and cloud. (In chapter 13)
3. Dividing of the Red Sea. (In chapter 14)
4. Divine supply at Marah. (In chapter 15)
5. Delicious manna from heaven. (In chapter 16)

Fact: Israel now experiences their first warfare (with the Amalekites) and,

Fact: Israel, Moses and every leader learns two things in this passage:

- #1. When Moses hands are raised in prayer (Israel wins).
- #2. When Moses hands are down in prayer (Israel loses).

(Literally)

- ◆ Two hands lifted cannot influence any battle.
- ◆ There is no battle support from hands in the air.
- ◆ Supernatural power is not found in fleshly hands.

(Then What Is God Saying?)

- #1. Moses (and our) help can only come from God.
- #2. Moses (and our) help only comes from God as we remain consistent in the place of prayer.

Satan’s #1 Goal For The Leader Is:

- #1. To get our hands down in prayer so that we will not receive God’s help.
- #2. To get our schedule full and our prayer closet empty so we will forfeit the victory that God intended to give all along.

Moses Struggles Again:

“Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: For this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: **Be thou for the people to God-ward**, and bring the causes unto God”. (Exodus 18:18,19)

(We’ve All Heard These)

- ◆ “I have too much to do to stop and pray” ◆ “I can pray on the run”
- ◆ “I’d rather burn out than rust out” ◆ “I can’t take “time off” because the devil doesn’t”
- ◆ “I can do it all by myself”

The Result? "Thou wilt surely wear away" (v.18)

Definitions I Must Know

1. **Fatigue** - the decreased ability to **function** or inability to **respond** because of prolonged exertion.
2. **Exhaustion** - the lack of **energy** associated with feelings of tiredness; great weariness; feelings of complete consumption; the feeling of being **used up**.
3. **Burnout** - the state of mental, physical and spiritual exhaustion brought on by **continued stress**. (Resulting in loss of energy and loss of hope with no end in sight).

The Downward Spiral Is:

- #1. A depletion of energy and a feeling of being **overwhelmed** by other people's problems.
- #2. A **withdrawing** from people to minimize interpersonal contact; an attitude of "I wish other people would leave me alone".
- #3. A feeling of diminishing accomplishment which leads to feelings of **personal** inadequacy.

(Victory And Protection Is For You)

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint". (Isaiah 40:31)

Fact: The word "renew" means "**to exchange**" in the Hebrew language.

Fact: In other words, when I pray I am exchanging my **weakness** for God's **strength**.

**Oh What A Discovery!!!
(That delivers us from Spiritual Exhaustion)**

- ◆ It is in my prayer life where I obtain or forfeit the resources God has in store to give.

What Moses Teaches Every Leader

- #1. It is in **secret prayer** where the battle is won or lost (not in public).
- #2. It is in prayer that we gain **heaven's attention** and see God fight our battles.
- #3. It is praying in secret that will realize an **open reward**.
- #4. If we prostrate **ourselves** before the Lord, we will never be prostrated before **the enemy**.

(Case In Point: II Samuel 5:1-25)

"The Lord has broken forth as the breach of waters; therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim". (v.20)

Fact: In II Samuel the tribes of Israel came to Hebron to acknowledge David as king.

Fact: David makes a covenant with the elders. (v.3)

Fact: David leads for a total of 40 years. (v. 4,5)

Fact: David makes Jerusalem the capital of the nation. (v. 6,7)

Fact: David is making progress, (and so are you).

(And Then It Happens)

The Philistines become threatened and restless. (why?)

(Pg. 2 of 6)

Because David is faithful and about to experience a breakthrough:

A. The tribes are unified. B. The new location is established. C. The leader has been crowned.

(And In Chapter 6)

**David will gather 30,000 more men and restore the Ark as the center of worship
(But in between (chapter 5) and the great progress of (chapter 6),**

- ◆ The enemy comes in like a flood!
- ◆ The enemy attempts to intimidate David!
- ◆ The enemy tries to discourage the leader!
- ◆ The enemy barks out 3 lies to David and you!

“The Jebusites said, except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither, thinking David cannot come in”. (v.6)

“When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David...and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. (v. 17,18)

Fact: The enemy Jebusites were defiant idol worshipers.

Fact: The enemy Jebusites were in darkness, in Jerusalem a place of light.

Fact: The enemy wanted to impede the progress of Israel in Jerusalem.

The Enemy “Barks” 3 Lies To David (And You)

Lie #1. “You cannot have you inheritance”

“You can’t come in hither”. (v.6) (or, you cannot come into Jerusalem, restore holy worship and see revival).

Lie #2. “You cannot be strong-in-the Lord”

“For even the blind and the lame could impede and stop your progress”. (v.6) (or, you’ll never be able to withstand the enemy in the evil day of attack).

Lie #3. “Your victory (or loss) is determined by what you visibly see!”

“The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim” (or, the land of the giants) (v.18) Why? So David would see himself outnumbered and be afraid of what he visibly saw.

(Satan’s 3 Lies To You)

#1. “You cannot **obtain** your inheritance where God has placed you in your city”.

#2. “You cannot be **strong** in the Lord and overcome the wiles of the devil to detour you”.

#3. “Your victory (or defeat) is determined by what you visibly **see**” (when in fact your success or failure is determined by what goes on in the invisible world through your praying in secret).

