

Message Three

God's Need for Our Cooperation and for Prayers That Express His Will

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 6:17; Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 5:14-16; John 15:7

I. In order for His will to be done on earth and for His eternal purpose to be fulfilled, God needs our cooperation—1 Cor. 6:17; Matt. 7:11; 12:50:

- A. God can carry out on earth what He has planned in heaven only when He has people who will cooperate with Him—John 7:17; 15:4-5:
 - 1. God needs to gain people on earth who will cooperate with Him and work with Him according to His mind—Phil. 3:15; Col. 3:2.
 - 2. As long as there are those who are of the same mind as God and are willing to work with Him, God's work will be carried out on earth—1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10.
- B. Our eyes need to be opened to see that God has His limitations and to see how we should cooperate with Him—Matt. 6:10; 18:18-19; 2 Cor. 6:1:
 - 1. God is omnipotent, but His omnipotence is subject to limitations because He must have certain conditions suitable for His working—John 7:17; Matt. 7:21.
 - 2. Man was created with a free will; the limitations of God began at this point—Gen. 1:26:
 - a. In creation God put His almighty power under the limitation of the human will—v. 28; 2:9, 16-17.
 - b. God wants the human will to be on His side; therefore, He accepts the limitation that this desire entails—John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Rom. 12:2-3.
 - 3. As members of Christ's organic, mystical Body, we are either expressing Him or limiting Him—1 Cor. 12:12-13, 18-20, 27:
 - a. The Lord needs to bring us to the point where we have nothing to hinder Him from doing whatever He wills—6:17; Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:50; Eph. 1:1, 9; 5:17.
 - b. Once the Lord has brought us to a place of total responsiveness to Him, He will have a free and unhindered way to accomplish His will; then there will be nothing that God cannot do to carry out His purpose on earth—Matt. 6:10; 26:39, 42; Heb. 13:21.

II. God needs the prayer that expressed His will—Matt. 6:10:

- A. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure, and He created all things for His will that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9:
 - 1. God's will is His heart's desire, His mingling with man, and the fulfillment of His eternal plan—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 5:17.
 - 2. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness, His expression—Rom. 12:2, 5; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11, 22-23.
 - 3. The Father's eternal will is to build up the church upon Christ the Son as the rock—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.
 - 4. The kingdom is absolutely a matter of God's will and completely fulfills God's will; in fact, the kingdom is God's will—Matt. 6:10.
 - 5. As believers in Christ, we are on earth to do the Father's will—7:21; 12:50:
 - a. Whoever does the will of the Father is a relative of the Lord Jesus—12:50.
 - b. We need to pray for the Father's will to be done on earth as in the heavens; this is to bring the kingdom of the heavens to the earth—6:10.
- B. God needs us to offer prayers that are the expression of His will—1 John 5:14; John 15:7; Matt. 26:39, 42; 6:10; 18:19:
 - 1. Prayer is the union of the believers' will with God's will—John 15:7.

2. The greatest use of the church is the fact that it stands for God's will to be done on earth—Matt. 6:10
3. For the church to pray means that it finds out God's will and speaks out His will—Eph. 1:9; 5:17
4. For the church to pray means that it stands on God's side to declare that it wants what God wants— Matt. 18:19.
5. God's works on earth can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that agrees with God—1 John 5:14; John 15:7:
 - a. God's will can be accomplished only when there is a will on earth that cooperates with Him—Matt. 6:10.
 - b. Whenever man's will is not one with God's will, God is limited; God must have our will in harmony with His will—John `5:7.
 - c. Even though God has a will, He wants the free will on earth to echo His will before He does anything—1 John 5:14; James 5:17-18.
 - d. After we know God's will, we can say to Him, "Lord, we want You to do this. We are determined that You should do this."
 - e. Any prayer that is not according to God's will is useless—James 4:4.
 - f. A prayer that is uttered according to God's will is a most powerful thing—1 John 5:14; Matt. 17:20; Mark 11:22-24.
 - g. Praying in agreement with God is more important than doing anything else—Matt. 18:19.
- C. 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 not asking God to accomplish what we want Him to do, but asking God to accomplish what He Himself wants to accomplish—Col. 1:9; 4:12; Eph. 5:17; John 15:7.