

Series: Striving Together In Prayer

I HAVE HEARD THY PRAYER

1 KING 9:1-9

Text: 1 Kings 9:3

1 Kings 9:3

³ *And the LORD said unto him, **I have heard thy prayer** and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

Introduction:

What a joy it must have been for Solomon for the Lord to appear to him before the beginning of the great work of building the temple.

We read in 1 Kings 3:5

1 Kings 3:5

⁵ *In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.*

Do you remember how real the Lord's presence was to you when you were first saved?

When we got saved we were full of zeal, earnestness, and determination to do some great work for the Lord.

We truly sought His face!

In childlike faith we truly depended upon Him and knew without Him we could never accomplish His will for our lives.

What a priceless blessing it is to begin our work with God by seeking His will, wisdom, and way.

In our text Solomon has just completed a great work for the Lord, but the question is, why did the Lord appear to him a second time?

I believe it was to assure Solomon that His presence, power, and provision would be with him as he continued to serve the Lord.

The great work of building the temple was completed but there was greater work still to be done.

As the Lord answered Solomon's prayer and appeared to give him assurance let us see that there is much we can learn here.

Note:

1. OUR PROPER POSITION IN PRAYER

1 Kings 9:3

³ *And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

Note two words that speak of the proper position we should have in prayer.

The Lord says prayer should be—“before me.” This means:

A. Humility Must Be Our Mindset

The place to pray is clearly before the Lord. But we must make sure that we when approach the throne of grace we do it deliberately and reverently. When Jesus spoke about the Pharisee and the publican in prayer in Luke 18 it is clear that the Pharisee did not pray before God.

Note:

Luke 18:11

¹¹ *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are,*

extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

The Pharisee prayed in his own self-confidence, self-interest, and self-esteem.

Our prayer should be offered allowing the Holy Spirit guide our thoughts and words and frame our petition before the Lord.

Note:

Psalm 62:8

⁸ Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

- Our Prayer Must Be Directed To The Lord

Indefinite praying is a waste of time. Someone has said, “general prayers are generally powerless.” We should be specific when we pray. Like an archer who takes bow in hand and aims for the bulls-eye we should direct our prayers to the Lord.

- Our Prayer Must Be Dependent Upon the Lord

Someone has said, “Between the humble and contrite heart and the majesty of heaven, there are no barriers; the only password is prayer.”

Not only should Humility Be Our Mindset but also:

B. Heeding Must Be Our Motive

When we pray our motive must always to do the will of God.

Note:

1 Kings 9:4-5

⁴ And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: ⁵ Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

OUR PROPER POSITION IN PRAYER the Lord says is “before me” which means HUMILITY MUST BE OUR MINDSET and HEEDING MUST BE OUR MOTIVE but note also:

2. OUR PROPER PETITION IN PRAYER

1 Kings 9:3

³ *And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

Earlier Solomon had offered his prayer to the Lord and now the Lord appears to him this second time to assure Him that his prayer has been heard and that request has been granted. In the Lord's words to Solomon we see two things that constitute a proper petition to the Lord.

We should always pray that:

A. God's Presence Be With Us

God told Solomon—"I have hallowed this house...mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."

This was in answer to Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 8:28-29

1 Kings 8:28-29

²⁸ *Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant*

prayeth before thee to day: ²⁹ That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

When we go to the Lord in prayer we should be able to speak to Him in the same manner as we would a friend.

When we have finished praying we should be able to say I truly have communed with the Lord!

He spoke to me and I listened. I poured out my heart and He heard me!

We are truly praying to God when we realize His presence! To know that God knows our heart and to pray in such a way is to truly pray before God.

Not only should we pray that God's Presence Be With Us but also:

B. God's Purpose Be Accomplished Through Us

God told Solomon—"I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever..."

God promised that His name would be there forever. God's only condition was that God's people remain faithful to Him.

But the unfaithfulness of God's people can drive His presence away.

1 Kings 9:6-9

⁶ But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: ⁷ Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: ⁸ And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? ⁹ And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.

When we pray our prayer should always be, "Not my will, but thine be done, Lord!"

Note not only OUR PROPER POSITION IN PRAYER and OUR PROPER PETITION IN PRAYER but also:

3. OUR PROPER PURITY IN PRAYER

1 Kings 9:4-5

⁴ And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: ⁵ Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

Note:

A. Our Obedience To Our Walk

God told Solomon, “And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel forever...”.

It does matter how I live my life. If I want to have power with God and be assured that He will hear and answer my prayers then I must walk close to the Lord!

Quote:

“The effective prayer of faith comes from a life given up to the will and the love of God. Not as a result of

what I try to be when praying, but because of what I am when I'm not praying, is my prayer answered by God.” – Andrew Murray

Not only must we be Obedient in Our Walk but also:

B. Obedient To His Word

Solomon was not only instructed to “walk in integrity of heart, and uprightness,” but also the Lord told him “to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and...keep my statutes and my judgments.”

The presence of the Lord nor His mighty power can never be realized by one who is unfaithful to His word!

If we do not obey His Word:

- Our Prayers Will Be Hindered
- Our Power Will Be Hampered
- Our Potential Will Be Handicapped

Close:

Our greatest desire in prayer is the same as what God said unto Solomon—“I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me.”

To see our desire fulfilled we must realize OUR PROPER POSITION IN PRAYER, OUR PROPER PETITION IN PRAYER, and OUR PROPER PURITY IN PRAYER.

Is prayer for you a blessing or a burden? Do you anticipate with joy those times alone with the Lord or do you dread them?" May we always look at prayer as an opportunity to spend time with the most important person in our lives!