

The disciples witnessed every miracle that Jesus worked
They heard every message that He ever preached
They witnessed every deliverance and observed every prayer

Yet, they never asked Him to teach them to heal, prophecy, or do miracles. They asked, *“Lord, teach us to pray”* (Luke 11:1)

“So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.” (Luke 11:2, NKJV)

We would think that if an all-knowing, all-seeing God wanted His will to come forth on the earth then it would happen

- God Needs Our Help!
- Adam was to be God’s representative to represent God’s will on the earth
- Image – *“shadow, phantom, or illusion”* – Genesis 1:27
- *“Glory”* – *“Heavy or weighty”*, *clout* – Psalm 8:5
- Adam carried a lot of weight or **clout**
- Of course, we all know Adam failed
- God became flesh and dwelt among us enabling us to be ministers of reconciliation between God and man

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,” (1 Timothy 2:5, NKJV)

(John 1:18, NKJV)

We are the “sent” ones – representing Jesus

“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” (John 20:21, NKJV)

Everything we do is under the authority of Jesus

- He fulfilled His part and defeated the enemy *legally*, we do our part enforcing His work, *literally* – **Psalm 110:1-3**
- We are the army of God policing a war Zone, enforcing His Law until Government Rule is established

God's plan for redeeming mankind is not a formula it is a Person

“In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;” (**John 16:26, NKJV**)

- Remember we pray to the Father in Jesus' Name
- He is interceding for us, legally permitting us to approach the Throne

Everything God can give us or do for us is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ

- We can only enter into a relationship with our Father because of His legal sacrifice
- He is our Mediator or Advocate
- It is impossible for God to relate to us any other way

Remember *intercession* means *creating a meeting*

- Christ's intercession created a meeting connecting heaven and earth
- Making His plans, purposes, and destinies a reality in the hearts of people

If we miss the God of meetings, we miss the God of the Bible

- Everything changes when people meet with God!

Amazing power can be released through Intercession

“He covers His hands with lightning, And commands it to strike.” (Job 36:32, NKJV)

- *“Strike its mark”* – NIV – (*paga*) – the Greek word for intercession

When lightning flashes from God's presence, striking the desired target it is comparable to what happens in intercession

- Lightning is so hot that it changes the molecular structure of whatever it strikes
- It can twist the trunk of a tree
- The temperature in a lightning bolt can reach 45,000 F
- God uses this as an example of intercession
- The prayer of a righteous man – **James 5:16**

“His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, And there His power was hidden.”

(Habakkuk 3:4, NKJV)

*His brightness is like the sunlight; He has [bright] rays *flashing* from His hand, And there [in the sunlike splendor] is the hiding place of His power. (AMP)*

Our prayers release God's power in the form of spiritual lightning causing both His judgments and blessings to be brought forth

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” (Revelation 5:8, NKJV)

“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.” (Revelation 8:1–5, NKJV)

The picture of what prayer looks like in heaven

- It ascends like incense before God’s throne
- An angel of God takes the incense or prayers in his hand
- He mixes it with fire and flings it back to earth
- It enters the atmosphere with spiritual lightning, thunder, and earthquakes
- God has chosen to partner with us in transferring heaven into Earth

That should give us a reason to pray!

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.” (Psalm 18:6–8, NKJV)

“And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind.” (Psalm 18:10, NKJV)

“From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.” (Psalm 18:12–14, NKJV)

“He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.” (Psalm 18:17–19, NKJV)

- God allowed David to see these things in the spiritual realm
- This is an illustration and encouragement of what can happen when we pray

The lightning or power of God strikes the mark when we intercede *literally* enforcing what has *legally* been accomplished through Jesus Christ our Advocate

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42–47, NKJV)

- As they devoted themselves to prayer everyone felt a sense of awe
- Many signs and wonders were manifested
- The Lord added to their number
- Meeting with them and God created meetings with them and others, which in turn created meetings with God

Because of the Moving of God, they faced persecution

And then...

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31, NKJV)

- Their prayers rose as incense before God’s Throne
- God literally shook the building

“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33, NKJV)

- They were *again* filled with the Holy Spirit
- Great power was given to them
- Great – Greek word from which we get our English word “*mega*”
- Intercession releases mega power!

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.”

