

Prayer for Revival Part 5

No Revival without God Correcting us through our Prayers

“14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15 KJV)

Let us read again here how Jesus responded to the prayer of the mother of Zebedee’s children:

“20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. 22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. 23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. 24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. 25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:20-28 KJV)

“35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. 36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? 37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. 38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? 39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: 40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared. 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. 42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:35-45 KJV)

Jesus continued to correct the two brothers and He will continue to correct us, to correct our hearts and to correct our lives of prayers and make us in line and purpose of his will and plan:

“23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to

give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.” (Matthew 20:23 KJV) The Lord Jesus Christ reinstated these two brothers, James and John to the calling and to the position that He wants them to be when He told them, ***“Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with”,*** and He also told them, ***“but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.”*** The reason that He told them that it was not in His hand to give them, as well as they were not ready for it yet. They were not yet mature and responsible to the level that He wants them to be. As if He was telling them, there are people better than you, and they are more deserving to be given these privileges.

When the Lord is refusing to give us certain things or privileges, we need to be aware that the Lord is not giving us what we want because we might not yet in the level that God wants us to be. It is good to examine ourselves when Jesus frustrate us in not going along our wishes and desires and giving us what we are asking of Him.

Apostle Paul who came after John and James, he was saying the following about himself, ***“8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.” (1 Corinthians 15:7-11 KJV)*** He was humbling himself before the other apostles and regarded himself lower than the other apostles. Even when he was working hard, Paul considers it that the grace of Jesus is the one that allowed him and enabled him to do that. More than that apostle Paul desired neither position nor privileges, but rather suffering for Christ, ***“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” (Philippians 3:10 KJV)*** Apostle Paul wanted to have fellowship with Christ suffering and not with Christ luxury. So his pursue was far better than what Christ is experiencing with the apostles John and James here.

In the same way we need to take the example of Apostle Paul in pursuing the way of suffering for Christ and walking with Christ, and be away from pride, worldliness and grandiosity. You need to be aware that your life is an open page before the Lord. He is seeing everything in your heart and life, that is why you find yourself every now and then open to correction and got rebuked and disciplined by the Lord. The Lord is seeing the areas in your life that is needing correction and He is moving His hands toward such areas and molding you in the way that He needs you to be. And it is for our good when the Lord would correct us because that would bring more blessings and lead us to live a peaceful life. We need to be grateful to the Lord when we are corrected and satisfied of what the Lord is giving to us.

In Matthew 16 verse 28 the Lord said the following: ***“Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.” (Matthew 16:28 KJV)*** Here the Lord told the apostles that some of them will see the Kingdom of God before they will see death. Truly, the Lord accomplished that to them, ***“1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is***

good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. 8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.” (Matthew 17:1-9 KJV) Jesus took with Him here three disciples, Peter, John and James, and He showed them the Kingdom of God. That occasion might cause John and James to have more pride than others. When the Lord took them with Peter they might understand that they are better than others. That is might especially true when He told them, *“Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.” (Matthew 17:9 KJV)* It might be that their mind’s set up and focuses might be drifted into wrong direction and that needed to be corrected by the Lord.

The Lord’s answer to John and James to where they will sit when they asked Him, was a rebuke to them. Jesus was rebuking them when He told them the following: *“But to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.” (Matthew 20: 23 KJV)* Now Jesus here rebuked them Himself because He was at that time with His disciples. Now the Lord is with us, with the Holy Spirit. We who are His church are filled with the Holy Spirit and the Lord would speak through us to handle people who will be drift away from the truth. When we do that we might be embarrassed and might be having conflict to face such wrong attitude in the life of the disciples of Jesus, and in the life of His church. But with such situation, we need to bear it for the sake of the Lord and for the sake of the people in order for them to know and to follow the truth.

The two brothers, James and John, were corrected previously and rebuked by the Lord for another bad behavior and wrong attitude, *“51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” (Luke 9:51-56 KJV)* So in the process of discipleship there are things in the disciples lives’ needs to be corrected, and the Lord is faithful to His people and will not allow sin or wrong character prevail in their lives and make them forfeit their reward and what God had allocated to them from heavenly blessings.

“24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.” (Matthew 20:24) What James and John did was in asking the Lord to sit one at His right and the other on His left, was ambitious thing, and caused other disciples to be angry with them. Whenever the people of God push to do their own ambition they do wrong, and that will be an enticement to others to do wrong. What the two brethren asked the Lord of, they were not eligible for it. Many Christian they push to do things they are not eligible for, and when they do such, they are tempting others to do the same. The disciples were enticed and jealous of what the two brothers asked. Selfish ambition brings commotion and disorder. Many are

tempted to do wrong by the bad examples of those who are followers of Christ. The Christian faith would be drifting away by ambitious actions and the selfish deeds of fellow Christians. We should not forget what Jesus said, *“7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! 8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. 9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” (Matthew 18:7-9 KJV)*

“24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.” (Matthew 20:24) Now coming back to the rest of the disciples, we can see other important things that needed to be corrected. The rest of the disciples were angry with the two not because the two did wrong against the Lord, but because the two would take the privileges from them. So there were among them competitions to get some worldly valuable things. They were after positions and privileges, thinking that life would be easier with all these things; thinking that they can avoid suffering by gaining such worldly goals. Previously they asked the Lord this question: *“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (Matthew 18:1 KJV)* That it means pride and selfish ambition was among them. Therefore Jesus took a child and explained to them how they ought to be. They were also warned that if they will not be changed, in giving up their selfish ambition and being selfish, then they will not be able to enter the Kingdom of God. *“2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:2-3 KJV)*

