

The Power of Agreement

”Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matthew 18:19-20).

Jesus teaches us that there is power in agreeing prayer. As we ask the Spirit to lead us into all truth about agreeing prayer, ask Him to teach us the answers to these questions:

1. What does it mean to agree?
2. With whom must we agree?
3. How do we “come together in [His] name”?
4. Does Jesus arrive because two or three are gathered, or is He already within each believer?

The unified prayers of the church govern the spiritual world.

”His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” (Eph 3:10).

The measure of the power of the church today determines the measure of the manifestation of the power of God. For His power is now revealed through the church. This whole matter can be likened to the flow of water in one’s house. Though the water tank of the Water Supply Company is huge, its flow is limited to the diameter of the water pipe in one’s own house. If a person wishes to have more flow of water, he will need to enlarge his water pipe. Today the degree of the manifestation of God’s power is governed by the capacity of the church.

Watchman Nee, *The Prayer Ministry of the Church**

It is both sobering and astounding to realize that God has chosen to express Himself on earth through His church. We are the pipeline through which the power of God flows. The size of His power is infinite; the flow of His power is limited only by our capacity to receive it.

The prayers of the church announce to the powers, principalities and authorities of the spiritual realm what God's wisdom is. The spiritual realm must deploy accordingly. When the church, through prayer, announces God's Word (will), Satan’s forces must back down and the forces of God must carry out His Word. The gates of hell cannot stand against the onslaught of the church.

However, there are conditions that must be in place before this kind of authority goes into effect.

The church must pray in agreement.

The power of unity is a universal principle, not just a church-principle. People working together toward an agreed upon goal are all but unstoppable. Early in the history of

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humankind, God stated this truth.

“Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, ‘Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.’ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The Lord said, ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then *nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.*’” (Gen. 11:1-6).

God had to disrupt unity and divide the human race in order to stop them from bringing destruction. The power of their unity was so great that God Himself declared that “nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” Humankind was unified for a purpose of their own—a purpose that would bring disaster on the earth. God had to scatter the human race until the day when He could reverse the division and restore unity—until the day when He, by His indwelling Spirit, could bring humans into agreement with Him and, finally, with each other. The unity described in Genesis was dangerous because humans were in agreement with *each other*, but not in agreement *with God*.

How did God disrupt their unity?

”The Lord said, ‘If as one people *speaking the same language* they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and *confuse their language* so they will not understand each other.’ So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth” (Gen. 11:6-10).

God confused their language so that when they spoke, they did not understand each other. On the Day of Pentecost, He reversed what He had done. On the day that the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers; on the day that God took up residence in the spirits of His people; on that day He restored unity. On that day, no matter what language a person spoke, each understood it as if it were spoken in his own language.

”When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because *each one heard them speaking in his own language*. Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and

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Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’ Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’” (Acts 2:1-12).

In Genesis, God caused mankind to be unable to understand each other. In Acts, He caused them to understand each other, no matter the native language of the hearer. He restored their unity so that “nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.”

What is spiritual agreement?

Spiritual agreement is something different from having the same opinion. It goes much deeper. Agreement among believers begins in the heart of each individual believer before God. It’s a simple matter to find someone who “agrees” with you—someone who has the same opinion of what God should do in any given matter. This kind of agreement, in fact, weakens prayer. Why? Because two people who are drawn together because they have the same opinion will strengthen that opinion in each other. These two people will feed each other’s “arguments and pretensions” and will actually keep each other from hearing from God. Opinions about how God should handle a certain matter are ALWAYS dangerous. A pray-er who is listening to God can know what God wants to do but not how He is going to do it. He wants to “fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding “(Col. 1:9), but “his paths are past tracing out” (Rom. 11:33).

As believers, we have strongholds. Strongholds, as referred to in 2 Corinthians 10:4, are fortresses. Fortresses are erected to defend or protect something within their walls. These fortresses, Scripture says, are built out of arguments and pretensions. Arguments and pretensions serve to protect lies and stubborn opinions.

”For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Cor.10:3-5).

“The weapons we fight with” are prayers—words initiated by God and voiced by believers. We don’t tear down strongholds with brute force or our bare hands. We don’t tear down strongholds with arguments and reasoning. We tear them down with prayer. When we allow strongholds to exist and protect our favorite opinions, we cannot hear God’s Voice. How can you know if you have a stronghold protecting an opinion or an attitude? By how many arguments you need to support and justify it!

So you can see that if two people who have erected strongholds to protect the same opinion come together, the result will not be the tearing down of strongholds, but the strengthening of strongholds. When two people of the same opinion come together to give God instructions about how to work out a situation, there will be NO SPIRITUAL POWER. This is not agreeing in prayer; this is ganging up on God!

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To pray with power, the pray-er must agree with God.

”Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matt. 18:19-20).

What does it mean, then, to agree in prayer? The word translated “agree” is a word from which we get the English word, “symphony.” It means to harmonize, to blend several voices into one. The word “agree” means to be in harmony, but not necessarily in unison.

With whom must a pray-er agree? He must agree with God. A pray-er must be in agreement with the intercession of Jesus, who is always in agreement with the will of God. When more than one intercessor, each of whom is in agreement with God, come together to pray God’s will, then anything they ask Him to do, He will do.

“Where two or three come together in [His] name...,” concerted intercession produces effects on the earth. The word translated “come together” is a the Greek word *sunago*, which means “to join together; to make one.” It is the composite of two words: *sun*, which means to bring into complete union, and *ago*, which means to lead, guide or induce. The verb is in the passive tense, which means that the subject (two or three intercessors) is acted upon. They do not come together on their own initiative, but are brought together. They are led into complete union.

Agreeing intercessors, then, are joined together by His power acting on them. These intercessors come together “in [His] name.” The Greek is more correctly translated “into His name.” These intercessors are drawn into the power of His name. When they have been joined together into His name, “...there [He] is with them.” The word translated “with them” is a Greek word that really means “among” (*mesos*). It implies dispersion and intermixture. In other words, He is the solvent in which the intercessors lives have become one.

Jesus is not absent until two or three come together. Instead, He is present in the lives of each individual intercessor so that when they come together, He is within and among them. When the wills of two or more intercessors are immersed and dissolved in His perfect will, every single thing they ask will be done by the Father.

Increased spiritual power is released when the church prays in agreement.

When we, the church, learn how to agree in prayer, the power of God is multiplied on the earth. The same principle is in effect as was in effect in Genesis: “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” When we are unified through the Spirit, we are “speaking the same language.”

Jesus gave us the language to use to pray in agreement with Him: “Let Your kingdom come and let Your will be done on earth in the same way Your will is done in heaven.”

* I recognize that Watchman Nee is a controversial figure. I, personally, have benefited from his writing. As I do with all authors, I filter out those things with which I disagree. Watchman Nee presents Jesus, the Son of God, only Savior for humanity, who died on the cross, rose again, and is seated at the right hand of God. He is not controversial on any of the foundational truths of Christianity. I certainly think that the quote here is right on target.

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