
Church in Campbell Weekly News

February 6, 2011 Issue 11- 06

The Prayer Ministry of the Church – Chap. 4

The Bible contains a most lofty and spiritual prayer. But few people pray this prayer, and few pay attention to it. What is this prayer? It is the "prayer of authority." We know that there are prayers of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, supplicating prayers, and begging prayers. But few of us know that there is a prayer of authority. 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.

Brothers and sisters, if you want to be a man of prayer, you have to learn to pray with authority. This kind of prayer is described by the Lord in Matthew 18:18. "Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven." In this verse, there is a prayer that is called a binding prayer and a prayer that is called a loosing prayer. The move in heaven is dependent on the move on earth. Heaven listens to the earth and obeys the command of the earth. Whatever the earth binds will be bound in heaven, and whatever the earth looses will be loosed in heaven. The earth does not pray; it binds and looses. This is to pray with authority.

Isaiah 45:11 has the phrase, "Command Me." How can we command God? This appears too presumptuous. But this is God's own word. We cannot give excuse to the flesh, but this shows us a commanding prayer, a prayer in the form of an order. As far as God is concerned, we can order Him, and we can command Him. Everyone who endeavors to learn to pray must learn this kind of prayer.

We can consider the story in Exodus 14. When Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt to the Red Sea, trouble arose. Before them was the Red Sea, and behind them were the armies of the Egyptians. They were caught between two perils. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians approaching, they were afraid. On the one hand, they implored the Lord. On the other hand, they murmured against Moses. What did Moses do? From God's answer, we know that Moses was pleading. God said to Moses, "Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea" (vv. 15-16). The rod which God gave Moses was a symbol of His authority. He was telling Moses that he could pray with authority; there was no need to cry out to Him. Once there was the commanding prayer, He would carry out the work. Moses was learning, and he eventually learned, to pray with authority, that is, to pray the commanding prayer.

At what point did this kind of commanding prayer begin for Christians?

This kind of prayer began from the time the Lord ascended to the heavenlies. Ascension is very much related to our Christian life. How are these two things related? Ascension makes us victorious. The death of Christ dealt with the old creation in Adam, while resurrection brought us into the new creation. Ascension secured a new position for us before Satan; it is not a new position before God. A new position before God was secured through the Lord's resurrection, while a new position before Satan was secured through the Lord's ascension. Ephesians 1:20-22 says that when Christ ascended, God caused Him to sit at His right hand and made Him "far

above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come." Furthermore, God "subjected all things under His feet." When Christ ascended, He opened up a way through "the air" to the heavenlies. From that day on, His church has been able to go from the earth to the heavenlies. We know that spiritual enemies dwell in "the air." But today Christ has ascended to the heavenlies. A way from the earth to the heavenlies is now opened. This way was originally blocked by Satan. Now Christ has opened up a way to the heavenlies and has transcended far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come. This is Christ's position today. In other words, God has put Satan and his subjects under Christ's feet; all things are under His feet.

There is a difference between the meaning of ascension and the meaning of death and resurrection. Death and resurrection are for redemption, while ascension is for warfare; it is to execute what death and resurrection have accomplished. Ascension makes it possible to manifest the new position. Thank the Lord that Ephesians 2:6 tells us that God has "raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus." Brothers and sisters, have we seen what God has done for us? In chapter one Christ ascended to be far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come. In chapter two we are seated with Him in the heavenlies. This means that the church also has transcended far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Thank God that this is a fact. 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.

We have to pay attention to Ephesians 1, 2, and 6. Chapter one shows us the position of Christ. Chapter two shows us the church's position in Christ. Chapter six shows us what the church should do after it has acquired its position in Christ. Chapter one is on Christ in the heavenlies. Chapter two is on the church being in the heavenlies together with Christ. Chapter six is on spiritual warfare. God has made the church sit together with Christ in the heavenlies. But the church does not sit there forever; God also causes it to stand. Hence, chapter two mentions sitting, while chapter six mentions standing; we stand in our position in the heavenlies. "For our wrestling is...against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies...and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:12-13). Our warfare is against the demons. Hence, it is a spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:18-19 says, "By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints, and for me." This is a prayer concerning spiritual warfare. This kind of prayer is different from ordinary prayer. Ordinary prayer is directed from earth to heaven. But the prayer here is not from earth to heaven; it begins from a

heavenly position and goes from heaven to earth. A prayer with authority has heaven as its starting point and the earth as its destination. In other words, a prayer with authority is prayed from heaven to earth. Everyone who knows how to pray knows what it is to pray upward and what it is to pray downward. If a man has never learned the prayer that prays downward, he has never learned to pray with authority. In the spiritual warfare, the kind of prayer that prays downward is very important. What is a prayer that prays downward? It is to stand in the position that Christ has given us in the heavenlies, to command Satan with authority and reject all his works, and to proclaim with authority that all God's commands should be accomplished. If we pray for a realization of God's will and a decision concerning it, we should not say, "God, I ask You to accomplish this." Rather, we should say, "God, You have to do this. You have to accomplish this. No matter what happens, You must fulfill this work." This is a commanding prayer, a prayer with authority.

