



Sharing

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

www.buildingfathershouse.org

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 12 : “For thine is the Kingdom, power and glory for ever – acknowledging His ability.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret of **acknowledging God and His ability** in our prayer-life.

Intended Goal: To understand the **secret of proclaiming our faith in God and His kingdom** in a lifestyle of prayer.

Scripture readings : acknowledging God and His ability

2 Samuel 22:29-39 *For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God? God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places. He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip. I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them. And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet. For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.*

Ephesians 1:19-23 *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

Psalms 47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Daniel 4:17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'

Mark 3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.

Food for thought :

Let us start by considering the meaning of the closure to the Lord's Prayer as taught to the disciples in Matthew 6:13 "...**For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**"

Thayer Definition:

for - because or since

kingdom - royal power, kingship, dominion, rule

1a) not to be confused with an actual kingdom but **rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom**

1b) of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah

1c) of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom

power - strength power, **ability**

1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth

1b) power for performing miracles

glory

1) opinion, judgment, view

2) opinion, estimate, whether good or bad concerning someone

2a) in the NT always a good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, **honor**, and **glory**

3c1) the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, **majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity**

3c2b) the absolutely perfect inward or personal excellency of Christ; the **majesty**

amen

2) verily, amen

2a) at the beginning of a discourse - surely, truly, of a truth

2b) at the end - so it is, so be it, **may it be fulfilled. It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed, had offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded Amen, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.**

In considering the definitions, the closure to the Lord's Prayer could be rephrased in the following manner **"because/since all authority belongs unto You o Lord and we acknowledge Your right to rule over all kingdoms, and because/since unto You o Lord belong the ability to do all that is asked, and because/since unto You o Lord belongs the honor and the glory we pray that all we asked will be fulfilled to the glory of Your name"**. When the assembly acknowledge with amen, they are **in agreement with the mentioned statement of faith, by which we close our prayer**.

Based upon the above mentioned let us consider the meaning of **the confession of faith** as the Lord taught us to pray:

- If we confess **"Thine is the Kingdom"** we acknowledge that **God is our King - saying that we are His subjects**, living for Him and His Kingdom. So let us take care then to obey Him in, and through our lives. If we in our prayers **ascribe the kingdom to God, then do not in your lives ascribe the kingdom, or glory to any person or anything else**. There are many competitors for the crown, there is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, politics and much more, take care that none of these become your masters.

- If we confess **"Thine is the power;"** we confess **our inability, and God's ability to rule over our lives**, as we trust in Him and in His ability to do what seems impossible for us. Let us endeavor to live out our faith in a practical manner, as we confess that all power/authority belongs to God. We live in a world of much confusion and difficulty, but we as believers in Christ Jesus, the rock of our salvation, must become the stability the world needs, not because of who we are but because of in Whom we trust. God is able!!!

- If we confess **"Thine is the glory"** it is a **confession of faith where we say "Let Thy will be done" in all things and in all situations, so that Your Name may be glorified in it**. Jesus said unto the **Father "glorify your Son so that your Son can glorify You"**. It is a confession of saying, **it is not about us it is about God and His Kingdom**, reminding us once more that it is not about what we want but what God want to accomplish. If we confess all the above surely we must say we entrust our lives into His hands so that we can become the instrument in His hands to bring glory unto Him, His name and His Kingdom. Knowing that in all that happens, God is still in control.

- In saying amen, we come in agreement with all that has been said and asked, making it our own, saying that it may be fulfilled in my own life. That is not only in what we asked but also in what we proclaimed.

The mentioned statement of faith, **is not only believing in The Lord, it is putting our lives in His hands as we trust in Him and in His ability**.

