



ACCURATE BUILDING CONCEPTS

Doctrine before Prayer – Part 2

DOCTRINE BEFORE PRAYER - PART 2

THIS MESSAGE IS IN RESPONSE TO ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THAT MAY HAVE RISEN FROM MY PREVIOUS EMAIL “DOCTRINE BEFORE PRAYER”.

THE MESSAGE DOES NOT UNDERMINE PRAYER, BUT PLACES DOCTRINAL ACCURACY BEFORE PRAYER. E.G. YOU CANNOT PRAY TO GOD TO GIVE YOU A NEW WIFE, BECAUSE YOU FEEL AFTER 25 YEARS THAT YOU AND YOUR WIFE ARE NOW INCOMPATIBLE. YOUR DOCTRINE DETERMINES HOW AND WHAT YOU PRAY FOR.

(COMMENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS ARE IN RED)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. In my city there are leaders who go from house to house praying and calling up regular prayer meetings. These leaders use Brooklax(laxatives) and olive oil to deal with witchcraft, Jeye’s fluid to sanctify homes, chop down trees and burn sofas to deal with demons. These leaders are called “prayer warriors” because of the “signs” that follow their prayer. The problem here is doctrinal. These men do not want to reason on the basis of the scriptures because of their large following. They say, “What we are doing works”. These are false “prophets”, who hide under the guise of the spiritual activity of prayer. How can we pray with these men who do not believe the Word of God.

HOW CAN WE AGREE IN PRAYER WITH SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE TRIUNE GOD, OR THE DEITY OF JESUS OR THE HOLY SPIRIT? HOW CAN WE AGREE IN PRAYER WITH SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST AND INSISTS ON KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY? HOW CAN WE PRAY WITH SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES THAT SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS DEMONIC – HE INSISTS ON CASTING THE “TONGUES DEMON” OUT OF YOU. THIS IS IN VIOLATION OF THE ONE ACCORD PRINCIPLE. CLEARLY, THESE DOCTRINAL INACCURACIES MUST BE DEALT WITH – HENCE THE CALL FOR REFORMATION.

2. It is often said, “the power of prayer” – This is an inaccurate statement. It should be “the power of our God”.

3. There is a growing group in our city that now charges for prayer because their followers recognise the power of prayer. After praying for an old lady, I was asked what my fee was for praying.

4. We have emphasized prayer instead of righteousness. It is not prayer that avails much, but the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man.

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

THE CHURCH MUST EMPHASIZE RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH PRAYER. I HAVE SEEN “PRAYER WARRIORS” DEFRAUDING THEIR MEDICAL AIDS AND OBTAINING FRAUDULENT MEDICAL CERTIFICATES WITHOUT A TROUBLED CONSCIENCE.

GOD PLACES RIGHTEOUSNESS ABOVE PRAYER:

Jer 15:1

Then the LORD said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth.(NKJ)

GOD ASKS JOSHUA TO STOP PRAYING AND DEAL WITH THE ACCURSED THING.

Josh 7:7-11

7 And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all-- to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!

8 "O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?

9"For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

10 So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?

11"Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

(NKJ)

5. GOD PLACES DOCTRINE FIRST.

Prov 28:9

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.(NKJ)

PRAYER AND DOCTRINE CANNOT BE DIVORCED. THIS IS LIKE DIVORCING SPIRIT AND TRUTH IN WORSHIP. MANY CHURCHES ONLY PRAY. A SIMPLE TEST- ASK FOLK WHAT THE ARMOUR OF GOD IS? YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AT THE ANSWERS. OF THOSE WHO DO SUPPLY THE CORRECT ANSWER, MANY OF THEM DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ARMOUR MEANS.

6. Doctrine aligns prayer. If you know what the Word of God says about an issue, then your prayer is more accurate and effective.

7. **COMMENT:"DOCTRINAL DIALOGUE IS A WASTE OF TIME. IT DOES NOT ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD. WE SHOULD BE PRAYING IN THAT TIME".**

RESPONSE:

Reformation doctrine emphasises proceeding truth. Proceeding truth advances the kingdom of God. These are upgrades from heaven. We have travelled for these upgrades – the baby is born – we must now nurture that which God has given us.

Many, so called doctrinal meetings are “preceding truth” meetings. These meetings want to hold on to the past (like forcing women to cover their heads), totally neglecting what God is doing now. These doctrinal meetings do not advance kingdom activity and are regarded as impotent religious activities. The Pharisee order moved from important to impotent after the arrival of the living word. AS A LEADER ONE SHOULD GO TO A MEETING WHERE PROCEEDING TRUTH IS BEING DISCUSSED – “WHAT IS GOD SAYING AND DEMANDING NOW?”

8. COMMENT: “PRAYER WAS NOT LAST IT WAS FIRST FROM THE FIRST CHAPTER OF ACTS”

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.(NKJ)

RESPONSE:

“one accord” refers to the fact that they believed the same thing. Their prayer was effective because they believed the same things. This again places doctrine before prayer.

9. COMMENT: “YOU CANNOT WITNESS FROM “KNOWLEDGE”, YOU MUST WITNESS FROM RELATIONSHIP”.

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”(NKJ)

RESPONSE:

The Holy Spirit cannot work in an empty vessel.

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”(NKJ)

Our witness comes from knowledge. The believer must know his stuff to witness. Stephen knew his stuff.

Hosea 4:6

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.(NKJ)

GOD’S PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, NOT LACK OF PRAYER.

AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS NEEDS KNOWLEDGE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

10. COMMENT: THE APOSTOLIC IS NOT IN “WORDS”, NO! IT IS IN POWER.

1 Cor 2:4

And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,(NKJ)

RESPONSE:

Paul is not making a distinction between THE WORD and power. He is making a distinction between “words of human wisdom” and power of God. Doctrine is not the words of human wisdom.

11.COMMENT:

- **THE ELIJAH ANOINTING IS A “PRAYER AND WORD ANOINTING”**
- **(HE REPAIRED THE ALTAR AND POURED WATER [12 STONES, 12 WATER POTS, 2 SEAHS OF SEED])**

RESPONSE:

The Elijah anointing is a Word and Prayer anointing –WORD BEFORE PRAYER.

The Word of the lord came to Elijah first.

IKing 18:1

And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."(NKJ)

IKing 18:36

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word."(NKJ)

12. COMMENT: JESUS SAID THAT HIS HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER. HE PRIORITISES PRAYER.

Matt 21:13

13And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'(NKJ)

RESPONSE:

HERE AGAIN, IT IS THE HOUSE BEFORE PRAYER. THE HOUSE MUST FIRST BE ESTABLISHED IN THE WORD.

Matt 16:18

*18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
(NKJ)*

THE WORD MUST FIRST BUILD THE HOUSE.

13. COMMENT: WE MUST HONOUR THOSE WHO LEAD US TO PRAY.

RESPONSE:

True, but those who labour in doctrine are worthy of double honour. The same benefit is not accorded to those who pray.

1 Tim 5:17

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.(NKJ)

14. COMMENT:WE CONQUER THROUGH PRAYER

RESPONSE:

THIS IS TRUE- IN PART.

THERE IS A MORE ACCURATE POSITION.

Rom 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.(NKJ)

Phil 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.(NKJ)

WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM – AN ABIDING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, WHICH DEMANDS RIGHTEOUSNESS(CHRISTLIKENESS)

15. Finally, the article “ Doctrine before prayer” was not meant to undermine prayer but to restore and prioritise doctrine in the order of Acts 2:42.