

Prevailing Prayer

I'm convinced that our greatest need today is powerful, persistent, passionate, **prevailing prayer**. The need is far greater than most of God's people realise. The moral fibre of our nation has crumbled. Real love and compassion have become almost non-existent. Confusion, greed and upheaval have swept across nations like a tidal wave. If you remember nothing else from this message, please remember this: "When prayer fails, Satan prevails." The demons of hell rejoice when the child of God is prayer-less. Satan knows well that prayerless Christians are powerless Christians.

There is a wonderful story in **Exodus 17:8-16** that demonstrates the principle of prevailing prayer. *"Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand'. So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, **when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.** But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven'. And Moses built an altar and called its name, *The-Lord-Is-My-Banner*; for he said, 'Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation'."*

Notice in verse 12, *"Moses' arms finally became too heavy...."* This struck me because I had always assumed that tiredness was the (only) reason Moses had put his hands down. But in fact Moses lowered his hands before verse 12 and it was not tiredness. Moses held up the staff, and when Israel had the advantage, he thought it would be OK to put his hands down. But when he did, of course, the Amalekites gained the upper hand. So Moses immediately put his hands and the staff of God back up. Then the battle turned in Israel's favour again.

How many times Moses did this we don't know. But I believe it must have been a least a couple of times for Moses to begin to see the pattern and understand that he had to keep his hands and the staff of the Lord up 'all the time'. Later, when Moses finally did get tired, Aaron and Hur came and stood along side Moses to help him. I want you to understand, Moses lowered his hands for the very same reason many of us stop praying - in the natural we see things improving, the battle turning our way, a positive change in circumstances etc., and so we think it is OK to lower our prayer commitment. We fail to realise that contained in our prayers (like in Moses hands), it is God's staff, God's banner, God's insignia, God's standard, and God's authority.

Like Moses, we need to learn to **prevail** in prayer. That is, to pray until God gives us total victory. Yes, we all need to see the need for prevailing prayer! Otherwise we will only see partial breakthroughs. The victory appears to be there, so we stop praying. For a while it seems like battle is won and then the enemy gains the upper hand again. *"I thought I got the victory in that area?"* In reality you received 'A' victory but not 'THE' victory. If you desire to receive THE victory you must outlast the battle in prayer.

Matthew 11:12, “.....**The Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people attack it.**”

At times we are too passive with our spiritual enemies, too gracious. God wants to totally crush and utterly destroy the evil forces that are trying to keep us from Himself and fulfilling what He has destined for us. We need to prevail in prayer for total victory - and nothing less!

Back to our opening scripture... Moses fights the Amalakites and gets the victory by **prevailing**. In a separate incident Gideon fights the Amalakites who have joined the Midianites with 300 men. The battle is theirs, however, notice in Judges 8:4 that Gideon then crossed the Jordan River with his 300 men, and though they were exhausted, they continued to chase the enemy. Now let us go to the time of King Saul (1 Samuel 15:1-3). One day Samuel said to Saul, “I anointed you king of Israel because the Lord told me to. Now listen to this message from the Lord! This is what the Lord Almighty says: *‘I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. Now go and **completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation**—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys.’*” Saul’s mission is clear – “*completely destroy the Amalekites.*”

For those who know the story, Saul does obtain a victory but he does not fully obey the Lord’s commands and keeps some of the plunder. A key to prevailing prayer is obedience. 100% obedience! Remember the above example - the king did not fully obey, he only went part of the way. Saul obeyed 99% and it had drastic consequences for his reign and kingdom. Prevailing prayer is to obey God all the way, until the very end, until there is **total victory!**

If you continued to read the word of God and arrived at Esther, you’d find that the enemy of God’s people was Haman the Agagite. The Bible commentators say Haman was a descendant of King Agag - of the Amalakites. The people who Saul was told to completely destroy. You need obey God, also prevail in prayer, so that total victory is established! Your future depends on this! Your future can be decided by your prayers!

There are many different types of prayers and many different ways to pray. This is why we’ve been focusing on **prevailing prayer** - prayer that gets results. Under this heading there are two main ways to pray; the prayer of intercession and the prayer of faith. But there is a third, and in this session we will be examining what it is to pray in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit has always been a very controversial subject and probably needs clarification from the church leadership.

Prayer is a command of God, and is to be practised both in public and in private. Yes, such a command brings those that have the heart to pray, into great intimacy with God; and the **prevailing prayer** will receive great things from God, both for the person that prayed, and for those that are being prayed for. Prayer is the highest form of speech because it opens the heart of God, and it is a means by which the empty soul can be filled. By prayer every believer can open his heart to God, as to a friend, and obtain fresh evidence of God’s great love and friendship toward him.

Let us now look at some of the scriptures that refer to praying in the Spirit: *“But you, beloved, build up yourselves on your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for*

the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 20-21

"Praying in the Spirit at all times with every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

"For he that speaks in a tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him; however, in the Spirit he speaks mysteries." 1 Corinthians 14:2

"For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26

Notice, in the natural realm, we do not know what we should pray for as we ought to. This doesn't mean that we do not know what needs praying into but rather that we may not know how to pray effectively for it. For this reason the Holy Spirit aids us in our intercession. This is what **praying in the Spirit** is all about. And such prayer or intercession comes in the form of "groanings which cannot be uttered".

Tongues are "groanings which cannot be uttered". They communicate audibly with God the Holy Spirit's intercession for us in utterances and words which are not found in our human vocabulary. The gift of tongues is imparted into our spirit man by the Holy Spirit when we are filled with the Spirit. Tongues helps our spirit man to communicate with God according to His desires (and will), and the exact need or action required in any situation.

Without the Holy Spirit, we won't know what the exact need or required action is because we only perceive things with our physical senses. For example, without the Holy Spirit we won't be aware of the evil assignments sent by wicked spirits against us.

Notice also that when we speak in tongues we speak mysteries that only God understands, which is of great benefit when involved in spiritual warfare (**1 Corinthians 14:12**).

Without the Holy Spirit, we do not know what we should pray for as we ought because we do not see realities as we ought. This is why we need Him to help us in intercession. The Holy Spirit enables our spirit man (by the gift of tongues) to make intercession for us according to the will of God. The Holy Spirit knows exactly how to get us to where change for good can be effected. He is the key to our success!

Note, while you are praying, God is searching your heart, examining your motives and intentions (**1 John 5:14**). *"And he who searches our hearts knows,"* that is, approves only what is agreeable to *"the mind of the Spirit"* - because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will (**Romans 8:27**). God only hears and responds to that which is in accordance with His will, and nothing else. And it is only the Holy Spirit that can tell us what to petition; only the Spirit is able to search everything out, even the deep things of God.

If you want to truly connect with God, then you must allow His Spirit to reveal His perfect will. So must must learn to pray in the Spirit at all times. *"At all times"* is **prevailing prayer**. Isn't it? It means praying without ceasing! Remember what happened to Moses when he dropped his hands. The very same thing happens every time you

stop praying. And it's easier to pray continuously if you pray in the Spirit. Do this and you will be amazed how your life will change. The victories won't come and go - they will remain - they will be TOTAL!