

05 The King Teaches About Prayer

Christians are believers. All of us believe to a certain extent. Thank God we have believed in the sacrificial work of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we are on our way to heaven. But we are also believing for a supernatural revival, an outpouring worldwide that will sweep a minimum of a billion souls into the kingdom of God. Jesus said things about "believing" that are so challenging.

John 14:12-14 KJV Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. [13] And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

I thank God for all the times we have prayed and seen the results. I've seen miraculous healings through Pastor Dave Roberson and others. I've even seen healing miracles through my own hands, on rare occasions. Mostly what we have seen, worldwide, has been done by the Gifts of the Spirit. It is sporadic. If you bring your blind friend to the meeting, he might get healed. He might not get healed.

But Jesus set the eternal mark when He ran His own meetings in the four gospels. He healed them all. He is calling us to a level of believing Jesus to the point we are, once more, having Jesus meetings in the earth. That's why they all get healed. First time. Every time. No exceptions. That's the way He did it then. That's the way He does it now, because He does not change.

Hebrews 13:8 KJV Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

In one of my times of prayer, the Lord said to me that *"Believing is a recoding of the brain."* That launched an eighteen lesson teaching series titled: Recoding The Brain. It is available at www.garycarpenter.org/RecodingtheBrain . At the conclusion of that series the Lord instructed us to take what we had learned in that series, and teach a new series titled, Believing Jesus. Recoding the brain is renewing the mind.

Romans 12:2 KJV And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

God's perfect will is for Christ to be fully manifested through us. To the point that even the world would have to agree, "God is with them." Not only is God with us, it is "Christ in us." He is still doing the works ... "through us."

In this series I am going to stay very focused on what king Jesus actually said because the Holy Spirit recently said to me, *"The kingdom of God functions the way the king says it does, not how you think it does."* We are going to focus on the teachings of the king as He tells us how the kingdom of God works. Regardless of what we have seen in the past. Regardless of what we are seeing currently. What did the king say?

Mark 11:22-26 KJV And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. [23] For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. [24] Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. [25] And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. [26] But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Sue and I have lived by this passage all the years we have been in ministry. He told us to never let any human know of our personal needs, or the needs of the ministry. That meant we couldn't tell you about them. We had no choice but to go directly to the Father and ask for them, believe we received when we prayed, and then we had them. That first level of understanding concerning this passage has sustained us in full-time ministry now for nearly thirty years. (You came too late to tell us this does not work.)

I recommend to you a series taught this year by Jim Martin at the Family Prayer Center in Immokalee Florida titled: Kingdom Law. Through prophecy the Lord said it was vital training for kingdom warfare on the front lines. The kingdom of God functions by kingdom law, not by emotion, not by randomness.

The kingdom of God functions very much the same way electricity does. Not exactly, but there are great similarities. Mankind lived on planet earth for thousands of years

before learning how to use electricity. But God put electricity in the earth at creation. Everything about electricity was already here, but man perished from the usefulness of electricity for a lack of knowledge. Man lacked the knowledge of how to capture it, store it, transmit it, and use it. Electricity was here the whole time. God had made it available from the beginning. Everything about it was already in the earth. But man perished from the use of it for a lack of knowledge.

I am convinced it is very much the same way regarding the flow of power in the kingdom of God. Peter tells us in his second epistle that God has already given us everything that pertains to life and godliness. People might read that and say, "Really? Have you seen my life? It's kind of a wreck. I could really use some of those things." You might not be experiencing those benefits, but that does not mean God has not given them to us. We are perishing for a lack of knowledge, just like mankind perished for a lack of knowledge concerning electricity for thousands of years, even though God had already given electricity to earth at creation.

Back to the fig tree. Jesus spoke to it. All the disciples heard Him speak to a tree. As they walked away, it did not appear that the fig tree had changed at all. But the next morning they were astonished at how quickly the fig tree had dried up from the roots. Let's summarize. All Jesus did was speak words. He did not touch the tree. He did not lay hands on it. He didn't put an axe to it. All He did was speak words to that tree.

