

The Weapon of Prayer

6-4-17

3. Hotline to Heaven Genesis 1:26

1. **Genesis 1:26-27** 'image' we are made in the image of God – what an honor; 'image' replica, resemblance, essential nature, Adam looked like God
 - a. **(Psalm 8:6 S1)** God gave man authority on the earth – the Law of First Mention
 - 'dominion' rule, reign, manage, Adam was God's representative, so are we
2. **(Psalm 115:16 S2)** 'the earth He has given to man'
3. **Genesis 2:15** 'keep' guard, protect – man was to be God's guardian of the earth
 - a. man did not have ownership of the earth, but God assigned the responsibility of governing earth to humanity
 - b. humanity was in charge – if earth remained paradise it would be because man was in charge; if it got messed up it would be because man was in charge
 - c. **(Genesis 2:19)** Adam named the animals – God honored what he called them
 - d. **all of the authority that can be exercised upon the earth has to be exercised through the church because Christ is not here; we are His representatives**
 - e. not once is the Church told to pray that God or Jesus would do anything against the devil – we are told to do something about the devil and we have the authority to do it

4. the Lord Jesus and Prayer **(John 11:41-42 S3)**

- a. Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus – He had absolute faith in His prayers. Part of the reason was His intimate fellowship (prayer) with His Father
5. **(Matthew 20:28)** He came to serve; **(John 6:38; John 12:49-50)** Jesus came to do His Father's will, say what His Father told Him; Jesus had to fellowship with His Father to do all of this
6. **(Luke 5:12)** He would pray all night; **(Mark 1:35, 38-39)** He'd get up early to pray and be prepared for the day's ministry + remove the pain/emotions inflicted by the religious leaders; **(John 16:32)** Jesus not alone, the Father's with Him; incredible, intimate fellowship (us too)

B. Scriptural Prayer Defined

1. **(I John 1:3 S4)** Prayer is fellowshiping with the Father and the Lord Jesus to develop closeness, trust and dependence

2. Prayer is our spirit contacting our heavenly Father (spirit to Spirit); He is a real Person with feelings and desires a close relationship with you
3. time with God in prayer develops intimacy, closeness, love and trust - ie David; we develop His character (His love and the Holy Spirit is in you)
4. we talk to Him sincerely out of our hearts with love, appreciation, devotion and faith
5. **I Peter 2:9** Prayer is representing people before God; prayer is a seeing a need and asking God to meet it - yours/others; prayer is facing God confidently with man's needs and God's promise to meet them
6. **(2 Corinthians 6:1 S5)** Prayer is cooperating with God; God rules through us
7. God made us His sons gave us His name to use restored what Adam lost gave us His authority put His love in us put His Spirit in us empowers us by His Spirit made us righteous ambassadors told us to preach, cast out demons, heal the sick
 - a. did He do all that for you to do nothing with it? -- prayer the key for us to do all of this
 - b. prayer reaches the uttermost parts of the earth – Purcell ‘prayer is the original radio’

Things to Know About Prayer 1. **John 16.23-24** NT prayer - to the Father in Jesus' name

2. **(Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:12, John 17:18)** Prayer is taking Jesus' place
 - a. acting in His stead; joining forces with God; carrying out His will on earth, taking our place in the BC
3. Relationship & fellowship; relationship eternal, permanent; fellowship up to you
4. we come to know God thru His Word and prayer - Word is our prayer Book
5. **(Mark 11:24 S7)** prayer is the voice of faith to the Father **(Hebrews 11:6)**
 - a. nothing is beyond the reach of prayer because God is the focus of prayer
6. **(Matthew 6:7 S8)** do not use vain repetitions
7. speak your own words to Him it helps stay focused
8. if your mind wanders bring it back - you will get better if want to
9. prayer also means listening; prayer is a 2 way conversation
10. experiences/answered prayer also help to develop your prayer life – have a grateful heart
11. it is not polite to go to God only to get something
 - a. initially He understands - eventually wants to fellowship with you
13. God has a plan for each of us; He has no useless parts of the BC; prayer vital for each of us
14. **(Psalm 66:18 S9)** sin hinders intimacy - as you attempt to draw close you will sense need to confess and repent of any sin; He does this to help not condemn; He wants you free to pray