The meaning of the word amen is not "so be it" or "may it be so," but "it will be so" and "it will surely come to pass." When you pray and I say amen, I am saying that things will turn out according to the way you pray. Events must transpire this way, and your prayer will be answered. This is a commanding prayer, a prayer of command that issues from faith. We can say this because we have a heavenly standing. We were brought to our heavenly standing when Christ ascended to the heavenlies. As soon as Christ ascended to the heavenlies, we were there also. This is like saying that as soon as Christ died and resurrected, we died and resurrected. Brothers and sisters, we must see the heavenly position of the church. Satan begins his work by trying to take away our position in the heavenlies. The heavenly position is a position of victory. As long as we stand in that position, we have 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. Satan will tell us that we are on earth. If we agree with him that we are on earth, we will be defeated. Satan will try to frustrate us by our defeat and make us think that we are indeed on earth. But if we stand up and declare, "Christ is in the heavenlies, and we are also in the heavenlies," and hold onto our position in the heavenlies, we will overcome. Hence, it is a big thing to stand in the right position.

A prayer with authority has the position of being in the heavenlies as its basis. Since the church is in the heavenlies with Christ, it can pray with authority.

GTCA - Bloomington, Illinois

<http://gtca.us/reports/page/2/>

"Jehovah—His way is in the whirlwind and in the storm."—Nahum 1:3. Despite a historic blizzard and the closing of local colleges, the Lord is still sovereign! We really feel He has used even the most adverse conditions to arrange key appointments at the strategic beginning of our trip here.

Before the Bloomington team arrived, nearby saints came to a local Walmart to pass out Bibles. Of the 100 Bibles passed out on Saturday, 67 expressed interest in further contact. So, even though our plans were delayed, Bibles have already gotten out, and many are awaiting contact. We used the downtime from the storm to begin making phone calls, and sending e-mails, getting some positive responses, and setting up appointments.

During our first dinner in Bloomington, we noticed a man at a restaurant with a heavily used Bible. He is the leader of a local youth group and was very excited about our visit and eager to help us in any way possible. The following morning, he returned to the place where we had met him, believing the Spirit would lead him to have

fellowship with us. Shortly thereafter, we contacted him and joined him for three hours of fellowship together. Since the previous night, he had already read two of the three volumes of Basic Elements of the Christian Life and was very excited to bring the ministry to his youth group. He particularly enjoyed the matter of the human spirit and said, "This is the meat that these young people need." He has invited us to his youth group next Wednesday to present the Recovery Version and the ministry.

Meanwhile, as campuses were closed, some of the brothers on the team dispersed to local coffee shops to give out Bibles and make phone calls to earlier recipients. One of the first people they called was a brother who has read Watchman Nee exhaustively and enjoyed the ministry for years. He was so excited that we were in town that he repeated, "I just can't believe you are calling! I can't believe you are in Bloomington!" This month, he had already determined to begin meeting as a local church according to the ministry and had tried to book our same hotel for his meeting place. He was so eager to meet with us that he immediately drove through the blizzard to have several hours of fellowship. He desires to distribute 1,000 copies of the New Testament Recovery Version.

Some team members were able to visit the dorms at Illinois State University to have Bible studies with a couple of young sisters and their friends. We are seeking a way to set up Bible distribution tables in the lobbies of the dorms.

So, although we have had only one day for "distribution," and although the city has been shut down in the blizzard, we have seen the Lord sovereignly arrange these strategic appointments, and we hope that these will be fruitful remaining contacts for the Lord.

Burdens for Church Prayers

- For GTCA burden, especially for saints' participation in the move in Stockton and San Luis Obispo.
- For daily exercises in God's ordained way training: Personal contact with the Lord, Pursuing the truth, Participating in the study group, Praying with companions and in the church prayer meeting, Prophesying on the Lord's day and Going to the meetings on time.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.
- For young people that they would have morning revival, pursue the truth and become gospel seeds on campus.
- Pray for 8 points for GTCA, <http://beseeching.org/8-points-of-prayer-from-special-prayer-time-jan-17-18/>

Announcement

- Morning Revival: The prayer of Intercession, week 6.
- Prayer meeting will be held at Tai's house (12137 Kristy lane, Saratoga, CA 95070), starting at 7:30 pm.
- GTCA on two weekends 2/5-6, 2/12-13, Please register via brother Peter Liu.
- 2011 International Chinese Speaking Conference will be held on 2/18-20 in Anaheim, CA. SC has bus each person \$50 round trip with 2 meals.
- GOW training, extra material purchase, please register with brother Mark, \$12.5 per copy.
- Spring Young People Conference (3/18-20) Please register via brother Ezra Tai.