But the next day, they saw the effect of those words on the tree. What does that tell anybody? Somebody is working with those words. Jesus spoke the words, but God is working with this man's words. Jesus spoke ... and God did! Jesus knows His disciples are going to continue doing kingdom work after He ascends into heaven, so He is teaching them the laws of the kingdom. He takes this opportunity to teach them about having faith in God. Specifically, the kind of faith where you know God works with your words. There are three laws taught in this short passage.

1. The law of believing what you say shall come to pass.
2. The law of believing you receive when you pray.
3. The law of forgiving every person their trespasses against you.

These are laws of the kingdom, established by the king. You violate them at your peril. You function by them, or you are not going to have the kingdom benefits they provide.

Have faith in God. If you are going to be a person where God can work with your words the same way God worked with the words of Jesus, you are going to have to bridle your tongue so you consistently speak God's Word, or in line with God's Word, all the time.

Secondly, you must become a person who believes that when you pray, the answer is yes, and you believe you receive WHEN YOU PRAY. Not when you "see" it manifested. Not when you "feel" it. Not when your "circumstances" (facts) change. You believe you receive WHEN YOU PRAY!

In addition, those two principles rest on the foundational law of FORGIVENESS. You are going to have to become a forgiving person. We will teach in depth on that in a later lesson but let me just tell you that in my forty plus years of being a Christian, the most miserable, tormented people I have ever met are Christians who refuse to forgive. I have learned, by experience, that you must trust in the blood of Jesus being sufficient to pay the price for YOUR personal sins! You have got to trust His blood enough so that you forgive yourself. He has forgiven you. Now you forgive yourself. The blood of Jesus is enough!

Jesus is teaching about the prayer of petition in this passage. When we ask for something, it is because we want to HAVE IT. King Jesus says, if you want to have this thing that you desire, ask the Father for it in the name of Jesus, and BELIEVE YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU PRAY! He says if we will do that ... WE SHALL HAVE IT! Of course, our petitions must be in line with His will. He is never going to answer a prayer that is against His will. The Word of God implies He doesn't even hear those prayers.

1 John 5:14 KJV And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

As a grandfather now, trust me when I say, there are lots of things my grandchildren can ask me for that will be in my will for them. As long as it isn't harmful to them, they are most likely going to get a YES from grandpa. There are limits. I would never

give one of them marijuana, or any other drug that is harmful to them. But there is great latitude regarding the things they can ask for that will be "in my will" for them.

When my granddaughter "Lily-cakes" was pretty small, she asked me for an ice cream cone. We had some small sugar cones in the house, so I got one and put a ball of ice cream on top for her. Grandpa "delighted" himself watching his little granddaughter enjoy that ice cream cone. When she finished, she asked for another one. The first one was so small, I didn't see any harm, so I made her a second one and I enjoyed watching her eat that one too. Then she asked for a third one, and ... yes ... you guessed it. She got a third ice cream cone. They were so small, I didn't see any harm in it. (I wouldn't have given her a fourth one if she had asked.)

Later, her mother Erin, our oldest daughter, heard me tell that story and she said to me, "You never gave me three ice cream cones in a row." I replied, "I was never your grandpa." And we both laughed. Jesus said we are to enter the kingdom of God as little children. God our Father DELIGHTS in answering the prayers of His children. We MUST return to trusting Him the same way little Lily trusted her grandpa.

1 John 5:15 KJV And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

John is simply teaching what he first heard Jesus teach all those years before. Here is another place where Jesus continues to teach on the prayer of petition:

John 16:23-24 KJV **And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. [24] Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

After the three-ice-cream-cone event, Lily could have shared with her friends, "Whatever I ask my grandpa for, as long as it isn't bad for me, he'll give it to me." Isn't that what Jesus taught about the Father?

