

## Prayer

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### Why Bother To Pray

Turn to 1 John 5:14-15. This has been our theme the last four weeks.

1. The average American Christian spends 7 minutes a day, praying and they spend 23 hours a week in front of the television.

When Jesus ascended to sit on the right hand of God, He said to all of us:

- Go lay hands on the sick
- Go cast out devils
- And lead people to Me

Why is this? That I'm not seeing the work Jesus gave me.

#### **1 John 5:14 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup> And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

- He says, we can have complete confidence that if we know His will → He hears us.

#### **1 John 5:15 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

If it's this simple, why is it we are not spending more time in prayer?

John Wesley over 170 years ago said this:

- "God does nothing on this earth save to answering a believing prayer"

This is my belief:

2. Our decision to pray or not to pray can literally influence **history**.
3. God put **limits** on Himself concerning the affairs of the earth, to working through **human beings**.
4. As always, God makes the decision in Heaven and then He calls a man or a woman to **enforce** that decision on earth through **prayer** and **faith**.

## **Genesis 1:26**

Dominion – means to **prevail** against and or to **rule**.

Understand God did not **give up** the ownership of the earth – God **kept** the ownership; it belongs to **Him**.

However, He did assign **responsibility** of governing it to **humanity**.

Then something happened – the **fall** of man.

Satan came, **deceived** Adam, and took the **authority** and **dominion** away from Adam.

## **Luke 4:5**

## Luke 4:6

Authority – means delegated authority delivered to me – means – was **surrendered** to me.

## Luke 4:7

- \* What made Jesus laugh – kind of like you telling your landlord, come cut my grass and I will give you the rent.
  - Jesus is not going to worship Satan; Jesus is the **Creator**.
  - Jesus said in less than three years, I'm going to take this **authority** back anyways – it's mine anyway
- 5. Jesus had to become a part of the **human race** because humans will forever be God's **link** to authority, and decision and activity on the earth.

## John 12:31

- Cast means **expelled**

He is telling the disciples what you will see will be very **discouraging** – He will be beaten, bloodied, and die.

But, in the spiritual realm, he (Satan) is cast out, and this scripture we have **forgotten**.
- 6. I believe the Church is waiting for Jesus to return to put Satan under His feet – when it has **already happened**.
  - \* The only influence Satan has is what we have **given** him.

7. 2,000 years ago, Satan was put under the feet of Jesus and the only authority he walks in is what we **give** him.

What Jesus is saying in John 12:31: There has been a long conflict between the powers of light and darkness. Satan has so effectively ruled that may be said to be the prince of this world. My approaching death will destroy His kingdom. It will break down his power and will be the means of setting up the kingdom of God over man.

8. You gained more through **Jesus** than you lost through **Adam**.

Jesus fulfilled the law:

- He came to give us **grace**
- He came to give us **forgiveness**
- He came to give us **healing**
- He came to give us **intimacy** with the Father.

\* You have more intimacy with God, the Father right now than Adam and Eve ever had – because you can be with Him **every** day, **all** day.

Let's fast-forward:

- Jesus now has **left**
- Jesus said you don't have to give the Devil an **inch**

9. The power of the early church was not facility, etc., but it was **fervent** prayer and Jesus taught them how to pray: **ask** – **seek** - **knock**

Bottom line: if you pray, I will do it and if you don't, I promise you nothing.

If you pray, I will give you all that pertain to life and godliness – the decision in Heaven is **yes** and **amen**.