

LESSON SIX

The Power of the Gospel—Pray! Pray! Pray!

Scripture Reading:

- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
- Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the ninth-hour prayer.
- Acts 10:9 And on the next day as they were journeying and drawing near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray around the sixth hour.
- Eph. 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Matt. 12:29 Or how can anyone enter into the house of the strong man and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will thoroughly plunder his house.

Hymn 552, Stanza 6-9

- I. The power of the gospel is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—Matt 28:18; Luke 24:49:**
 - A. This power includes the Triune God: the Father promised, the Son poured out, and the outpouring is the Holy Spirit—Acts 2:33.
 - B. When the Spirit came down, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, like ones filled with the new wine— 2:13.
 - C. The Holy Spirit in the book of Ezekiel is the “wind, cloud, fire, and electrum”: He is the great wind, the great cloud, the great fire, and the electrum within the fire; the wind blows, the cloud cover, the fire burns, and the electrum shines.
- II. We received the power of the gospel through prayer; we need to pray, pray, and pray!**
- III. In order to deal with the spiritual principalities and forces in the heavenlies, prayer is crucial and indispensable:**
 - A. As a priest, we bring man to God in our prayer; as a king, we bring the gospel to man.
 - B. People refuse the gospel, not because of its content but because they are under the captivity of the strong man—the evil one.
 - C. If we have sufficient prayer to bind Satan, eventually every campus will be open to the gospel—Matt. 12:29.

IV. We need to be full of burden for the Lord's commission through prayer—Acts 26:18:

- A. When we pray to the Lord and remove every barrier between us and the Lord (sin, the world, etc.), we would be filled with His Spirit inwardly and outwardly.
- B. When our spirit is full of burden, it becomes a power within us and causes us to be so driven that we cannot help but preach the gospel; this is the spirit of the gospel.
- C. The spirit of the gospel causes us to be eager to preach the gospel, to be consumed with preaching the gospel to the point that we care for nothing else and fear nothing else; our only care is for preaching the gospel, and our only fear is that people would perish.

V. The book of Acts shows us that we need to cooperate with Him through personal and corporate prayer for the carrying out of the Lord's move on the earth.

- A. The disciples prayed right after the Lord's ascension.
- B. They prayed in one accord for ten days—Act 1:14-15.
- C. When they pray, they were filled in spirit and prevailed in preaching—Acts 4:31.

VI. If we have set times of prayer in our daily life, we will be used by the Lord to open the way of the spread of the His recovery.

- A. The Lord did a miracle to honor Peter and John's prayer at set times in the temple—Acts 3:6-7.
- B. Cornelius and Peter both have set times of prayer; they were used by the Lord to open the door for gentiles.
- C. If we also have set times of prayer, we would be like Peter, seeing the vision and knowing who to visit and what to say—Acts 10:19-20, 15, 28, 33-43.

VII. We need to pray steadfastly—1 Thes 5:17:

- A. We need to pray with our companions for fruit-bearing.
- B. We need to pray that the Lord would give us His chosen ones.
- C. We need to pray in the Lord's name for others; if we continue steadfastly without giving up, they will be saved—John 14:13-14.
- D. We need to record our prayer items.

Testimonies

The Lord answered many missionaries' prayers in the early 20th century. He did many wonderful works in the high school and college campuses in China.

The testimony of the gospel preaching and prayer in Taipei: through prayer, the saints took up the burden and filled the city of Taipei with gospel preaching. Because of their prayer and preaching (not using gimmicks), the church multiplied thirty-fold from 500 saints to 20'000 during 1949-1955.