

WHY IS PRAYER SO IMPORTANT?

[Kerikeri Assembly of God – 3/3/02 - EKB]

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Readings: *Gen 1:28, Heb 2:6-10*

1. When God made man/woman **He put them in authority** over creation, *Gen 1:27,28, Heb 2:6-10.*
2. God gave to man/woman **a portion of His ALL authority.**
3. **By way of example** we can consider **the Central Government and the Police Force.** The Central Government of N.Z. passes traffic laws to regulate and control the flow of traffic on our roads. However the Central Government members do not enforce those laws and control the traffic. They have delegated their authority to the N.Z. Police Force to do this. The effectiveness of the Central Government's control of the traffic depends upon the obedience and diligence of the Police Force to enforce the Government's laws.
4. In the same way, after God had given to man /woman authority to govern creation as His representatives, when He chose to act on the earth, **He was limited to work through them.** This is what it says in *Ps 115:16, Heb 2:7,8.*
5. Now in **the Fall of man/woman** into sin, *Gen 3:1-6*, their authority was transferred to satan, and he became the prince or ruler of the world, *Jn 14:30, 2Cor 4:4, 1Jn 5:19.* Satan became the "god of this world". The whole world came under his control.
6. Back to our analogy of Central Government and the Police Force. Imagine an enemy, alien force, coming into N.Z. and taking over the Police Force, so that the Police Force could no longer enforce the laws of Central Government. If the alien power, now controlling the police, issued orders that motorists were now allowed to travel at any speed, on either side of the road, and make turns without signalling, the Central Government would be unable to prevent road chaos and disaster.
7. So after the Fall of man/woman, **God was limited in His ability to act in the world** through man/woman and bring it all back under His rule and Kingdom through them. They were now under satan's power, *Eph 2:2.*
8. God's answer to this situation was to send **ANOTHER MAN, JESUS THE CHRIST, HIS SON**, One of the Godhead, to become perfect, sinless, obedient MAN on the earth, (not under satan's authority), **to establish God's Kingdom on the earth**, *Jn 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, Mk 1:14,15.* The Bible calls Him the "**last Adam**" and the "**second Man**". As the "**last Adam**" He terminated the old Adamic inheritance , and as the "**second Man**" **He established a totally new race of beings on the earth who are "in Christ", sons and daughters of God**, *1Cor 15:45,47, 2Cor 5:17, Gal 3:27, 2Cor 6:18.*
9. **More than this** at the end of His perfect, sinless life, **He gave Himself to be a full and perfect sacrifice for the sins of every person, on the Cross**, *1Jn 2:2, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 1Cor 15:3.*

10. Whoever repents, confesses their sins, turns to God, believes in and receives Him as Lord and Saviour, is forgiven, accepted, declared righteous, separated unto God, redeemed, and given the gift of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 2:38,39, Ac 3:19, Jn 1:12, Rom 10:9,10, Rom 5:1, Eph 1:7.*
11. Whoever believes in Him is transferred from satan's authority to God's Kingdom, *Col 1:13.*
12. **Now God has sons/daughters on the earth who are "in Christ", *Rom 6:3,4, Gal 3:27.* They are in His kingdom, *Col 1:13,* living in His power, love and truth, *2Tim 1:7.* They rule and reign in life through Christ, *Rom 5:17,* and establish the Kingdom of God and His rule in the earth, *Mat 6:33, Lk 10:19, 2Cor 10:3-5.***
13. **Prayer is the No 1 way of ruling in life, *Rom 5:17,* and establishing God's Kingdom rule in the earth, *Lk 11:2, 2Cor 10:3-5, Lk 18:1-8, Jn 16:23,24, Mat 7:7-11, 1Jn 5:14,15.* When a person knows what is God's will, and when they line up their prayer and their faith, they are giving to God a mandate to move in power and fulfil His purpose**
14. **Prayer starts in the heart and will of God, *Rom 11:36.* The Holy Spirit guides us to pray, *Eph 6:18,* according to God's will, *1Jn 5:14,15.* We pray to God the prayers He gives us to pray **on the earth, as His Kingdom representatives among men, *Ps 115:16, Heb 2:7,8,* and the Holy Spirit, who is God's Executive Power brings it to pass.****
15. There are other very important ways to ruling in life and bringing increase to God's Kingdom on the earth. These are: witnessing to the lost, preaching the Gospel, making disciples and edifying the church, caring for the poor and needy, raising a godly family, running a business on Christian principles to glorify God, taking public office in Government, the Judiciary, Local County Council etc., and standing for Christian truth and behaviour, working as a teacher, lawyer, student, accountant, policeman, electrician, driver, caregiver, soldier etc., and taking every opportunity to glorify God and declare His word.
16. God's Name for His House, the church of Jesus Christ, *1Tim 3:15,* is given in *Mat 21:13,* and He calls it "a House of Prayer for all nations".
17. As we pray in faith and act in obedience, (if this is necessary), God's will is brought to pass and His Kingdom is increased.
18. As believers individually, and in prayer with others, we are God's "Police Force" on the earth to establish His Kingdom rule. *Lk 17:21, Rom 14:17, Mat 6:33, Rom 5:17, 1Thes 1:5-10, Lk 11:2, 2Cor 10:3-5, Mk 16:15-20, Mat 28:18-20, Mat 18:18-20, Mat 16:18,19.*
19. God has given us 5 keys to Revival, to see His Kingdom come powerfully into this town.
 - a. Humility to God – full surrender to Him and obedience to His will, *1Pet 5:5,6.*
Humility to others – to serve in love, out of a secure identity, by the leading of His Spirit, *Mat 20:28, Gal 5:13.*
 - b. Prayer – ruling in Christ, *Eph 6:18.*
 - c. Seeking God's face together, to hear His voice, know His will, and move as one in His will, *Ac 4:24-33.*
 - d. Refuse to allow sin and habits of sin to remain in our lives, *Rom 6:1-14.*
 - e. Witness to the lost, to win the lost, *Lk 19:10, Ac 1:8, Mk 16:16,* at any cost.