

“Prayer’s Authority”

January 3rd, 2021 | Pastor Cameron Brice

- I. We have just made it through a very trying year. Many people for the first time in their lives as believers experienced what true spiritual warfare looks like. We’ve navigated the difficulties of an international pandemic. We’ve felt the continued strains of racial tension. We’ve come face to face with the rising political polarization in our nation. 2020 was wild, and the Bible tells us that the closer we get to Jesus’ return, the greater these types of challenges will become. It also tells us of the great hope and confidence that we can have through Jesus, to not only survive the last days, but to thrive as the body of Christ. The darker the world grows, the brighter the light of the Kingdom will become. Let’s take a look at what Jesus says about the church in Matthew 16:18-19:

A. “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” - Matthew 16:18-19 (NKJV)

1. There are two things that we need to realize through this Scripture:
 - a) The gates of hell cannot win.
 - b) We have been given the keys of the Kingdom of God to bind and loose on earth as it is in heaven.
 - (1) Unless you’ve just recently been saved in this community you have heard this phrase many times.
 - (2) This truth is key in many of the doctrines that we hold to in the Body of Christ. It is tied to the doctrine of the Church, the authority of the believer, of prayer, of the Kingdom of God, and many more.
 - (3) This is why it is so important for us to understand what Jesus meant when He said we can bind and loose.
 - (4) Simply put we have the yes and the no of Heaven.
 - (a) *Example of my dad asking me to go tell my brothers to do or to stop doing something.*
 - (b) What are of the yeses and noes of heaven?

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i) They are the promises of God

ii) No weapon formed against you shall prosper.

Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV), “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the Lord.”

iii) He will satisfy you with good things.

Psalms 103:5 (NKJV), “Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

iv) He will protect you from the Evil One.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV), “But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”

v) He will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV), “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

vi) He will guide you.

Psalms 32:8 (NKJV), “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

vii) We will be blessed even if we experience persecution.

Matthew 5:10 (NKJV), “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

(c) These are just a few, but the Bible contains thousands of promises. These are thousands of yeses and noes that we have been given.

B. When the gates of hell attempt to push on and war against the Kingdom of God our response should be to fire back at its attacks with the yes and no of heaven. We do this through prayer.

1. “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being

watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” - Ephesians 6:13-18 (NKJV)

- a) Notice that once we have taken up the armor of God, our instruction is to PRAY.
- b) Exercising the yes and no of heaven through prayer is how we fight.
- c) We aren't supposed to sit back and wait things out until God decides to move.
- d) The promises of God, the yeses and noes, or the keys of the Kingdom are to be used by and through US!

(1) “For all the promises of God in Him are YES, and in Him AMEN, to the glory of God through us.” - 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

- (2) This means that in order for God to be glorified WE must pray the yeses and noes of heaven.
- (3) Look at an example of this in Ezekiel:

(a) “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it.” Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will also let the house of Israel INQUIRE of Me to do this for them...” - Ezekiel 36:33-38 (NKJV)

- i) God made a promise, He gave Israel a yes from heaven, but they still needed to exercise that yes through prayer.

(4) F. B. Meyer, a great American missionary, once said, “One of the greatest tragedies of our day, in the church of Jesus Christ, is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”

(5) Why is it that so many people don't pray?

C. Some of us don't know how, some of us feel foolish, and others have become disappointed believing that God doesn't listen.

1. If you don't know how, join us Monday - Thursday at 9:00 am for Good Morning CL on YouTube and Facebook, and during our Saturday Night Prayer via Zoom.

a) One of the best ways to learn how to pray is to engage with people who are further along than you.

b) The CL Fast will also be an amazing way to take multiple times in the day to learn how to pray.

2. If you feel foolish or like you're talking to no one, keep on going.

a) I know it can feel silly, but the more you do it, the more comfortable you will feel.

(1) “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” - 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

3. If you have become disappointed because of unanswered prayer allow space for God to heal your heart.

a) The story of Lazarus.

b) Jesus is compassionate toward our disappointments. He isn't mad at you, but He is waiting with open arms for you to start believing again.

c) “Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around.” - Proverbs 13:12 (MSG)