

THINE IS THE KINGDOM

I. Explain the Reasons for a Prayer

A. Paul called believers to set their common cause before God. “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye ***strive together with me in your prayers to God*** for me;” (Romans 15:30)

B. Thinking through a prayer and organizing the reasons for the request refines the person making the prayer; why should God be interested in what is being asked? “***Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.***” (Psalm 143:10)

C. Appeal for answers in terms of grace. “And ***I prayed*** unto the LORD my God, ***and made my confession***, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;” (Daniel 9:4)

D. Prayer ought to be a form of profession of faith. “O Lord, ***righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces***, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, *that are near, and that are far off*, through all the countries ***whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.*** O Lord, to us *belongeth* confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because ***we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses***, though we have rebelled against him;” (Daniel 9:7-9)

E. God’s gracious provision for those He has redeemed is the only sure platform for prayer and the only basis for expecting God will listen to the appeals of sinners. “O Lord, ***according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee***, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people *are become* a reproach to all *that are* about us. Now therefore, O our God, ***hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord’s sake.*** O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for ***we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.*** O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.” (Daniel 9:16-19)

II. Frame the Request in the Right Attitude

A. God would rather have His children ask than worry. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing ***by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.***” (Philippians 4:6)

B. God has what ever it takes to manage prayer requests; acknowledge just how capable God is of answering any request which He chooses to answer. “Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, ***Blessed be thou, LORD*** God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. ***Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*** Both riches and honour come of thee, and ***thou reignest over all***; and ***in thine hand is power and might***, and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, ***we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.***” (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

C. Present the entire matter before God, remembering that He can answer far beyond a believer's capacity to ask; do not underestimate God's gracious providence . "Now unto *him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think*, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him *be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*" (Ephesians 3:20-21)

D. Real fathers do not short change their children; it is disrespectful to expect less than the best from God. "*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*" (Luke 11:13)

III. Express Confidence in Prayer

A. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Matthew 6:13b) "And said, O LORD God of our fathers, *art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?*" (2 Chronicles 20:6)

B. The power of those who oppose the people of God is derivative and inherently limited; let the power and the glory of God encourage each prayer. "Behold, *I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.*" (2 Chronicles 20:11)

C. Human probabilities and assets are irrelevant when consulting the Lord of Reality; for God all problems and all requests are small matters. "And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, *it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power*: help us, O LORD our God; for *we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude*. O LORD, thou *art* our God; **LET NOT MAN PREVAIL AGAINST THEE." (2 Chronicles 14:11)**

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