James said, faith without works is dead, and Jesus said unto His disciples **John 6:28-29** *Then they said to Him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent.*

the meaning of the word believe in the mentioned scripture refers to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ): - believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

True story :

1 Samuel 14:6-15 *And Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, Come, and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised ones. **It may be that Jehovah will work for us. For there is no restraint to Jehovah, to save by many or by few.** And his armor-bearer said to him, Do all that is in your heart. Turn, for behold, I am with you according to your heart. And Jonathan said, Behold, we will go over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say this to us, Stand still until we come to you, then we will stand still in our place and will not go up to them. But if they say this, Come up to us, then we will go up, for Jehovah has delivered them up into our hand. And this shall be a sign to us. And both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come out of the holes where they have hidden themselves. And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, Come up to us, and we will teach you a thing. And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, Come up after me, for Jehovah has delivered them into the hand of Israel. And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed after him. And this was the first blow, when Jonathan and his armor-bearer struck about twenty men in about half of a furrow of an acre of a field. And there was trembling in the army, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the spoilers also trembled, and the earth quaked, and it was a very great trembling.*

God's authority : proclaiming our faith in God

Matthew 8:10 *When Jesus heard, He marveled and said to those who followed, **Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith, no, not in Israel.***

Acts 3:16 *And His name, **through faith in His name, has made this man strong, this one whom you see and know, His name made firm. And the faith which came through Him has given him this perfect soundness before you.***

Acts 16:5 *Then indeed the **churches were established in the faith** and increased in number daily.*

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, **"The just shall live by faith."***

1Corinthians 2:5 *so that **your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.***

1Corinthians 16:13 *Watch! **Stand fast in the faith! Be men! Be strong!***

Galatians 2:16 *knowing that a **man is not justified by works of the Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ**; even we believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith in Christ, and not by works of the Law. For all flesh will not be justified by works of law.*

Galatians 3:26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?***

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.

Daniel 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Conclusion:

Looking at the story of **Jonathan**, he said that there is nothing to restrain or to stop God from working for them, he said it as a statement of faith based on his knowledge of who God is, knowing that if God is for them, who then can be against them. The only thing that is against us is ourselves i.e. lack of faith in God and in His ability. **Jonathan did not consider himself as being able, he only considered God and His ability.** Jonathan however put what he believed to be true into action, he did more than believe, he had faith *Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Substance being a (**support**), that is, (figuratively) concretely essence, or abstractly assurance (objectively or subjectively): - **confidence**, confident, person, substance.

The Lord taught His disciples and us to close our prayer in acknowledging God for who He is. The closure "for Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, amen." **is our statement of faith**, placing our trust in God as we draw unto Him, for the Bible say in *Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* So when we pray, we must pray in faith that God is, and that He is able to reward us who seek Him. In the Lord's Prayer, we begin by calling God our **Father, acknowledging our relationship with Him.** We then close by confessing our faith in God and in His ability, as a reason for trusting in Him.

There is a lot of arguments as to whether or not the phrase "for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory" is part of the original text of Matthews 6:13. **The oldest witness, which outdates all Greek manuscripts containing Matthew chapter six, is the Did-ache (otherwise known as the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles), and contains a form of The Lord's Prayer:**

But let not your fasts be with the hypocrites; for they fast on the second and fifth day of the week; but do ye fast on the fourth day and the Preparation (Friday). Neither pray as the hypocrites; but as the Lord commanded in His Gospel, thus pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us today our daily (needful) bread, and forgive us our debt as we also forgive our debtors. And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the power and the glory for ever. Thrice in the day thus pray.

In acknowledging that Jesus said that this is **the manner in which we should pray, it was give as an example, a guideline by which we must pray**. I therefore believe that Jesus taught His disciples to pray the last part as a confession of our faith, knowing that faith in God and in His ability to reward those who seek Him is a prerequisite to answered prayer. Tertullian (bible commentary) rightly affirms that this prayer “is truly the summary of the whole gospel.” It is therefore an ending that **remind us of who God is and of His capability to accomplish whatever He pleases, beyond all that we may ask or think** (*Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*)

The closure as a statement of faith in God and in His ability. It is also to acknowledge that we trust in God for who He is to perform whatever we trust Him for. Jonathan trusted the Lord for a victory, and therefore pursued to defeat the enemy. Likewise when we pray, we must pursue that what we asked, as the disciples who asked for boldness to proclaim the Gospel, they trusted The Lord to be with them as they proclaimed the truth, as it is written. *Acts 16:5 Then indeed the churches were established in the faith and increased in number daily.*

Questions to be answered :

1. Why do we need to acknowledge God and His ability?
2. What is faith?
3. What is the difference between believe and faith?
4. What ensures answered prayer?
5. What is the secret that we need to learn from "**proclaiming our faith in God and His kingdom**" in a lifestyle of prayer?