

RESTING IN THE LORD

Matthew 6:13b: "...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

I Chronicles 29:11-14

I Chronicles 29:11: "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all."

II Chronicles 6:41: "Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness."

Isaiah 32:18: "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

Hebrews 4:9: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

Today we come to the closing of the model prayer. This is the prayer our Lord taught us to pray. While contemplating this message, this old hymn comes to mind; here are some of the words:

Jesus, I am resting, resting,
in the joy of what thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
of thy loving heart.

Ever lift thy face upon me
as I work and wait for thee;
resting 'neath thy smile, Lord Jesus,
earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory,
sunshine of my Father's face,
keep me ever trusting, resting,
fill me with thy grace.

While searching for helps in preparing my sermon, I was astounded at what little has been commented about the closing words of our Lord's prayer ("...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever..."). These comments by men of God that I have read and gleaned after for years were brief, often not pertinent and many were dismissive of this closing phrase of the prayer by saying, "the best and oldest manuscripts don't include this phrase, it should not even be there. But it is still truth." It would do you well to mark when the oldest manuscripts (which happen to be the manuscripts with a plethora of mistakes) say that certain words, phrases or stories should not be in the Bible.

Mark it down! These are some of the most important doctrines and teachings that should be in the Bible!

The closing words bring resolution and resting to your heart and stamina to your will, if you accept ownership of these inspired thoughts as your own!

To understand what God wants us to pray as we come to our closing thoughts on prayer, we need to go to the first time these words were uttered. They were spoken by King David shortly before his death. He had a strong desire to build the House of God, a temple in which to bring ultimate glory and honor to His worthy LORD. David now understood that although he was permitted to gather the materials for the temple, he was not permitted to build God's house; his son, Solomon must build God's temple. Notice these words in I Chronicles 29:1: "Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God." This immediately brings to mind the beginning of our prayer series as we saw Jesus entering into the temple that had been defiled by the moneychangers and wicked priests. Our Lord emphatically declared in Matthew 21:13, "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." So where is God's abode in the earth in this dispensation? The apostle Paul answered that question in I Corinthians 6:19, 20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Therefore, as believers, we should echo the words of David in describing the purpose of God's house: "...for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God." Your body as God's house is not for you to do your own fleshly desires and purposes; you are designed to serve God. You were born for God and you were born again to fulfill all God's will.

We have seen that through praise we enter into prayer. And as we come to the end of prayer, we exit through praise. If our body is a house of prayer, we might say praise is the front door of prayer and praise is the back door of prayer. We enter in by worshipful praise; we leave to accomplish God's will for our day by praise. When praise is the introduction of our prayer time and praise is the conclusion of our prayer time, prayer becomes the perpetual activity for the rest of our day. "Thus, "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17) moves beyond an anticipated ideal to a real possibility.

I. CHRIST'S DOMINION, "THE KINGDOM"

Dominion is defined as control or power over, or the authority to rule. When a king has power over a certain territory, this is an example of a situation where a king has dominion over that territory.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." What a promise! All other institutions and governmental powers may fail, but the church will not only stay intact; she shall prevail. Allow

me to give you some synonyms of “prevail”: dominate, reign rule, triumph, override, overarch

outweigh. God has a kingdom and He is King! We cannot lose when conjoined to the plan and purpose of the Kingdom of God. Revelation 11:15 declares, “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” When we are saved we have this promise in Luke 17:21: “Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

We need to remember in these days in which we are living, Jesus still rules and reigns in our hearts. Since that is so, we need to remember that Christ will take dominion and authority of all that we are involved with. No wonder that our Lord promised in Matthew 17:20b, “...If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

II. CHRIST’S DYNAMIC FORCE, “THE POWER”

Zechariah 4:6: “Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Ephesians 5:18: “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

Jesus told us in John 15:5, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” As we come to the conclusion of the prayer, we must remind ourselves that we are helpless without Him. Overconfidence leads to pride and pride leads to a sure downfall (Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:23). The way up is down. Humility is the kindling place of power (James 4:6; Luke 11:14; James 4:10; I Peter 5:5; Proverbs 15:33; Proverbs 22:4).

III. CHRIST’S DESIGNATION, “THE GLORY”

Ephesians 3:21, “Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” In this age and in the next, Christ will receive glory! (Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 48:11, 12; Jeremiah 9:23, 24; I Corinthians 1:29-31)

One of the great goals as we come to the ending of this prayer is to get out of God’s way and be in His way. God’s will shall be done (Isaiah 46:9, 10; Isaiah 45:5-11). Here’s where we need to be--out of God’s way and in His way. Genesis 24:27b, “...I being in the way, the LORD led me....”

We conclude this magnificent plan of prayer by saying, Thine is the Kingdom, build your Kingdom, Lord, in me and through me. Thine is the power, Lord. Without You I can do nothing. Perfect me and perfect your work through me. And Thine is all the glory; You alone are worthy, Oh Lord! And I promise to give you the honor due to thy holy name.

-Pastor Pope-