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June 2018 **“HOW DO I PRAY?”**

Greetings in Jesu!

From time to time I have encountered Christians who are facing very challenging situations. As they share about what is happening, I can sense their frustration and despondency. One of the statements often mentioned is, “I just don’t know how to pray about this.” It is true that, according to Romans 8:26-27, they could pray in the Spirit at such a time. However, The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 14:15 that he would pray both in the Spirit and with the understanding. Thus, we know that praying in the Spirit accomplishes much, but we are also to pray in our known language. Even so, during challenging times, how can we know what to pray? This is an extremely fair question, one that deserves an answer.

God knows the beginning and the end of every facet of our lives. He knows the problems we will face before we ever face them. He also knows the solution to every problem. Therefore, if we can discover a solution, we can pray according to that solution. So, then, how do we discern the answer He already knows?

The key to this lies in the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word and it is a revelation of His will for humanity. In fact, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reveals that all scripture has been given to us from God and is profitable for every area of our belief, doctrine, living and, in essence, the way we pray. Then, in 1 John 5:14-15 we read,

***“¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*”**

Since God’s Word is a revelation of His will, and if I pray according to what He has said, I know I will be praying His desires for my life and the difficulties I am facing. Another way to say this is, I can pray God’s Word and know I am praying His perfect will.

At this point, some people might say, “Oh, Brother Martin, you’re just giving us another one of those name-it-and-claim-it confession teachings.” However, one of the foundations for confession comes from Jesus Christ Himself. In Mark 11:23 He clearly instructed,

***“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*”**

Sadly, the pattern for many Christians is to develop hap-hazard confessions that are terribly self-serving. The mountain Jesus spoke of is not my lack of a massive house, flashy car or fancy clothes; it is the challenge of anything I face that contradicts God's Kingdom will for me, my life, my family, my ministry, my health, and so forth. When I speak, confess or pray, what comes out of my mouth is supposed to line up with what God has already said.

One of the greatest examples of this kind of confession is in the life of the Prophet Ezekiel, recorded in the book of Ezekiel, chapter 37.

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, ²And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

³And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

⁴Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. ⁸And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

God's will was for the dead, dry bones to reassemble, be covered in muscle and flesh, then be filled with life. Ezekiel was given the responsibility to bring God's will to pass. However, he didn't just start praying and crying out to God according to what he thought would work. Instead, God told Ezekiel what to say and when Ezekiel began speaking the Word of God, the will of God began to manifest. God's Word, revealed to and spoken by a mere human, wrought an absolute miracle and a dead situation was brought to life.

Naysayers would say, "That's a wonderful story, Brother Martin, but that was just some vision Ezekiel had, it wasn't real life." I agree it was a vision, but it was also a revelation of the potential of what can happen when we take God's Word and put it to work in our prayers and confessions. Remember, in Matthew 6:9-10 where Jesus was instructing about prayer, He said, ⁹*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.* Since God's Word is a revelation of His will, then declaring God's Word in our prayers is, without debate, a scriptural way to pray about absolutely anything. I'll give you an example.

There are many ministers, pastors and churches which consider themselves associated with our ministry in some fashion. Not only do I pray for them, their ministries and churches, I also pray for the people who are a part of our church, Grace Christian Center. God understands the needs they all face far more than I could ever comprehend. So, one of the ways I pray for them all is to incorporate Ephesians 1:17-23, Ephesians 3:16-21, Philippians 1:9-11 and Colossians 1:9-14 in my prayer. Look up those passages and note how I use them in my prayer.

Father, I pray that You, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You: The eyes of our understanding being enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of Your calling, and what the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in us, and what is the exceeding greatness of Your power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of Your mighty power, which You wrought in Christ, when You raised Him from the dead, and set Him at Your own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all.

Please grant unto us, according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with might by Your Spirit in our inner man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fulness of God.

And this I pray, that our love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that we may approve things that are excellent; that we may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

I desire that we might be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that we might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to Your glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto You, Father, Who has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the Kingdom of Your dear Son: In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Now unto You Who is doing exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, be glory in our lives, ministries and churches by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

There is nothing in the above prayer which contradicts God's will. In fact, with a few modifications, that prayer can be used to pray for yourself, your family, and friends. It is but one example of how we can pray God's Word over any situation.

What are you facing? Problems in your marriage? Your health? Your finances? Your family? Do you need wisdom or direction for your life or ministry? Use verses of scripture relative to whatever you're facing, whatever you need or whatever needs to change and incorporate those verses into your prayers. *It is impossible to pray amiss when you are praying God's Word in the context of how He has given it.*

Some might reply, "But Brother Martin, I don't know what verses to use." What you've just told me is that you have apparently never spent much time reading the Bible. Essentially, you have two choices: (1) Utilize one of the many books listing verses of God's promises from scripture, or (2) Start reading your Bible. I suggest the second option as being the far better choice. If along with reading your Bible, you use one of the promises of God books, be sure to confirm the proper, contextual use of the verses you plan to incorporate in your prayers.

God's Word is life, it is truth, it is His will and it will bring about change if we appropriate it into our lives. His Word is a sure foundation and it will never fail. His Word is guaranteed and supported by His very existence. Furthermore, God cannot lie. His Word has gone forth from His mouth. It will not fail to produce, and it will accomplish that which He pleases (Isaiah 55:11). Thus, when we follow the example of Ezekiel and declare His Word, we can expect results that align with His will. Praise God, what an incredible, promise!

In His Grace,

Jim

SPECIAL SERMON CD OFFER – This month I am offering a CD of a sermon that explains even more about the power of confessing God's Word. The title is, "From Confession to Manifestation." You can receive a copy by completing and sending in the form on the next page.

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Every now and then I am asked if I have teachings on the Book of the Revelation. I do not. God has never led me to perform an extensive study on that book or to teach it in a line-upon-line contextual manner. He has given me very few sermons concerning passages that deal with end-time prophecy, but He has never had me study end-time prophecy and I do not consider myself to be an expert on the matter. One thing I do know is that He shared with me how a lot of end-time prophecy teachings are very wrong, and many Christians have been misled by what they've heard. He further shared that the closer we get to the return of Jesus, the more the error will be corrected.

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It seems as though some people are under the impression I host tours to the Holy Land. That is not true. I have never been to Israel or anywhere in the Middle East. Though I am not opposed to making such a trip, I have never been there and am definitely not qualified to host such tours.

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Occasionally, our ministry receives requests for several sermons and/or teaching series. If you send us a **brand new, unopened** 64GB thumb drive, we will load it with the following and return it to you: all of my sermons and teaching series from 1999-2017, all of our Prayer and Power conferences, sermons from conferences where I've ministered in other nations, and over ten years of my teaching letters. (The sermons will be in audio-only MP3 format).

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If you have ever wanted to attend Bible College, but felt as though you couldn't afford the cost, Grace Ministries Bible College may be your answer. Students at GMBC do not pay for admission or classes or course material. The sole expectation is that all students will pray and give to support the school as the Lord leads and as they purpose in their hearts. You can find information about the school at www.jmmgrace.com.

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The dates for our 2019 Spring Prayer and Power Conference have been set for Sunday, April 28 through Friday, May 3. (By the way, all of the sermons, prophecies and exhortations from our 2018 conference are now available for free download at our website.)

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☐ Please send a CD of the sermon, "*From Confession to Manifestation.*"

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My love gift for this month is \$ _____

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