

**Conference for the churches in the Northeast
September 18-20, 2020**

GENERAL SUBJECT: PRAYER AND THE LORD'S MOVE

Message One

**The Significance of Prayer, the Principle of Prayer,
and the Prayer Ministry of the Church**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 6:9-10; 18:18-20; John 15:7; Eph. 6:18; 1 John 5:14; Jude 20

I. The real significance of prayer is to contact God in our spirit and to absorb God Himself—Jude 20; John 14:13; 15:7:

- A. Prayer is the contact of the human spirit with the divine Spirit, during which we inhale God—Jude 20; John 4:24.
- B. Genuine prayers are prayers in which we are mingled with God the Spirit in our spirit—Jude 20; Eph. 6:18; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17:
 - 1. Prayer must be a joint prayer in which God is mingled with our spirit.
 - 2. True prayers—prayers that involve God and man—are the issue of the Spirit of God being mingled with man's spirit and of man's spirit being mingled with the Spirit of God—Jude 20; Rom. 8:4, 26.
 - 3. In this prayer God and man are mingled together, and God is the Initiator and the Motivator; God prays in man, and man prays in God—James 5:17.
- C. If we would have genuine prayers, prayers that are initiated by God and that touch God, we must pray in the Holy Spirit; praying in the Holy Spirit means that we and the Holy Spirit pray together in the fellowship of the two spirits—Jude 20; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1.
- D. Prayers in which we contact God, inhale God, absorb God, and are filled with God are genuine prayers; only prayers of this kind should be offered up to God—Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4.

II. We need to pray according to the principle of prayer; only those prayers that are according to the principle of prayer are worthwhile—Matt. 6:9-10; John 15:7; 1 John 5:14:

- A. The principle of prayer is that God's people must pray before God will rise up to work—Matt. 18:18-20; John 15:16:
 - 1. God will not act independently, and He will not accomplish His will alone; rather, He will only accomplish His will when His people agree with Him and are one with Him in prayer—Col. 1:9; 4:12.
 - 2. God's intention is to accomplish His will through our prayer; God's will is accomplished by our prayer in union with Him—John 15:7; 1 John 5:14.
- B. Prayer is the believers' act of working together with God to accomplish His will—Col. 4:2, 12; Matt. 6:9-10:
 - 1. The purpose of prayer is that we be one with God's will so that *God* can work—Rev. 4:11; 5:8; 8:3-4.
 - 2. Prayer is the union of the believers' will with God's will and the believers' utterance of God's will; prayer is the believers' request before God that He accomplish His will—John 15:7; Matt. 6:9-10.
 - 3. The true meaning of prayer is for the praying one to seek for the accomplishment of the will of the One to whom he prays—26:39:

- a. We need to echo back to God His heart's desire before Him and empty our hearts to seek after God and to ask Him to accomplish His will.
 - b. There is only one legitimate prayer in the whole universe—only one prayer that pleases God—the prayer that asks for the accomplishment of His will—6:9-10; 7:21; 12:50; John 6:38.
- C. If we do not work together with God in prayer or prepare the way for His will through prayer or by means of all prayer allow Him the possibility to move in many directions, He will not work and cannot work—Matt. 6:9-10; 18:18-20:
- 1. Our most important work is to open the way for God; praying in sympathy with God is more important than doing anything else—Acts 6:4; 10:9.
 - 2. God can work only on matters in which His children sympathize with Him; He is not willing to work where there has been no prayer, where He does not have His people's will in union with Him—1:14; 4:24-31; 12:5.
- D. We have to see God's principle of work and the key to His move—John 15:7:
- 1. God cannot do what He wants to do unless man wants it—4:34; 5:30.
 - 2. This is a clear principle: Even though God decides on a matter, He will not do it immediately—15:7.
 - 3. All God's works on earth can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that agrees with and decides to do the works—1 John 5:14.
 - 4. Everything related to God can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that cooperates with Him; God must have man's will in harmony with His will—Matt. 6:9-10; 26:39.
- E. The highest point of our working together with God is to ask in one accord for God to accomplish what He intends to accomplish—1 Tim. 2:8; Acts 1:14; 6:4.

III. The prayer meetings are for the carrying out of the prayer ministry of the church—1:14; 4:23-31; 13:1-4; 16:25:

- A. The prayer ministry of the church is God telling the church what He wants to do and the church praying on earth what God wants to do; this prayer is asking God to accomplish what He wants to do—Matt. 18:18-20.
- B. God cannot do what He wants to do by Himself; He has to do it with the cooperation of the church—Acts 12:5.
- C. The ministry of the church is to bring the will in heaven to earth—Matt. 6:9-10:
- 1. A prayer that is in the nature of work or ministry is one in which we stand on God's side, wanting what God wants—Col. 1:9; 4:12.
 - 2. The highest and greatest work of the church is to be the outlet of God's will; the church is the outlet of God's will through prayer—Matt. 6:9-10.
- D. The prayer of the church means that when God wants to do something, the church prays about that matter first so that it can be fulfilled and God's goal can be accomplished—18:18-20:
- 1. In heaven, God's power is unlimited, but on earth, God's power is manifested to the degree that the church prays—6:9-10.
 - 2. The ministry of the church is prayer; the church must have big prayers, serious prayers, and strong prayers, prayers that manifest our God and open the way for Him to move—John 14:23; 15:16; 16:23-24; Acts 4:24-31.