

“... (Jesus) appointed ... seventy also, and sent them two and two before His Face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come. (He) therefore said unto them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: (you) pray therefore the LORD of the Harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His Harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves,’” Luke 10:1-3.

Dear Covenant Partner,

Last week, while watching a minister preaching on her web broadcast about warfare prayer, she made a statement that set me back in my chair as she instructed her congregation, “Don’t think that you can take on spiritual warfare with the evil spirits of authority (powers – principalities – etc.)! **You can’t handle it! I’ve been there and I know!**”

Ok – what about that statement doesn’t ring true? I think, to me, all of it. I ask you, “**If we, as God’s chosen Earthen Vessels and Warriors of the Cross, don’t engage in spiritual warfare prayer on behalf of our loved ones, our nation, and our self against evil powers, the effects (wages) of sin, satan’s rule in this world, and the attacks from the realms (powers) of spiritual authority, who will?**” The angels? The Holy Spirit? Jesus? Or Jehovah Himself? **NO!** The spiritual warfare prayer is in our ballpark, it is our calling, our duty, and not God’s. God turned the dominion of the world over to man; man gave it to satan. We are commanded to pray, “**Now we exhort you, brethren ... to pray without ceasing,**” 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 17. God fights (directs) the spiritual battles based upon our prayers, our faith, and our spoken words, but the warfare prayers and the battle’s victory are all ours! **God’s angels are dispatched and evil spirits are held at bay based upon our faith in the LORD and our faith-filled spoken works!**

One only has to look at the prayer life of Daniel to see the power of God when a person has an unceasing prayer life. (Daniel 6) *‘It pleased Darius, king of Babylon, to set over his kingdom 120 princes and over them, three presidents; of whom Daniel was first because an excellent spirit was within him. The princes and presidents sought to find fault against Daniel, but could not, forasmuch as he was faithful to his God and to his king. They conspired against Daniel and convinced Darius to issue a decree to punish by death in the lion’s den anyone worshipping any man or god other than King Darius. Knowing that the decree was signed into law, Daniel kneeled in his house before an open window in prayer to God giving thanks three times a day as he had done before the law was signed. The conspiring men brought Daniel before Darius challenging the king to throw Daniel to the lions. Darius regretted his decree, but complied with the demand of the jealous princes and rulers by putting Daniel into the lion’s den, closing the den with a large stone and sealing it shut with his royal seal. Running to the lion’s den early the next morning without any sleep that night, Darius called to Daniel behind the large stone that was sealed only to be surprised when he heard Daniel’s reply, “O King, live forever. My God has sent His angels this night and they have shut the lion’s mouths! I have not been hurt because I am innocent before the LORD and before you, my King.” Daniel was released from the lion’s den and everyone that conspired against him was thrown to the lions along with their families.’ (Paraphrased)*

Over the years we have spoken a lot about prayer. That is because, in my humble opinion, **prayer is the single most important action a person (Christian or non-Christian) can do**, second only to receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and even that is accomplished through the prayer (spoken words) of the sinner. I must admit that is a pretty strong statement. But here it is a little stronger, “**The LORD WILL hear and WILL FORGIVE a sinner’s prayer of repentance!!! “If we confess our sins, (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,”** 1 John 1:9. Take that to the bank.

With that being said, let me ask you, “**Will God hear and answer EVERY prayer of a sinner?**” Yes, and maybe. Don’t jump off of the fence yet, but let’s talk about **John 9:31** which some people use to justify unanswered prayers. It states, “**Now we know that God heareth not sinners ...**,” according to this one verse, and only this verse, God WILL NOT hear the prayers of a sinner or a sinful person. If that were true, none of us would be saved, healed, delivered, or have our needs met! So, what’s the deal? As with every other verse in the Bible, a single Scripture does not – cannot – stand alone, but the meaning and understanding of a verse must be in total context (reference) with the rest of God’s Word, both Old and New Testament. Reading **John 9**, we see that verse **31** was spoken by the sinful blind man who had been healed by Jesus. The healed man spoke to the Pharisees concerning his healing, testifying that the Words of Jesus were heard by God because Jesus was a righteous man before God and not of his own sinful actions or words. The healed man was testifying as a sinful man who had been healed by Jesus, and was not speaking as a prophet, preacher, teacher or learned man of God, nor of God’s inability or lack of desire to hear and answer prayers of the unrighteous.

We know that God has said in His Word, thus giving His guarantee, that **He WILL** hear and answer the prayer of repentance of the lost because Jesus bore and paid for our sins when He died on the Cross! We read in **Jonah 3** that the king of Nineveh turned from evil and commanded his nation to turn from evil. God saw their repentance and stayed His judgement for their sins. Answering non-salvation (repentance) prayers of the non-believer or of one living in sin falls under God’s Mercy, Grace, Compassion, and Love. God loves everyone and can/will show Mercy upon whom He chooses to show Mercy! An example of His Mercy for unrighteousness is the many times God heard and answered the cries of the sinful Israelites when they were in bondage and cried out to Him for help, even though they had sinned and turned their backs on God.

Some might say that God answered the cries of Israel only because of the Covenant He had made with Abram, and there is

some truth to that, but now, the prayers and cries of the lost go deeper because of God's New Covenant made with Jesus, ***"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same LORD over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved,"***

Romans 10:10-13.

