

KINGDOM ATMOSPHERE PRT 10

This morning we are continuing with our teaching on **PREVAILING PRAYER (f): LESSONS FROM PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE.**

In the previous 5 weeks we looked at

4. Lessons from Jehoshaphat's prayer for victory

4.1 Prevailing prayer is only possible when it comes from a place of habit and lifestyle.

4.2 Every battle requires different levels of prayer intensities

How did the king increase the intensity of prayer?

2 Chronicles 20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek Jehovah, and called for a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah gathered themselves to ask of Jehovah. Even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek Jehovah.

- **He declared a fast**

2 Chronicles 20: 4 And Judah gathered themselves to ask of Jehovah. Even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek Jehovah.

- **He asked for corporate prayer**

- There are times when you need people to pray with you – this is a powerful weapon that has been ignored by believers.
- Jehoshaphat knew the power of corporate prayer and he called for it. Sometimes you need people to stand with you in prayer.
- Whilst religion tells you that when you ask for help, it is a sign of weakness, relationship says we are stronger together – the body is as strong as the sum of all its parts.
- Corporate prayer attracts a corporate anointing and breakthrough.
- When you pray together, you are able to pray in agreement and there is power in agreement.

What you cannot achieve alone can be achieved in an atmosphere of corporate prayer.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if one falls down, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to help him up.

- In a corporate gathering, there is a sharpening of each other, a quickening and a comforting of each other's souls. People establish one another in divine truth, and strengthen each other's hands and hearts – Psalm 133: 1-3.

Leviticus 26:8 Five of you will pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you will pursue ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

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- A glance through the book of Acts reveals that the early church was serious about praying together. They prayed together in the temple and in their homes, when they were sick and when they were filled with the Spirit, at mealtimes and in times of persecution.

Acts 2:42 And they were continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship and in the breaking of the loaves, and in prayers.

- When the church was under persecution, the church grew stronger in prayer.

Acts 4: 23 On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord.

- When Peter was incarcerated, the church got together and prayed for him

Acts 12: 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was fervently praying to God for him.

- Facts about corporate prayer
 - It is faith building – when you see others praying, your faith is stirred up
 - It teaches you how to pray stronger prayers – it was after the disciples saw Jesus praying that they requested Jesus to teach them to pray.
 - It builds unity of purpose – Corporate prayer has the ability to knit a group together in a bond of fellowship and praise
 - It creates a Sense of expectation among the people - As believers continue to regularly gather for intentional times of corporate prayer a sense of anticipation arises. People become excited to have these prayer meetings, expecting to see God show up and answer
- When the entire people of Judah fasted and prayed together, heaven moved on their behalf.
- The Bible encourages us to make our requests known unto God – the question we need to deal with is this; how does one present a request before God. In front of us, though not exhaustive, Jehoshaphat gives us some ideas on how to make our requests known to God

4.3 Jehoshaphat's model of a prevailing prayer

2 Chronicles 20:5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of Jehovah, before the new court, 6 and said, O Jehovah, the God of our Fathers, are You not God in Heaven? And do You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? And is there power and might in Your hand, so that none is able to withstand You?

- a) **Acknowledge the supremacy of God over the situation;** his power being infinite, unlimited, and uncontrollable, unstoppable.

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Jehoshaphat exalted God above the situation – “...O Jehovah, the God of our Fathers, are You not God in Heaven? And do You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? And is there power and might in Your hand, so that none is able to withstand You?”

b) **Anchor your prayers in God’s promises and past exploits** – He is able and faithful

2 Chronicles 20:7 Are You not our God? Did You not drive out the people of this land before Israel, and give it to the seed of Your friend Abraham forever?

c) **Anchor your prayers on God’s nature** – the God of justice, the God of mercy, the God of compassion

2 Chronicles 20:10 And now, behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them, 11 behold, they reward us by coming to cast us out of Your possession, which You have given us to inherit.

d) **Acknowledge your utter dependance on God**

2 Chronicles 20:12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no might against this great company which comes against us. Nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

- Jehoshaphat was vulnerable enough to mention how weak he was in comparison to the three kings before him.
- Your utter dependence on God triggers the move of God on your behalf
- God was his only option.
- The prayer that Jehoshaphat made, caused heaven to move on his behalf.

2 Chronicles 20:15 And he said, Listen, all Judah, and you people of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat! So says Jehovah to you, Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude. For the battle is not yours, but God's.

- God’s answer to your prayer removes fear and discouragement – these are two signs you get after making a prevailing prayer.
- All along the battle was there for them to fight but something shifted after praying.
- Prayer transfers the battle from your hands into the capable hands of God

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- Before engaging in prayer, Jehoshaphat was lost for words, he was full of confusion but something changed after prayer. The prophet started giving directions regarding the battle strategy.

2 Chronicles 20:16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz. And you shall find them at the end of the valley, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You shall not fight in this battle. Set yourselves and stand, and see the salvation of Jehovah with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for Jehovah will be with you.

- Prayer reveals the battle strategy for what you are facing
- Prayer gives us access to heavenly wisdom
- Though the battle had been shifted into the hands of God, Jehoshaphat was still expected to be an active participant in the process.

2 Chronicles 20:17...Do not fear nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for Jehovah will be with you.

- Prayer does not devolve you of your responsibility – you still need to go for the interview sometimes, you still need to send out the application, you still need to take the driver's test after praying.
- When God answers your prayer, you need to have the right response – Jehoshaphat and the people worshiped and praised God.
- Answered prayers should prompt you to acknowledge the grace and the goodness of God.

2 Chronicles 20:18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his face to the ground. And all Judah and the people of Jerusalem fell before Jehovah, worshiping Jehovah.

- Jehoshaphat had a revelation of the type of weapon he needed to use – God told him that the battle was not his and that he was to take up his position and stand firm, but Jehoshaphat placed worshippers in front of the army to sing to the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:21 And he consulted with the people, and he appointed singers to Jehovah and praisers to praise the beauty of holiness as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise Jehovah, for His mercy endures forever. 22 And when they began to sing and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, who had come against Judah. And they were beaten.

- He knew that praise attracts God and if he was to have God in the field, he needed to draw him through praise and worship – wow!