

Sept 18.19

SUBJECT: Covenant Praying

D. 7/83

EF

Math. 18:19 ^{18:19} Agari I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven.

Does this mean, just agree to ask? No. A profoundly deeper meaning.

COVENANT PRAYING

I The Text: The emphasis upon the agreement.

AGREE
 ΣΥΜ-ΦΩΝΙΑ - harmony (as of instruments), so "music"
 q. H 15:25 the elder son from the field. ^{harmoni-} ^{musi-} - a συμφωνία

ΣΥΜ-ΦΩΝΟΣ - adj. harmonious
 "agreeing with"

q. ΕΚ ΣΥΜΦΩΝΟΥ by agreement I Cor. 7:5
 husband and wife, for fasting and prayer

ΣΥΜ-ΦΩΝΕΩ - ^{VERB} "to agree with"
 "to agree together"
 "to arrange with"

f. Matt 20:2 the labourers agree for a day's wages (denarius)

q. Acts 5:9 Ananias and Sapphira "agree"...

of things, to be in accord with
 q. H. 5:36 new patch or old garment, the two do not "agree"

Acts 15:15 Jerusalem Conference, the words of the prophets agree - the Gentiles to be included

- (1) Agree in our desire.
not just words
Importance. Deeply desire the gift, outpouring
- (2) Agree in the motives that give birth to the desire.
The 'reason why' must be the same.
f. reasons for wanting a revival
- the weight to make a good report, 'decisions'
- the fact, more joyful than
- a wife to change her husband's stubborn ways
- a wife, presentable to church, get other invitations
- the motive must be - for the glory of Christ
- for the salvation of the lost
- a child. Parents pray for someone
- love him, seek his highest good,
- (3) Agree in faith
- concern in expecting the blessing prayed for
- absolutely believe the blessing will come
- share the evidence upon which faith ought to rest
e.g. the presence of God
- with
"reason why" the answer is expected.
- (4) Agree upon the time / the answer
any time? No time? Sometime? Another time?
Something else to attend to first?
no particular people? repayed a certain something

(5) Agree not just in asking but in earnestly essential to obtaining the blessing.

g. Two ^{or more} agree to go to Israel. Many things to decide together.

h. Two agree to build an oynon. (Or many in a great assembly plant). Agreement in very detail down to

i. Revival in ^{proportion} to the revival effort and prayer within the church.

- agree in belief a revival can be a reality
- " " feeling the necessity for a revival.
- " " regard to the importance of a revival
- " " to the measures essential for the

promotion of a revival: removing impediments
 forgiveness
 self-discipline
 intervention in law - a summary of this

THE CHURCH MUST BE AGREED

3 Acts 2:1 they were all with one accord

- (1) are ready to play down revival: William Chapman
- (2) are not ready to play down revival: William Chapman
- (3) attitudes become strong

one place
 705
 mind

*The Church
Praying
for
Soul.*

[For a living example of how to rise above feelings of personal inadequacy, look at J. Wilbur Chapman. When he was young he was invited to become pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. This large congregation was in one of the "poorer districts." Feeling that he was not properly equipped, he decided to visit Spurgeon's Tabernacle in London and discover the secret of that man's power among the lower middle classes. After a few weeks the young minister returned home and took up his new work. Ere long the congregation in Philadelphia became known because of the many converts and the spirit of constant revival.]

The pastor gave the credit largely to Spurgeon. He in turn would have ascribed the glory to God. In fact, the young man did too. At the close of a wondrous day in the Tabernacle he had tried to thank Spurgeon but the older man replied: "Tut, tut, my brother, the blessing is from above. Every day and night thousands of people in London and scores of thousands everywhere in the English-speaking world are praying for the Tabernacle and for me as the pastor. If you wish to have a soul-winning church get your people to pray."

The young minister followed this counsel. At the beginning of his work he told his people what Spurgeon had said, and why. Then the young minister asked them to unite with him in prayer for the unsaved, and to keep on praying. They responded with gladness and they persevered. They found that "the most important service any Christian can render is to pray."

(a) The most valuable member of this congregation--according to the pastor, in speaking later to young ministers--was a humble woman who never could leave her room and her bed. There she interceded for the unsaved and unchurched, one after another. Always by name, she brought them to the mercy seat. When they confessed Christ and joined the church there was joy in her upper room--joy like that in glory.

The most vital work any pastor can do is to lead his people in praying for unsaved and unchurched neighbors and friends. If such intercession is to prevail it needs to be specific and persevering. The minister should guide his friends in praying and working for the salvation of certain men and women, boys and girls. Herein lies the secret of power in parish evangelism. "Lord, teach us to pray!" How simple, and yet how sublime!

Evangelism in the Home Church
By Blackwood. Pp. 66-69.

...the only way to reach the lost is to lead them into the light

Prayer

III. Prayer carries with it our commitment to
work for the requests we have made.

Nehemiah, God's great layman: 4:9 "we made our
prayer unto our God ..."

labored in the work ..."

4:21 "So we

4:23 "So neither

I, nor my brethren, nor the men who followed me,
none of us put off our clothes, saying that every
one put them off for washing."

Jesus in Matthew, Matt 26:42 "He prayed
saying, -- thy will be done"

26:45, 46, "Then cometh
he to his disciples and saith unto them, Rise, let us
be going ..."

The apostles Acts 4:29 "And now, Lord, grant
unto thy servants, that with all boldness they
may speak thy word"

4:31 "and they spoke
the word of God with boldness."

Amen at the end of the prayer, "let it be" ^{truly}

It is our affirmation

It is our commitment to the requests
we have made.

Lev. 27:14-26: "On mount Ebal, "the Levites
shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel
with a loud voice,

:15 Cursed be the man that maketh
any proven misg, an abomination unto the Lord,
and all the people shall say, Amen.

:16 ... Amen

:17 " "

:18 " "

:19 " "

:20 " "

:21 " "

:22 " "

:23 " "

:24 " "

:25 " "

:26 " Cursed be he that confirmeth

not all the words of this law to do them.
and all the people shall say, Amen. "

I Kings 1: 33 King David said, "Counsel Solomon
my son living our Israel, and follow of the trumpet
and say, God save King Solomon."

: 36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada
answered the King and said, Amen; the Lord
God of my lord the King say so too.
[and then proceeded to put down the effort of God
to make Adonijah King]

Rev. 3: 14 "And unto the angel of the church of
the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen,
the faithful and true witness

: 15 I know thy works

: 19 As many as I love, I rebuke
and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

: 21 To him that is overcome will I
grant to sit with me in my throne... "

Prayer always carries with it the commitment
to work, to labor, to do, to strive

1. the man prays for a house; then he says
"Amen" with a hammer and a saw.

2. the man prays for a job; then he says
"Amen" with a daily searching through the want
ads of the newspaper and a journey to the
un-employment agency.

3. the man prays for a good wife; then he joins
the Singles Division of the First Baptist Church

4. the man prays for the Christian conversion of the
world; then he supports the missionary program
of outreach and evangelism

5. the man prays for a revival; then he gives
himself to visitation and witnessing in behalf
of the lost.

Prayer - then action
" - then bring the family
" - " a friend, neighbor
" - " call on the telephone
" - " offer to travel, hunt and harvest & reap