

## **A Revival Behind Closed Doors 2**

### **It's Not About You**

**TEXT:** Matthew 6:5–8 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup> **But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.** <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words<sup>8</sup> “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

We pray for revival in the earth, but what does the Bible say we should be praying for? We have seen that:

- Revival starts in the closet
- Motive matters
- Empty repetitions are heathen prayers
- God will not move in the earth unless we ask Him
- God responds to the cry of His own covenant people.
- **Closet first, then open reward. Revival begins in the closet long before we see it in the streets.**

I. Christian prayer is to the Father in the name of the Son John 16:22-23

John 16:22–23 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.<sup>23</sup> “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

- A. The Name of Jesus is the single necessary and sufficient basis for our prayers to be heard.
- B. **The name of a person stands for that person's character, position, identity.** EXAMPLE: Exodus 34:5 / John 17:6 / **Psalm 75:1** “We give thanks to You,

O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare *that* Your name is near.” **The word *name* is often used to designate the person himself; and the idea here is, that God was near;** that he had manifested himself to them in some special manner, and that for this there was occasion of praise. (from Barnes' Notes, ) / Psalm 34:3

Psalm 34:3–5 (NKJV) Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let **us exalt His name** together. <sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. <sup>5</sup>They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.

John 17:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup>“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

- C. Name reflects all a person is and does. “In the Name” means to ask on the basis of the Lord Jesus Christ and His completed work.
- D. VV 26-28. We now have access to the Father on the same sonship basis as Jesus did while on the earth.

John 16:26–28 (NKJV) <sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; <sup>27</sup>for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. <sup>28</sup>I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

- 1. Gal 4:4-7. Not workers, but co-owners in the family business

Galatians 4:4–7 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>**to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.** <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup>**Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

2. Heb 12:5-11 He corrects you by His Word and His Spirit in order that you will look like a chip off the old block (Lord chastised us because of procrastination and slothfulness)

Hebrews 12:5–11 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*” <sup>6</sup> *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”* <sup>7</sup> **If you endure** chastening, **God deals with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, **but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.** <sup>11</sup> Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

3. Lk 15:11-24 The Father always runs to meet His sons (Prodigal Son returns)

II. Christian prayer is based on a foundation of righteousness.

- A. James 5:16. **Righteousness is our platform for prayer.**  
No shame, no guilt, no fear.

James 5:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

1. **Forensic righteousness:** You are not guilty!!!  
Romans 3:19-26 / 5:1 / 1 Jn 2:1-2

Romans 3:19–26 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

### ***God's Righteousness Through Faith***

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> **being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) **5** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 John 2:1–2 (NKJV) **2** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

#### 2. Ontological righteousness: Rom 5:17-19 / 2 Cor 5:21 / Eph 4:24

Romans 5:17–19 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience

many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV) <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

### 3. Moral righteousness: Micah 6:8 / 1 Jn 1:9

Micah 6:8 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup>He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

B. Pro 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

1. Heb 4:14-16. We have a mega High Priest who gives us boldness to come.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> Seeing then that **we have a great High Priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, *yet* without sin. <sup>16</sup> **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Heb 10:19-23. He has opened the way. He wants you to come boldly.

Hebrews 10:19–23 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts

sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

III. My prayer closet or beyond the closed door is not for me.

A. **It is time to move beyond self-centered prayer:** It's not all about me. I have to move beyond

1. **Sin consciousness holds me captive to my own failings.** 1 Jn 1:9 / Heb 10:2 (Every prayer time should not be consumed with my repenting – I keep my slate clean all the time) “No soy digno...”

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 10:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

2. **Provision consciousness keeps me focused on my lack:** My prayers for me are short: Mk 11:23-24 + Phil 4: 6-8 and are 90% thanksgiving.

Mark 11:23–24 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes** that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

B. Eph 6:18-20 Always, all prayer, for the saints and for the ministry

Ephesians 6:18–20 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—<sup>19</sup> and for me, that

utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- C. The church is not enjoined to pray for revival or for the lost. (Certainly not to “war in the heavenlies” or “repent on behalf of our nation”
  - 1. We are repeatedly told to pray for the saints and the ministry that they might fulfill their call and purpose –
  - 2. We are the Body of Christ: Eph 1:22-23 MSG He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. (23) The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.
- D. The New Testament prayers are for the saints to walk worthy of their calling and for the preachers to be bold and accurate and protected.
  - 1. Rom 8:27 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.
  - 2. James 5:16 Pray for one another that you may be healed
  - 3. Eph 1:15-23 and 3:14-21. Paul's prayers for the churches: Spirit of wisdom and revelation / strengthened with might and know the love of Christ, filled with all the fullness of God
  - 4. Col 1:9-12 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) that you may walk worthy** of the Lord, fully

pleasing Him, being **fruitful** in every good work and **increasing** in the knowledge of God; (11) **strengthened** with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; (12) **giving thanks** to the Father who has qualified us to be **partakers** of the inheritance of the saints in the light. /

5. Col 4:12 Epaphras , “always **laboring fervently** for you in prayers, that you may stand **perfect** and **complete** in all the will of God. “
6. Php 1:9-11 NLT I pray that your **love will overflow** more and more, and that you will **keep on growing** in knowledge and understanding. (10) For I want you to understand what really matters, so **that you may live pure and blameless** lives until the day of Christ's return. (11) May you always **be filled with the fruit of your salvation**--the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Php 1:19 NLT For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.
7. Rom 15:30-33 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that **you strive together with me in prayers** to God for me, (31) that I may be **delivered** from those in Judea who do not believe, and that **my service** for Jerusalem may **be acceptable to the saints**, (32) that **I may come to you** with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. (33) Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
8. 2Th 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that **the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified**, just as it is with you, (2) and **that we may be delivered** from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.



9. Col 4:2-4 Continue **earnestly** in prayer, being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving; (3) meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us **a door for the word**, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, (4) that I may **make it manifest**, as I ought to speak.

Like Paul in Romans 15:30 I beg you, brethren, that you strive together with me in prayers: Let's do a week of going through these passages and praying these prayers for others in the Body of Christ. HPC, me, the church in Tucson, specific individuals in your lives