One of the things the Lord said to me while in fellowship with Him was, "*It is safe to ask the Father for things that you see Him always doing through His Son.*" For example, I did my research many years ago by going meticulously through the four gospels, and I found out that Jesus ALWAYS HEALED every single person who

came to Him for healing. I had to do that study because the denomination I grew up in did not know for sure if it was always God's will to heal. When they prayed for the sick, they would add at the end of the prayer, "If it be thy will." THERE IS NO FAITH IN THAT PRAYER AT ALL. THAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF BELIEVING YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU PRAY. I know they love the Lord and are on their way to heaven, but they are not praying according to the laws of the kingdom established by the king.

We all understand that SALVATION is God's will for every single person. "WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." [Rom 10:13] But the church at large has not understood that healing is for WHOSOEVER in the very same way. God does not turn away anyone who wants to be saved, and He does not turn away anyone who wants to be healed.

Being totally transparent, I have not "seen" everybody be healed who has come for healing in this natural realm. But I sure see it in the four gospels. And Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." [John 14:9] Jesus left us the MARK we are to strive toward in the four gospels. I refuse to bring the mark down to the level of my experience. I am determined to bring my experience up to the level of the mark where Jesus set it.

Most of us make our petition to the Father, then we look in the natural to see if our prayer got answered or not. That is not what the king taught about prayer. We do it this way; "I will ask the Father, and then I will go over there and look to see if my prayer was answered." By that method, we don't believe we have received our answer until we "see" it manifested in the natural world. That's the way of the world, "I will believe it when I see it." That is called, LIVING BY SIGHT. That is the opposite of what Jesus taught.

This goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. When the serpent was having his conversation with Eve, he not only called God a liar, but he also came against the very character of God. I will paraphrase what the serpent said to Eve, "You can't trust God. He is holding back the best from you. That's why He is not allowing you to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God is keeping the best for Himself. He knows if you eat the fruit of that tree, you will become like God. You won't need Him anymore. You can be your own God. You can determine for yourself what is right and what is wrong." It is that same devil in our modern culture today

saying, "Truth is relative. Truth is whatever you determine is truth." Satan was lying then, and he is still preaching those same lies today.

Satan came against God's very nature and character. He called God a liar. He said God was selfish. He said God did not have their best interests at heart. Satan said God was holding them back. By disobeying God's command, they could become their own god ... and they would not need God anymore. They could do whatever they wanted. (The same lies are being preached today by Satan and his preachers of darkness, posing as apostles of light.) All of this always reminds me of this psalm,

Psalm 2:2-3 AMPC The kings of the earth take their places; the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and His Anointed One (the Messiah, the Christ). They say, [3] Let us break Their bands [of restraint] asunder and cast Their cords [of control] from us.

Many years ago, the Holy Spirit showed me that "lack of faith in God's Word" was the way "out of the garden." That's why today, "Faith in God's Word" is the only way back in to the "garden" of God's grace. But now I also see that believing a lie about God's character was also part of Adam and Eve's way out of the garden. One of the main reasons we don't consistently see the results that we want is because of false teachings we have heard from pulpits that cast false accusations against God's character. In the same way Lily trusted her grandpa, we must trust God's character.

Jesus Christ came to show us not only God's will, and God's power, but also to show us God's character. Jesus told Philip (and Gary, and you) ... "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." [John 14:9] Jesus said, and demonstrated, a lot of things about the Father's character. What our king says about the Father is vastly different from what we have naturally "seen" in this fallen world, and from what we have "heard" from pulpits as they falsely teach about the Father's character.

For example, I grew up in church hearing from many pulpits that in order to have answers to your prayers, you have to "storm the gates of heaven." The picture painted was of an all-powerful God, shut up behind closed castle doors, who could easily answer your prayers if He wanted to. But He doesn't really want to, so you have to storm the gates of heaven just to get through the doors, and even after you are inside the castle, you are going to have to wrestle with this reluctant God (like Jacob did) until He finally answers your prayer.

Question: Is that how Lily got three ice cream cones from grandpa? Selah! (Pause and think about that.)