Question: Has the enemy been whispering to you?

- ◆ “You’ll never see revival in **your town**.”
- ◆ “You’ll never see God’s glory in **your church**.”
- ◆ “You’ll never see your vision come to pass”.
- ◆ “You’ll never see the financial need met”.
- ◆ “You’ll never overcome the obstacles before you”.

Notice The "Bending" Leader

- ◆ "When David heard of it, he went down to the hold (cave of Adullam) (v. 17)
- ◆ "And David inquired of the Lord". (v. 19)

Fact: The Philistines and Jebusites are threatened in their idol worship.

Fact: As long as David only ruled over a single tribe he was of no threat to paganism.

Fact: Now the enemy comes up to remove David who threatens pagan darkness.

Question: What did David do when he heard the barking and saw the Philistines?

Answer: He went down to the cave, got alone with God and prayed!

David Asks Two Things In Prayer:

#1. "Shall I go up to the Philistines"? (v.19) #2. "Will you deliver them into my hand?" (v. 19)
(Which Means)

#1. "Lord, what do you want me to do"? (and) #2. "Lord, what are You going to do"?

"And The Lord Said Unto David..." (v. 19)

"...Go up, for "I will doubtless "deliver" (v.19)

"I will "doubtless" means: "Jesus Never Fails"

"Blessed Assurance"

"Victory In Jesus"

"How Great Thou Art"

- ◆ The Lord responded when David went to prayer!

See This Truth:

- ◆ If we are no threat to Satan's kingdom, why would he bother us?
- ◆ If we are not pursuing revival (with holy worship, pure preaching, obedient living) why would he bother us?

All Of Scripture Teaches Us:

- ◆ The greater your influence for God, the greater the increase of spiritual attack.
- ◆ So expect conflict, warfare, fiery darts, and hurdles to get over in your pursuit of revival.

And Remember:

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the secret to God's intervention is the "bending" of our knees.

Example: When the Assyrians attacked Jerusalem, Hezekiah went to prayer.

Example: When Sanballat mocked the Jews, Nehemiah went to prayer.

Example: When the Egyptians pursued Israel, Moses went to prayer.

Example: When the enemy withstood Persia, Daniel went to prayer.

Example: When Herod arrested Peter, the church went to prayer.

Question: How does God respond to the "bending" Christian?

With The "Break-Through" Of The Lord

"...The Lord hath "**broken forth**" upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters, therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim" (meaning "the place of break-through") (v. 20)

Fact: This is David's first victory as king of the new united kingdom

Fact: David calls the place of victory “Baalperazim” which means “The Lord who breaks-through”.

Question: What resulted from God breaking through?

Answer: The idols of satan were burned to ashes. (v. 21) **Why?**

- ◆ Because God can “break through” **anything** and **everything** that keeps you from making progress where God has sent you. (I repeat)

What Kind Of Breakthrough?

“...As the breach of waters” (v. 20).

What Is “A Breach Of Waters?”

1. It is like a dam bursting forth (like a gusher of hydropower)
2. It is like a sudden gushing of water out of the rock for Moses!
3. It is like a Holy Ghost outpouring upon His church!

Why The “Breakthrough?”

- ◆ Because God responds when we face the giants (and inquire of Him)!
- ◆ Because God’s power, authority and water is greater than every hindrance of the enemy in your soul, your life, your church and your community!

Fact: For months - David was on the run, facing the impossible, hearing enemy barking!

But God Said “You’ll Hear A Sound In The Mulberry Trees” (v. 24)

Which Means: “The Lord Is Going Out before You” (v. 24)

- ◆ You are in line for a “**breakthrough**”
- ◆ It’s on the schedule of the Lord!
- ◆ Listen for the sound of God speaking to you!

Conclusion

(Our people are in line for a spiritual “breakthrough”)

- ◆ A breakthrough in their prayer life, spiritual gifts and Pentecost again!
- ◆ A breakthrough in physical healings, souls saved and corporate prayer meetings!
- ◆ A breakthrough in vision and passion, idols and sin destroyed!

◆ **Yes, The Enemy Is Barking His Intimidation!**

◆ **But Yes, The Christian Can Be Bending In Prayer!**

◆ **And Yes, The Lord Will Breakthrough And Answer!**

WHY WE MUST LOVE TO PRAY (Top 12 Reasons)

- #1. Prayer is the communion of my soul with God.
- #2. To fail to pray, is to forfeit what prayer was meant to do.
- #3. All success in spiritual work is dependent upon prayer.
- #4. God has chosen to limit His activity to those who chose to pray.
- #5. Our influence on earth will be gauged by our praying towards heaven.
- #6. Prayer is my need connected with God's spiritual storehouse.
- #7. To be little with God in prayer is to be little for God in service.
- #8. If we prostrate ourselves before the Lord, we will never be prostrated before the enemy.
- #9. If we learn to wrestle with God in secret, we will never have to lower ourselves to wrestle with men in public.
- #10. The only thing that lies outside the power of prayer, is that which lies outside the will of God.
- #11. Prayer is the only road to tranquility, the only pathway to peace in my inner man.
- #12. Prayer is the breath of the soul; when I breathe I live, when I cease to breathe I die.

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

How shall my leaves fly singing in the wind, unless my roots shall wither in the dark?