(Acts 16:25–26, NKJV)

- The Philippian jailor and his household receive Christ
- The magistrate instructs him to let them go peacefully
- They travel on to Thessalonica, Corinth, and Ephesus
- The Philippian church thrives

“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.” (Acts 19:11–12, NKJV)

- This mega power is still available today
- Will we intercede and believe?

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
(Hebrews 13:8, NKJV)

“Although He generally chooses to operate according to the principles, He established to govern the world, God has not stepped back passively from His creation and forsworn further involvement. The Lord, still sovereign over all He has made, can at any time set aside the laws of nature when doing so serves His higher purposes.” – Jane Rumph – Stories from the front lines

She tells this story from missionary Randy Nelson

- In Northwestern Kenya water is considered liquid gold
- The Turkana living there relied on the nearby windmill that pumped hundreds of gallons daily
- When the water stopped flowing due to irreparable damage
- The entire pump would need to be replaced and they couldn't find one
- The soonest they could get one would be more than ten days
- The Turkana women started to lay hands on the windmill in intercession and worship
- Shortly after a strong wind began to blow and the windmill started to operate
- The water continued to flow until the new pump arrived
- Today over a thousand nomadic Turkana believers drink from the well
- Most of them were converted because of the God who has no trouble healing a windmill

God is Light

“who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.” (1 Timothy 6:16, NKJV)

- See also – **Jas 1:17; Exod 19:16; Ezek 1:14; Rev 4:5**

At times His light or the release of it is associated with His Glory

“And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.” (Luke 2:9, NKJV)

Sometimes this light, lightning, or glory of God is released from His mouth and often called a sword

“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” (Revelation 19:15, NKJV)

*“If I sharpen the lightning of My sword,
And My hand takes hold of judgment,
I will render vengeance on My adversaries,
And I will repay those who hate Me.” (Deuteronomy 32:41)*

See also – **Ps 18:13-14; Hos 6:5; Ezek 21:9-10, 15, 28**

Many believers are not aware that we are filled with the very glory and light of God

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16, NKJV)

- The word used for *temple* always referred to the “*holy of holies*”
- The word for *dwells* is taken from the OT word which described the “*abiding or dwelling*” glory found in the holy of holies
- Commonly referred to as the “*shekinah*” glory of the Lord
- We are the new holy of holies, a temple of living stones not made with hands, but by God Himself

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

(2 Corinthians 4:6–7, NKJV)

- Israel carried the Ark of the Covenant, representing the presence and glory of God into battle – **Joshua 6:6**

“So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: “Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.” (Numbers 10:35, NKJV)

- This verse is quoted in **Psalms 68:1** a warfare verse

Light Overcomes Darkness

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”
(John 1:4–5, NKJV)

- Comprehend – *many scholars believe it should have been translated as apprehend*
- The powers of darkness were not trying to understand Christ they were trying to apprehend or overpower Him

“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.” (Isaiah 60:1–3, NKJV)

- The Old Testament temple was a picture of us
- God created a new race of people, and His glory is in every one of us

If intercession is pictured by God’s lightning striking the mark and Christ's intercession when He met Satan, breaking His headship, was light overcoming darkness, and our intercession releases His power as we represent Him, I believe that we release the lightning of God in our intercession bringing devastation to the powers of darkness

God wants to move in *mega* power through those He has commissioned to represent Him here on Earth

- The opposite of power is weakness
- Which is what we have without the Holy Spirit's help

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26–27, NKJV)

- Weakness – the Greek word means, “*an inability to produce results*”
- This describes us well in many situations
- The Holy Spirit wants to help
- Helps – “*taking hold of together with against*”
- The Holy Spirit wants to add His infinite power to our finite strength, giving us the results, we need
- Sometimes we pray in other tongues
- Sometimes we can only groan or weep deeply in intercession
- Some would call this travail
- The Holy Spirit is *birthing* the answer to our prayer
- Remember we don't birth anything
- He is God's birthing agent
- All we need do is pray and intercede until the burden lifts or the answer comes

The Prayer of Agreement

“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18–19, NKJV)

- Great power is released through unity
- We are to move in the principle of multiplication not addition

“Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.” (Leviticus 26:8, NKJV)

- This is the principle of synergism
- Synergism – *“the combined action of two or more which have a greater total effect than the sum of their individual effects”* – Websters

This is what happens when the Body of Christ is functioning together – (Ephesians 4:3,11,13,16, NKJV)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” (1 Peter 2:9, NKJV)