Is that what King Jesus taught us about the Father? Skipping ahead somewhat in the teachings, in Luke 11 Jesus was teaching about intercession. He was teaching how to get "bread" for somebody else who needed it. Really, the teaching is about us receiving the anointing to deliver healing, or provision, or deliverance to somebody else who needs it. The end result of that teaching is when Jesus says,

Luke 11:9-10 KJV And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. [10] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

He speaks about the Father in a very similar way to how Lily obtained three ice cream cones from grandpa. She sought me, found me, asked of me, and received of me. No storming the gates. No slammed door in her face. No wrestling to obtain the blessing. She asked, and she received, in the same way Jesus is describing our approach to the Father. True, Lily was not seeking ice cream for somebody else, but still yet, her approach to grandpa was very similar to how Jesus instructs us to approach the Father, and to ask, and to receive. IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO US.

Luke 11:11-13 KJV If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? [12] Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? [13] 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?

There is only one baptism in the Holy Spirit. That is a one-time event. But there are many fillings of the Holy Spirit. The main point for today is for us to see what a different picture Jesus paints of the character of God compared to the traditional view many of us grew up being taught about Him. God is approachable, glad to see you when you come, disposed to answer your prayers, and to give you more than you need. That is the character of God.

When Jesus taught on persistent faith [Luke 18:1-8], He described a woman who went before an "unjust judge" who did not care about her at all. He didn't want to be bothered by her. He would not have answered her petition except for the fact that she persisted until he was so tired of her nagging that he finally gave her what she wanted. Again, that sounds a lot like "storming the gates of heaven and wrestling with God to get the answer to your prayer."

But Jesus was drawing a contrast between the "unjust judge" and God our Father. Jesus said your Father will avenge you (give judgement in your favor) SPEEDILY! What Jesus is teaching does not match the experience of most of us. It also does not line up with the false doctrine I was taught growing up as a little boy in church. We have to trust that Jesus is truly revealing the Father's character to us.

We MUST believe what the king says about our Father. The king says if we knock on our Father's door, it will open. If we seek the Father, we will find Him. And whatever we ask of the Father, we shall receive. It has a lot to do with our correctly understanding the character of God. The name Satan actually means the "accuser." In Gen 3:4 Satan accused God of being a liar. Satan was accusing by saying God is a liar and His Word is not true. The whole world, outside of genuine Christianity, is still saying the same things today.

It is imperative that we get to know the Father intimately, ourselves. "Come away with Me" is the call of the Holy Spirit to all who are truly wanting to press into more of God. You simply can't get to really know someone without spending time with them. We spend time with Him through the meditation of His Word, through worship, prayer, and fasting. There are no substitutes. Nobody can know the Father "for you." You must spend time with Him yourself.

Lily knows her grandpa pretty well. She knows I'm not going to give her anything that's bad for her. Right on the other hand, there are lots of things that girl can ask for, and if it is in my power, she is going to get it. And it is my DELIGHT to give it to her. We MUST come to know our heavenly Father like that!

I am going to make a bold statement that is seldom taught. If our prayer is according to God's will, God is bound by the covenant He made with Jesus, to say ... YES!

2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

2 Corinthians 1:20 AMPC For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ]. For this reason we also utter the Amen (so be it) to God through Him [in His Person and by His agency] to the glory of God.

God cannot lie. We try not to lie, because we know we can lie if we choose to. But God CANNOT LIE! He CAN NOT! And that's why you can absolutely trust His Word. He has promised to say YES to your petition WHEN YOU PRAY! We must trust His character.

When you ask, in the name of Jesus, for something that you know is His will, you must know that the answer is YES! That's why you believe you receive when you pray. YOUR FAITH IN HIS YES IS ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU NEED!

Hebrews 11:1 KJV Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 KJV But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

When Lily asked me for the ice cream cone, and I was busily getting the cones down from the cabinet, getting the ice cream from the freezer, and preparing her ice cream cone perfectly, what if I turned around to hand it to her, but she had left and gone outside in the back yard. I would find her with the ice cream cone in my hand and ask, "Why did you leave?" It would have broken my heart if she had answered, "Well, I didn't know if you'd really give it to me or not, just because you said you would."

Trust me. Lily knows her grandpa. She was standing right next to me, wide-eyed, in eager anticipation of receiving her ice cream cone. Let us become as little children, trusting our heavenly Father like that.