Again here as were disputing among themselves for the same wrong concept and selfish ambition as we read, *“24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.” (Matthew 20:24)* they draw the attention of Jesus, *“25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said,” (Matthew 20:25 KJV)* Jesus brought them to Him to explain to them again where is their fault, how to correct themselves, and how to go back where He wanting them to be. *We are also as body of Christ, we need to work out to correct wrong attitude among us. We are called to edify and correct things among us to reach the peace of God.* *“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” (Romans 14:19 KJV)* *In order to do that, we need to submit to one another in accordance to what the Christ instruct us in His Word to do in the fear of the Lord.* *“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:21 KJV)*

Jesus explained to them the wrong that they were in: *“Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.” (Matthew 20:25)* The disciples were Jewish, and they were the believers in God. The rest of the nations who are non Jewish are called Gentiles, and they were non believers. So Jesus told them, that the non believers from the other nations, the Gentiles, their principles is that they will take everything based if they have power, *“the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.”* So if they are in the position of power then they will do what they want and what power allows them to do. So the Lord is telling them, if you are of the same stand, that you would do your own will and force everyone to go along with your own will to do what you want, then you are like the Gentiles, the non believers

around you. The two apostles, James and John they came to the Lord dictating on Him to do them what they should ask of Him, ***“And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.”*** (Mark 10:35 KJV) The Hebrew Word for exercise dominion, in Matthew 20 verse 25 is ‘kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo'-o’ and is used also in ***Mark 10:42***, as, ‘exercise lordship’, ***“But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.”*** (Mark 10:42 KJV) The same Word, ‘kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo'-o’ is used also in ***1 Peter 5:3***, as, ‘lords over,’ ***“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”*** (1 Peter 5:3 KJV) Peter used that word when was speaking to the elders among God's people, ***“1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”*** (1 Peter 5:1-3 KJV) Peter was asking them to give the spiritual food for the flocks, to take the oversight, to lead them into the right direction, nor as being forced to, neither they will do that for wrong motive or material gains they will do such, but out of willingness to serve God. ***“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”*** (1 Peter 5:3 KJV) Peter was telling to the elders not to force people to do their own will, but to lead them to do the will of God. This they will do by keeping themselves to be the right example to others, and this the elders will be able to achieve when themselves will abide and persevere in doing God's Will.

Now when the people, like what we had seen in James and John, forcing their own will on the Lord and on the rest of the disciples, they were actually lording it over others. Now there are many doing their own plans and will, that are contradicted with God's Word. In such a way they are lording over God's people, the church. Now a day such kind of people when they are doing like that, if the church is not firm with them and correct them with God's Word, then you will find the church is drifted out of the direction that God wants His church and people to go on.

The same Word, ‘kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo'-o’ is used also in ***Acts 19:16***, as, ‘overcame,’ ***“And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”*** (Acts 19:16 KJV) That man was possessed by evil spirit and he caused injury to others. Now when the church is exposed to people who want to do their own will and plans, then these are attacks from the evil one and of demonic origin. Now, must of the time church leaders who knew the truth yield to people's will and desire because if they will face them, they will attacked as those men attacked in Acts 19:16. ***But what will happen to the church if those people will not be faced as Jesus faced James and John and faced the rest of His disciples? The church will be overcome and swallowed with the plan of the devil.***

Jesus said, ***“But it shall not be so among you.”*** (Matthew 20:26) Not because people have money, power or an opportunities they can do what they want. That should not be the case among us. Pushing for privileges and positions thinking that our lives will be better and spare us suffering is not the right way of thinking, as James and John thought if they would get the right and left position next to Jesus they would spared suffering. People who had such mind the church should do its best to correct them and not to approve to them what they want.

“But whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26-28) The people should be taught and trained that they need to be a source of service and blessing to others.

Revival will not come in the mid of us unless self ambition and wrong motive would be dealt with and thrown outside. Look for service, and be a servant then you will be chief and great, not in this life, but in the Kingdom of Heaven. ***“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*** (Matthew 20:28 KJV) God's people should learn to be useful and beneficial to others who are in need. God's people should learn to be good example to others by forfeiting their own will and by doing the will of God, ***“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”*** (1 Peter 5:3 KJV) God's people should learn not to go along peoples' ambition but to go along God's will so their lives will be beneficial to others, as Jesus' life, who came to serve, and His life was given as ransom to many.

My dear and beloved: “14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15 KJV) Our prayers and what we ask God will reveal who we are and our characters. God would correct us when He found us at wrong and drifted away. As well as we need to be instruments in God's hand first by being good example to others in doing God's Will, second, we need not to yield to the wrong requests and desires of those who are wishing to do what they want and not after God's will. Therefore let us commit ourselves to what we had learned from God's Word in this message, and be willing to suffer for Christ and to yield our lives to His service so revival will take us place among us. The Lord would refill us once again with His Holy Spirit that would enable us to go on and do His work and His will.

My prayers:

Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that shows me clearly how I should no go away from your will.

Let us confess our sins unto the Lord.

Lord forgive me my sins _____

Lord I commit my life to follow you and walk in your ways and follow the plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to do your will. Lord I commit myself to go through the narrow way and be willing to suffer for you and your cause. Lord I am willing to be a good example to others and to do the very things that you want me to do.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to you, Lord protect them and provide them all their needs. Lord sustains their lives and let them be maintained till they will achieve your purpose in full in their lives.

Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to serve you. Lord I will pray that you enable them to be good example and their lives will attract others to believe in you and to follow you.

Lord I pray for us as a church to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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