



Church in the House Edification Material - September, 2010

Theme: HEAVENS STRATEGY FOR ALL TIME LIVING

Topic: The sovereignty of God versus the Prayer of Faith.

Text: I Timothy 6: 13-16, James 5: 13-18

Introduction: - The sovereignty of God is sometimes a difficult subject to grasp because of the enormous responsibility it places on us as individuals:

- i. To respect and accept the will of God for our lives.
- ii. To have absolute trust in God, believing that God knows the best
- iii. To humble ourselves, accept our humanity and limitations and submit to the counsel of God.

Our focus today is God's sovereignty in our prayer life. **James 5: 15 - 18**

James 5: 15 "...and the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up".

James 5: 16^b "...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"

James 5:17-18 "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its fruit."

Interactive session: Questions

What happen if God decides not to raise up the sick on whose behalf the prayer of faith is being offered "?

Can God choose not to answer the prayer of such a man "Powerful and mighty as Elijah"?

NOTE: Words on marble: Man can only pray, the power to answer belongs to God alone
- *Dr. Tunde Bakare.*

When we are in need, we find scriptures that encourage us to go before His presence, such as **Luke 11: 9 - 13, Matt 7: 7 - 11, Matt 21: 21- 22, John 14: 12 - 14, John 16: 23 - 24.**

However, asking alone is not enough; there are other factors that must be fulfilled, such as:

- i. We must ask in faith (**James 1: 5 - 6**)
- ii. We must ask according to His will (**I John 5: 14 -15**)
- iii. We must keep his commandment (Obedience) **I John 3: 22**
- iv. Sometimes, we add fasting to our prayer(**Matt 17:14 - 21**)
- v. Other times we give sacrificial offerings (Seed faith) **I Chronicles 21: 23 - 27**

Let's assume that we have fulfilled all these scriptural injunctions, then we may ask, why then has God not answered us and our prayer list is still long instead of reducing?

Discussion: Proffer some answers.

Answers

- i. Our prayer is not stronger than the eternal counsel of Jehovah God.
- ii. Our fasting does not change God it only change us.
- iii. Even in our prayers we must have room for the sovereignty of God.

OCTOBER, 2010

Biblical Life Applications

(1) ABRAHAM (Genesis 12, 15, 17, 18, 21)

- (a) The man:** the Lord appeared to him, he built altars to the Lord at different places to pray and worship God.
- (b) The situation:** - His wife Sarah was barren. **Gen, 11:30**
- (c) The prayer:** - that God would give him an heir. **Gen, 15:2 - 3**
- (d) God's response:** - God answered according to the set time which He chose. **Gen 21: 1- 2**, after 25 years of leaving his father's house.

(2) DAVID (II Samuel 12:15-23)

- (a) The man:** The sweet psalmist of Israel, a man after God's heart who missed it but humbled himself before God and confessed his sins to God. He knew how to keep a short account with God.
- (b) The situation:** God had pronounced that the child born would die. **II Samuel 12:14.**
- (c) The prayer:** David pleaded with God for the child that it might live and fasted as well for seven days. **II Samuel 12:16-17**
- (d) God's response:** on the seventh day the child died. **II Samuel 12:18**

(3) PAUL (II Corinthians 12:1-10)

- (a) The man:** Foremost Apostle with great revelations. **II Corinthians 12:1-4, Gal 1:11-17, Acts 13: 9-12.**
- (b) The situation:** A thorn in the flesh was given him, a messenger of Satan to buffet him. **II Corinthian 12: 7**
- (c) The prayer:** That the Lord would take away this thorn. **II Corinthian 12: 8**
- (d) God's response:** My grace is sufficient for you. **II Corinthian 12: 9**

(4) YOU – How does the above apply to you? (DISCUSS)

All of this biblical characters life confirms one truth to us, the right to answer our prayers or not belongs to God alone. If we accept this truth how then should we pray, James 5: 13 & 15 our prayer model should be Jesus at Gethsemane. Matt, 26:36-42

Prayer Focus: Lord, not my will but your will be done.