

What To Remember (Again) To Face The Future

November 8, 2020

When We Pray...

1. The conclusion of every prayer MUST be, "**Not my will but Thine be done.**"

1 John 5:14 ESV

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

Matthew 26:39 ESV

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

2. When we pray, and the mountain does not seem to move, then we know that the mountain has a higher and greater purpose in the plan of God than we are capable of seeing in the moment. So we continue to trust our Heavenly Father, Who is always good, even when we don't understand.

Matthew 26:39 ESV

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me..."

- *In the moment of human weakness, even Jesus had difficulty seeing clearly.*

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 ESV

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

3. When we pray, and the circumstantial results are not what we prayed, then we know:

- *My faith didn't fail - would we conclude that Jesus' and Paul's faith "failed" in their prayers?*
- *God did not fail, neither to hear nor to answer.*
- *In this moment, by natural observation, we are unable to see the greater, overriding plan of God, so we need to trust, be patient and wait.*

Romans 8:26 ESV

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

God Controls the Rise and Fall of Kings by His Plan and Timing for the Nations

- One of the most indisputable and strangely comforting truths in all of God's Word is that He is in control of the times and the nations.
- There are no mistakes, accidents or failures in His master plan for the human race.
- If evil seems to "win," it doesn't mean that our discernment and assessment were wrong, it simply means that God's ways are not our ways.
- The times when we don't understand His ways are the times we walk by faith, knowing that He is always right and always good. We don't demand that His plan be approved by us first.

Daniel 2:20-22 ESV

20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

Proverbs 21:1 ESV

1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Daniel 4:28-37 ESV

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,

30 and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"

31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,

32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."

33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Proverbs 16:4-5 ESV

4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood

- We might think that disposing of the human vessel would eliminate the problem, but it never does.
- The problem is not the human vessel, the problem is the satanic hierarchy of demonic forces in the spiritual realm using human vessels to carry out their evil strategies.
- Our warfare is in the spiritual realm, not the natural realm.
- We need to take our fight to the real battleground.

Ephesians 6:10-12 ESV

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Daniel 10:12-14 ESV

12 Then he [the angel] said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

We Have No Control What Happens In The Natural, But Our Prayers Can Move Mountains

- If the prayers of Elijah, who was human and frail just like us, can change the course of nature, then the prayers of God's people can also change the course of nations.
- What if the mountain doesn't move? Then God has a higher purpose and plan for that mountain that we don't know about. But it doesn't mean that our faith failed nor that God failed to hear us.

James 5:16-18 ESV

16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Mark 11:22-24 ESV

22 And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God."

23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Rees Howells: Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain

Did these prayers change the course of the War?

"In May, 1940 as Hitler's blitzkrieg rolled across France and the Low Countries, the Bible College prayed that he would be stopped. Norman Grubb records:"

"May 27, 2.45 p.m. (from Rees Howells' diary) 'It is as much as I can do to believe today. The news between the two [prayer] meetings was awful — hell upon earth.' On May 28 Mr. Howells again was alone with God. In the meetings the prayer was for God to intervene at Dunkirk and save our men; and as the Spirit came upon them in prayer and supplication, what one prayed at the end expressed the assurance given to all: 'I feel sure something has happened.'"

"On May 24, 1940 Hitler had given an order to halt the armored columns driving toward the trapped British and French troops. This order remains substantially unexplained to this day. On and after May 28th, in 'the miracle of Dunkirk,' hundreds of thousands of British and French soldiers were rescued? Did God intervene? Rees Howells and the Wales Bible College believed it was so."

"Rees Howells had received assurance from the Holy Spirit that the College would be protected from enemy air attacks. Though Swansea, where the College was located, received several major raids, not one bomb fell on College property."

"Norman Grubb records that on September 11,"

"with the Battle of Britain over London and the south of England at its fiercest, Rees Howells wrote 'There have been so many places bombed in London, even Buckingham Palace has been touched. I was burdened to pray for the King and Queen, and I believe our prayer will be answered. I am just watching how God will take hold of the enemy.'"

"September 12. 'We prayed last night that London would be defended and that the enemy would fail to break through, and God answered prayer. Unless God can get hold of this devil and bind him, no man is safe. If we have protection for our properties, why not get protection for the country?'"

"September 14. 'Because we have believed, God has made known to us what is to come to pass. Every creature is to hear the Gospel; Palestine is to be regained by the Jews; and the Saviour is to return.'"

"After the war, Air Chief Marshal Lord, Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain, made this significant comment: 'Even during the battle one realized from day to day how much external support was coming in. At the end of the battle one had the sort of feeling that there had been some special Divine intervention to alter some sequence of events which would otherwise have occurred.'"

Never Forget – Always Remember

Deuteronomy 8:11-20 ESV

11 Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today,

12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,

13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,

14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,

15 who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock,

16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

17 Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'

18 You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

19 And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.

20 Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.