

# THE GOD-MAN LIVING IN THE PRACTICAL CHURCH LIFE AND THE PRAYER FOR GOD'S MOVE

## Message Four

### Prayer and God's Move in the Epistles and Revelation

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:17-23; 3:14-21; 6:18; Col. 1:9; 4:2; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Rev. 8:3-5; 5:8

- I. **In Paul's first prayer in Ephesians (a prayer for revelation), he prays that we would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation with the eyes of our heart being enlightened to know the hope of God's calling, the riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of God's power toward us who believe—Eph. 1:17-23:**
  - A. The hope of God's calling is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27); Christ realized by us, experienced by us, and gained by us to the fullest extent to be our ultimate manifestation and consummation as our glory is the hope of our calling—Phil. 3:14; Rom. 5:2.
  - B. The riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints speaks of God's sealing us with Himself to make us His inheritance for His enjoyment and God's pledging Himself to us to make Him our inheritance for our enjoyment—Eph. 1:11, 13b-14, 18.
  - C. The surpassing greatness of God's power—His resurrecting power, ascending (transcending) power, subjecting (subduing) power, and heading-up (overruling) power—is operating "in us," is "toward us who believe," and is "to the church" (Eph. 3:20; 1:19-23); to experience the divine transmission of this power, we need to realize that this power is in us already—3:16, 20; Phil. 3:21b; 4:13; Col. 1:29.
- II. **In Paul's second prayer in Ephesians (a prayer for experience), he prays that we would be strengthened into our inner man for God's unique work to build Himself into our being—3:14-21:**
  - A. In Ephesians 3 our spirit is a person, the inner man, for us to experience Christ for the church; in order to experience Christ unto the fullness of God, we need to be strengthened with the fourfold power of the Triune God into our spirit through the Holy Spirit.
  - B. We eventually can know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that we may be filled unto all the fullness of God; the fullness of God is the issue of our enjoyment of the unsearchably rich Christ as the embodiment of God dispensed into our being; through His indwelling, Christ imparts the riches of all that God is into our being to make us the fullness of God, the corporate expression of God—Eph. 3:19.
  - C. We are being strengthened into our inner man according to the riches of God's glory, and then unto Him is glory in the church; first the glory of God is wrought into us, and then it returns to God for His glorification—vv. 16, 21.
- III. **Ephesians 6:18 says, "By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints:"**
  - A. According to the revelation of Ephesians, we have to pray at every time in order to have the Body life in reality; to have the church life depends on our continual prayer.
  - B. All prayer means all kinds of prayers—short prayers, long prayers, loud prayers, silent prayers, public prayers by a number of saints, private prayers by ourselves, etc.
  - C. Watching unto this means that we need to be on the alert for the maintaining of a prayer life.
  - D. All perseverance means that we have to persist and insist to the uttermost; this indicates that there may be something holding us down, holding us back, suppressing, oppressing, depressing, and hindering us from prayer, so we have to persevere and not give up.

- IV. In Colossians 1:9-11, we see the intercessory prayer of the apostle Paul; Paul prayed that the saints would “be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”—Col. 1:9.**
- V. In Colossians 4:2, we are told to “Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving:”**
- A. To persevere is to continue persistently, steadfastly, and earnestly.
  - B. We need to persevere in prayer because prayer involves a battle, a fight; two parties, God and Satan, are hostile to each other; the third party consists of God's chosen and redeemed people; God's chosen and redeemed people will actually decide the outcome of the battle between God and Satan—cf. *Hymns*, #880.
  - C. In order to fight on God's side against Satan, we need to persevere in prayer; this perseverance is needed because the course of the whole world is away from God.
  - D. Before we try to persevere in prayer, we should first make a vow to the Lord concerning our prayer life.
  - E. After we make such a deal with the Lord concerning our prayer, we should set aside definite times for prayer; during these times, prayer must be the top priority; our attitude should be that prayer is our most important business and that nothing should be allowed to interfere with it—Dan. 6:10.
  - F. For a normal Christian walk we need to set our mind on the things above, have the renewing of the new man, have the peace of Christ arbitrating in us, and allow the word of Christ to inhabit us; prayer ushers us into the reality of these four things and keeps us in this reality—Col. 3:2, 10, 15-16; 4:2.
- VI. “I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men; on behalf of kings and all who are in high position, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and gravity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of our Savior God”—1 Tim. 2:1-3:**
- A. After speaking of God's economy and after charging Timothy to war the good warfare for God's economy (1:3-4, 18), Paul indicates that a prayer ministry is the prerequisite for the administration and shepherding of a local church.
  - B. A prerequisite for having a proper church life in the Lord's recovery today is to have a prayer life; a proper church is a praying church.
  - C. All in the Lord's recovery must be prayerful and stand against the sin of prayerlessness—1 Sam. 12:23.
  - D. If we exercise ourselves to have a prayer life, the church will be living and uplifted.
  - E. We should pray on behalf of all men because our Savior God desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth; our prayer is required for the carrying out of God's desire—1 Tim. 2:4.
- VII. In Revelation 8:3-5 we see that the incense altar is the center of God's administration, and the prayer offered at the incense altar governs the universe:**
- A. As another Angel, Christ executes God's administration over the earth at the incense altar by ministering to God as the High Priest with the prayers of His saints, adding His incense to these prayers—vv. 3-5.
  - B. God's administration needs our prayers, which are a response to Christ's heavenly ministry; as we pray He administrates, and as He administrates we pray—Heb. 7:25; Col. 3:1-2; Rev. 5:8; 8:3.