If prayer is that important, and it is, then it behooves us as believers to learn as much about prayer as we can in order for us to live a more blessed and peaceable life, much less, be effective and powerful prayer warrior against evil spirits, sickness, and disease. And then, to practice (or pray) according to what we have learned and as we are led by God's Holy Spirit.

Have you ever expressed a need to a friend, wanting them to pray for you or your need and their response was, *"Oh, we need to ask brother, or sister, so-and-so to pray. They really know how to pray for a need like that,"* or *"They really have faith for that type of need,"* or *"Yeah, I'll put that on my prayer list."* I have, and in a way, it set me back a little thinking that my friend really didn't have the faith, didn't know how, or just didn't want to pray for my need. We have many people call, text, email, or write asking for prayer for a special need and we hold them up in prayer. When we ask others to pray, it is because we want (need) an answer, many times, right now. We ask because we need a prayer warrior to come alongside us, joining us in faith for the movement of the Holy Spirit on behalf of the need.

Looking again at this preacher's statement for a moment and when Jesus dispatched seventy disciples, here's one thing I see. I believe that she went into spiritual battle by herself. Jesus sent the seventy into unknown areas two-by-two. Meaning, if you are going physically or spiritually into the enemy's camp or territory, you don't go by yourself unless know how to use our God-given spiritual weapons and there is no one to stand with you. ***"Again, I say to you, that if two of you shall agree on Earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them,"***

Matthew 18:19-20.

Many times, I have been called to pray for the sick, oppressed, or even the possessed. Responding to the request, ***WE*** have always gone as a prayer team, one to pray, and one to agree and support (backup) in prayer. ***"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the ELDERS of the church; and let THEM pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord (Jesus Christ),"*** James 5:14.

You may be asking yourself (or me) *"Why are we talking about prayer? I have walked with the LORD for years and am well acquainted with prayer."* To that I reply, *"Praise God and thank You LORD for Your faithful praying children!"* However, many don't know much about prayer and most who do, do not spend enough time in prayer, before the LORD. Even the Apostles asked Jesus, ***"... Lord, teach us how to pray just as John (the Baptist) taught his disciples how to pray ...,"*** Luke 11:1.

We have often printed a prayer in our letters that was being prayed for you as I typed the words while praying. We also have several good Gospel Tract that are prayers. One of the most famous Old Testament prayers is the prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:10) which I pray with a twist, my prayer is to ***expand my borders and boundaries to further the Kingdom of God and bring***

Glory to His Name! Not for my gain, but for His. Is reading a prayer the same as praying? Yes and No. It's OK to read a prayer as a prayer, if you don't know how to pray, and only if YOU READ IT AS A PRAYER FROM YOUR HEART. Just reading words of a printed prayer or reciting the words of a prayer from memory does not constitute praying with any power if your spoken words are from your mind and not from your heart in faith!

Any and every good prayer comes from the Throne of God, through His Holy Spirit. Yes, for the most part, we pray from our mind, but it must come through our heart. Too many times, our prayers are only from our mind as pertaining to the need or reason for our praying, much like praying for all of the missionaries around the world instead of just the meal we are about to eat. However, if you are walking in righteousness, and therefore praying in faith, your prayers can be, will be, led by the Holy Spirit. Meaning, the Holy Spirit will speak to you and pray through you. This is important as He knows how and what to pray for, far above and beyond the knowledge of our fleshly mind. Many times, I have been praying with someone when I realize that the words coming out of my mouth were not coming from my conscious thoughts but from rather my thoughts were being led and directed by the Holy Spirit and were a physical and spiritual blessing to the ears of the person being prayed for, while the words were releasing spiritual power in the spiritual realm. ***A prayer full of power doesn't need to be long or loud, only spoken in faith.***

Our world is in trouble because our nation is in trouble, our nation is in trouble because our churches are in trouble, our churches are in trouble because our families are in trouble, and our families are in trouble because Christian Believers are spending less time on their knees, humbling themselves before the Throne of Grace in faith praying and worshipping before the Creator of the world. Many have forsaken any time before the LORD until there is an emergency or death of a loved one. The LORD said ***"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,"*** Ezekiel 22:30.

Please remember Gospel Tract Society in your prayers as we are facing many new challenges in 2024, and we are excited for what God is going to do this year for His Kingdom. We are getting more and more requests for God's Written Word in Gospel Tracts and Gospel comic books, which is great and an answer to prayer as we strive to meet the needs of the lost, hungry, and hurting. We have a small but wonderful, dedicated, and hard-working staff and volunteers (on site and remote) who are passionate about the LORD and His ministry, but we ***urgently*** need a part-time press operator to run our ***Ryobi*** and ***Jet*** presses to print Gospel Tracts. We need finances to pay for the thousands and thousands of Gospel Tracts and books that have been ordered. We need the continuing anointing, guidance, strength, wisdom, and protection from God's Holy Spirit to fulfill God's Call upon our lives to publish His Word and send His Gospel Message to every creature through the printed page, throughout the world.

To God be all the Praise, Honor, and Glory!! Amen and amen!
Your Covenant Brother In Jesus Christ, Our Lord And Savior,

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