



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Effective Prayer (Part 2)

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THEME Effective Prayer

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In part 2 of the Effective Prayer series, SP Daniel Foo elaborates further on the three dimensions of prayer, understanding Satan as our adversary and how we can overcome him.

OVERCOMING THE ADVERSARY THROUGH PRAYER

SP first touched on the three dimensions of prayer as to how we should approach God; we are to approach Him as our Father, Friend and Judge.

I. Approach God as Father

Jesus taught us to approach God as our Father through prayer (Luke 11:1-4). From verses 11-13, we are also told that our heavenly Father will gladly give to us the Holy Spirit if we ask. The Holy Spirit is a gift as we have everything when we have Him. We are also reminded that we received the Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15). Hence, we can approach the throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:16).

II. Approach God as Friend

When we approach God as Friend, we are doing so as an intercessor for others (Luke 11:5-8). Jesus stated in John 15:15 that we are His friends. As friends, we have a deeper relationship with Him and can receive revelation of who He is.

III. Approach God as Judge

Jesus used the parable of the persistent widow to teach us how to approach God as Judge (Luke 18:1-8). In the parable, the unjust judge gave the widow her rights because of her persistence. God will all the more avenge us when we go to Him as our Judge because justice and righteousness are the foundation of His throne in heaven.

However, it is possible that our prayers may be blocked and therefore not answered. This is why we need to understand Satan, our adversary, so that we can overcome him.

IV. Satan is one who brings a lawsuit

The word adversary comes from Greek “Antidikos” which means to deny rights to a person. As Satan has to operate according to laws, he is always watchful so that he may bring a lawsuit against us and cause us to lose our rights (1 Peter 5:8).

V. Satan is one who makes a complaint in the judicial system (the courts of heaven)

In Revelation 12:10, it is stated that Satan is our accuser. In Greek, the word accuser is *Katagoros* which means one who is bringing a case against someone judicially in a court system. Satan has to present a case since he has to follow the laws.

VI. Satan is a strongman with legal rights

God may be the owner of Earth but He gave control of it to Man; He does not have control over everything as He cannot go against His character. With Satan as a strongman, we need to bind him so as to remove his power base.

We must never go to war against our adversary before we go to court and ensure we have right standing. If we do not, we can face a backlash when the enemy has legal rights against us. We can overcome the Accuser through three things.

VII. The Blood of the Lamb

The blood of the Lamb justified us and gave us access to God (2 Cor 5:21). We were also given righteousness (Romans 5:17) and eternal life (Romans 6:23). Through His death, He destroyed Satan who had the power of death and release those who were bonded through fear of death. Knowing the finished works of Christ on the cross, we need to appropriate them through confessing and repenting of our sins to ask for forgiveness. We are also to appropriate the blood to cleanse us of defilement and cover all footholds given to Satan.

VIII. The Word of Our Testimony

In a court, there are testimonies given by those who are judicial witnesses. God, as Judge, can only render a verdict based on evidence given. Hence, He needs a ratified testimony to agree with what Jesus our Advocate is saying before Him. The answer is that God’s people must begin to speak-prophezie in agreement with what Jesus is testifying. Our testimony is vital because what we believe and speak is the Spirit of Prophecy. This is the testimony of Jesus. His testimony is the Word of God and we declare what the scriptures declare.

IX. Did not love their lives to the death

When we accepted Christ as Savior, we were crucified in Him such that we no longer belong to ourselves but Christ (Galatians 2:20). We must therefore deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23)

CONCLUSION

In order to walk victoriously daily, we need to know the three dimensions of prayer, understand the adversary and overcome Satan through the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony as well as to die to the self-life.

QUESTIONS

There are many ways in which we pray. Share about how you approach God in prayer.

The three dimensions of prayer are to approach God as Father, Friend and Judge. It is important to know this as well as to understand the adversary. Why is this so?

We can overcome Satan through the blood of the Lamb, the word of the testimony and to die to the self-life. Out of these three, which do you struggle with the most? How can you change so as to walk victoriously in God?