Prayers That Change Things

Helping Others In Their Battles

January 13, 2019
Prayers That Change Things

When we pray, we must remember:

1. The love of God that wants the best for us.
2. The wisdom of God that knows what is best for us.
3. The power of God that can accomplish it.

-- William Barclay

If We Want The Love, Wisdom & Power Of God In Our Lives & In The Lives Of Others -- We Must Pray And Intercede
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- The Prayer Of Intercession Gives The Warring Soldier Fighting Power
  
  (1 Tim 2:1 NIV) I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—(2) for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

- Peaceful And Godly Lives Are Lives Of Victory-- To Have A Victory There Has To Be A Battle -- Fought & Won

- Intercession Is An Element Of Victory In Warfare.
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• **Intercession Is “Battling Prayer”**

• **It is Marching Into Enemy Territory & Taking Ground From The Enemy On Someone Else’s Behalf**

• *(Mat 11:12 NIV)* From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.
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- When We Intercede, We Stand Before God On Behalf Of The Person We Are Praying For –and-- We Stand Between The Enemy And The Person For Whom We Are Praying.

- Intercession is “Covering Someone” -- Picking Off The Enemy’s Fire So They Can Keep Advancing

- (EPH. 6:12 HCSB) For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.
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• **Intercession Requires The Help Of The Holy Spirit**

  * (Rom 8:26 NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

• **We Need Intercession So That We Can Stay On The Attack And Advance The Kingdom Of Heaven**
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- (Exo 17:8-15 NIV) The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. (9) Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." (10) So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill
(11) As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. (12) When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset.
(13) So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. (14) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." (15) Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.
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- *Israel Wasn’t Looking For The Battle*
  *The Battle Came To Them*

- *We Can’t Avoid Battles – We Must Fight Them*
**Prayers That Change Things**

- **Joshua** = The Commander In Chief In Training

- God Often Uses Experiences Early In Our Lives For Later Use In His Kingdom

- **Moses** = The Leader Of Israel

- He Knows That No Worthwhile Victory's Are Accomplished Without Prayer And Fierce Fighting
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- The Staff That He Lifted Up In The Midst Of The Battle Praying Was As An Indicator To Israel That God Was Going With Them

**WHY HOLD UP THE STAFF?**
- As A Banner of Encouragement: "God Is With Us"
- An Appeal, A Reminder -- A Call Out To God.
- "God We Can't Go On Without You."

- Moses Interceded -- Pleading With God For Success And Victory
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• **During Midst Of Battle:** Moses Got Tired
• **There's A Strain In Spiritual Battle**
  
  • Whenever Moses Lifted His Hands And Stayed In Prayer There Was Victory.
  
  • When He Got Tired And His Arms Lowered, There Was Defeat

• **If Only Someone Could Intercede On His Behalf... Along Came Aaron And Hur!**
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- Aaron And Hur Helped Moses In His Praying
- They Helped To Hold Up His Arms
- They Helped Him To Hold High That Banner
- Without Their Prayers And Support The Battle Would Be Lost
Intercession Is A Type Of Prayer -- Requesting God’s Move For Others -- It Is Coming To God On Behalf Of Another

Intercession = Inter -- “Between” & Cedere -- “To Go”

(Ezek 22:30 NIV) "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

We Can Trust God To Meet The Needs Of Others Just As He Does Our Own.
How Long Could You Keep Your Arms Raised?

God's Spiritual Leader Can Pray And Hold Up The Equipment God Gives To Him

He Needs To Know That There Are Faithful, Stable, Sacrificial Believers Who Are There To Prop Up His Arms In The Midst Of A Battle
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- **Tough Times Call For Our Close Friends – To Pray With Us & For Us**
  - *(Mark 14:33 NIV)* He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

- **Jesus In The Time Of Crisis Called On His Closest Friends To Pray With Him**

- **“Weep With Those Who Weep” And “Bear One Another’s Burdens”**
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- We Need To Be Willing To Pray For Each Other

- Church Life Is So Important Because We Need Some People In Our Corner In This Life

- Who Will Pray With You And For You In The Time Of Crisis
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• **Without The Intercessors The Battle May Be Lost.**

• **MARK BUNTAIN:** “God doesn’t need a church with more equipment or machinery. He needs men and women who will pray.”

• “There is a time and place for individual, private prayer; but there is also a time for the whole Church to shoulder the burdens (OF ONE ANOTHER...)

— Robert L. Brandt and Zenas J. Bicket
Prayers That Change Things

- **Christ --Our Joshua**, The Captain Of Our Salvation, Who Fights Our Battles For Us
- Communication With Our Captain is by Prayer
- It Is Essential To Get Directives From The Captain Of The Hosts
- Prayer Is Two-Way Communication With God Our Commander In Chief
- No Soldier In The Lord's Army Can Fight Effectively Without Prayer
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- **Christ Our Moses**: Is Ever Making Intercession That Our Faith Will Not Fail.

- A Fighter and Intercessor is Found in Christ

- **Today We Are In Midst Of Battles -- Without Jesus As Fighter & Jesus As Intercessor We Will Not Be Victorious**
There Are Openings In The Lord's Army For Some “Aaron’s & Hur’s”

- People Who Know That The Battle Depends On Them; And That Without Their Support, Victory Will Be Elusive.

- This Is What Battle Is About Today: INTERCESSION

- Pray For Others As You Wish Others Would Pray For You