

Why Pray?

“¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray constantly, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Messiah Yeshua. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit, ²⁰do not despise prophetic messages, ²¹but test all things, hold fast to what is good, ²²keep away from every kind of evil.” (1 Thess. 5:16-22)

Who’s going to accomplish God’s work on Earth? Is it us the Believers? No, we’re not the ones with the knowledge of what’s needed. Is it the Spirit of God? No, Goliath was killed by David’s proclamation of the Word of God to Goliath himself (Deuteronomy 9), not a slingshot. Why doesn’t God just cut out the middleman (prayer) and do it all Himself since, after all, He is Omnipotent? From time to time we need to readjust our understanding as we consider the Word of God and become aware that we tend to place our theological grid (belief system) over His Word. We are supposed to *pray constantly* according to the Word. How can I do that? Why?

In reality all David was required to do, in essence, was show up – just show up. He could have spit on the giant and it would have killed him. It wouldn’t have mattered how – throw a stick at him, throw a stone at him, stick his tongue at him, whatever. All kidding aside, in truth, it really did not matter because what killed the giant was the already spoken Word of God concerning the fate of Canaanite giants. All David did was he confronted the enemy and enforces the Spoken Word. Let me say that again, David just showed up and enforced the Word God spoken to Israel in Deuteronomy 9 and, ultimately, that is all he did. He recognized his ambassadorship, and he showed up.

Has anybody ever had the thought the need for prayer is circular? God has the knowledge, and we do not really know much. Isn’t that, right? We don’t know. For example, if we are going to pray for Ukraine, how are we going to pray? Do we check out the Internet so we can get some information to know how to pray? Well, yeah, there’s some actual stuff we can gain from that, but really to know how to pray, what do we have to do? Shouldn’t we ask *God, what do You want to do in Ukraine?* God, what are You doing there? We need to find out what You’re doing so we can pray in accordance with that. Is that it?”

Well, yes, that is how we are going to do it correctly, but here’s the problem. God knows what needs to happen in Ukraine. Now, are most of us going to go to Ukraine? No. Not likely. So, who’s going to go to Ukraine? The Ruach is going to go to Ukraine. He’s going to accomplish all this awesome stuff that we’re going to pray, right? Does that make sense?

Okay, but really doesn’t make sense because God knows what needs to happen in Ukraine (He is, after all, omniscient). Then the Ruach is the one that’s going to do the stuff in Ukraine. Wait, why didn’t He just cut out the middleman? Why do we need to be involved in this deal? I mean, God knows what He needs to do way better than we know what He needs to do, and He’s the one that is going to go do it. So, what on earth does He have to come over here to Gainesville, to inform somebody over here (like me) about what He wants to do in Ukraine when He is the one going to go do it? Why doesn’t He just go and do it?

I believe we all confuse the concept of sovereignty with the concept of control. God is not in control. What? But we hear that all the time: *God’s in control*. Hogwash, baloney, stupid theology. Dung! No, God is not in control. Why? Because control implies an absolute dominion: manipulation, exercising power over something, right? And God does not do that. The devil is a controller. The devil reigns on Planet Earth through control. But God reigns through the exercise of authority, and there’s a huge difference between authority and control. What does control really mean? It means *absolute dominion through manipulative power*. If God were in control, would it not be the case that God’s Will would 100% of the time be done? It could never not be done. For example, it is His will that none should perish. Is that true? Since it is God’s will that none should perish, have you observed anyone perishing? Yes. So, it is evident that His Will is not being fulfilled. However, we should note that God’s exercise of authority

acknowledges *an involvement of choice*. Does God really acknowledge an involvement of choice on Planet Earth? Though the kingdom of darkness has been stripped of its power through the work of *Yeshua* on the cross, powers of darkness go ahead and exercise whatever authority the Body of Messiah allows them to have. A thief has a purpose: to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). However, a thief has no authority to do so: not from you, not from the government, not from society and not from God. Though a thief has no authority, he chooses to go ahead and try to achieve his purposes anyway. Authority is what stops a thief – your authority if it's your house he breaks into. But God lacks authority on the earth because His Son *Yeshua* gave it to us! Ultimately it is up to us. Does that make sense to you?

Man was given authority by God (Gen. 1:26-28). God owns the earth (Psalm 24:3). God delegated His authority to man to rule over the earth. Man was tricked into giving away his authority by Satan. Satan released two forces on Planet Earth after he got authority: Sin and death. Believers have true authority on earth. However: Demons recognize whether we have true authority or not. If you don't know who you are and there's fear in you (similar to how wild animals pick up on spiritual qualities) you can be stopped, even if: You shout, You say "*In the name of Yeshua*" 15 times, You act like you have authority. Look if *Yeshua* recovered all authority as He said in Matthew 28 and gave it to us then: Unbelievers don't have authority. Angels do not have authority. Demons do not have authority. The devil does not have authority. God has leased the earth to man. When earth's lease is up, everything will change and soon!

Ladies & Gentlemen, Boys & Girls: prayer is exercising our *Yeshua-given* authority on earth! God has lots of things that need to be done. God has the knowledge of what needs to happen, and He has the power to do it, but He's limited Himself to *needing our authority*. You see, God searches "*to and fro*" throughout the earth, looking for those who would stand in the gap, using their words (declarations) to accomplish what He needs to do. God's bottleneck is that He can't find anyone to do it. We generate prayer lists instead of ears to hear (*shema*) what God is saying.

If we believe God's in control, none of us need to waste our breath: God will do what needs to be done anyway. But, if we see that God has limited Himself to needing our authority, then He is not going to barge in and take over. *We have to give Him permission*.

There are however several questions needing answers in the earth, e.g., is God responsible for the evil that happens on the earth? Is the evil that happens on the earth just? There are four possibilities: (1) God is responsible because He is in control, and this is just. (The concept of sovereignty and control are mixed.) This is the position held by Muslims and many Christians. (2) God is responsible, but it's not just. (The typical position of an unbeliever). (3) God is not responsible, but it is just. {No one believes that!}. (4) God is not responsible because He delegated authority to man, and evil is not just. Our problem is that we choose not to receive His provision, and we choose evil, and we choose to forsake *Yeshua*.

God doesn't cause all things. There's a difference between being the author of things and being the master of all things. If God says not to do something and you do it anyway, you'll still reap consequences. God is not the author of destruction and evil, but He is an opportunist: He works behind the scenes to bring good things out of bad things for us who believe. How does God really feel? He weeps when we weep. Evil is not His will. He doesn't want it, but the lease is not up, and evil is still operative on earth.

We need to truly understand the concept of being ambassadors of the Kingdom to do His Will. Like David, a way we can do this is by *releasing the authority to accomplish what God has appointed to happen on the earth*. I have experienced the results of this kind of prayer many times with Marilyn, e.g., bringing her ex-husband back from the Iran war on Thursday night, February 22, 1979, and depositing him in her jurisdiction just in the nick of time for our wedding to take place. Lord, please teach us to pray! He said to pray this way: Thy Kingdom Come, and Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *Shabbat Shalom!*