

Prayer – Supplication

Bringing God's Will from Heaven to Earth

We're here today to discuss and engage in prayer. In our journey in considering the overall topic of prayer, on this occasion we will focus in on "Supplication".

Understanding the different types of prayer is important. For example, if you want to go on an off-road trip over rugged terrain you would use a 4x4 SUV not a sedan or other similar low clearance vehicle or you will get stuck. Cars, sedans, station wagons, SUVs, and trucks are all covered under the one heading "motor vehicles", but each has a different function. Prayer is the overall heading but there are many different types of prayer, each used for a different reason. Supplication is one such type of prayer.

We're going to focus on supplication this time because we're living in a very 'dark' hour, and we will find that effective supplication is vital with respect to enforcing God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

To start off with, the scriptures remind us that we, believers in Jesus Christ, are engaged in a **battle**. It's a battle between the will of God for mankind and the deceptive and destructive wiles of the devil, who seeks our demise.

1 Pet 5:8 ... *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*

Satan uses misinformed and deceived people through whom to carry out his divisive attacks. But we must be careful not to attack the people, but the evil forces behind the people being used.

Eph 6:12 ... *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

2 Cor 10:3-5 ... *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."*

Jude 3 ... *"contend earnestly for the faith."*

In this battle we are not fighting **for** a position of victory, we fight **from** a position of victory. Through His death and resurrection Jesus defeated the enemy, and now we as His ambassadors are here to enforce the victory. We are to find out, understand and know what the will of God is and in prayer to enforce it.

To be effective, whether in the events of our individual lives and families or in the affairs of our nation, our prayer, whether private or public, whether individual or corporate, needs to be specific, focused, passionate and Spirit-empowered prayer.

Supplication

And so now we will focus on 'supplicatory' prayer, or 'supplication' as it is referred to in the scriptures.

But before we get started with the topic of supplication, or any form of prayer, let me first say what prayer is not: prayer is **not** an exercise akin to the 'rubbing a rabbit's foot' or 'waving a magic wand' in the hopes that something miraculous will happen or some terrible situation we face will suddenly disappear.

Prayer is a discipline – it's a life engrossed in God, His Word, His will and His ways. It's a life of listening, learning, receiving empowerment and obeying in order to bring about His will in our daily lives and in the lives of the people around us.

Now let's turn to some foundational thoughts which relate to supplication.

Matt 16:13-19 ... *"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."*

Caesarea Philippi, also known in the Old Testament as Baal Gad, was located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon (now also known as Golan Heights). At the time of Christ this was a location of pagan worship, with shrines erected to the Greek god Pan. Springs from within the rock of the mountain formed the main water supply for the nation.

So it was here where Jesus asks the question of His disciples, *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"*

- It's the place where His divinity is contrasted with the world's incessant search for spiritual reality amongst pagan gods.
- It's the location of the rock from which the nations water supply issues forth which is contrasted with the Rock and Supplier of living water of whom Paul wrote in 1 Cor 10:4 ... *"all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a **spiritual rock** which followed them; and the **rock** was Christ."*
- It's the place on which Jesus says, *"upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.* The place of revelation of His strategy to "build His church" as a people who will penetrate and prevail against the spiritual darkness that engulfs mankind.
- It's the place where Jesus promises to give to those who are His true disciples the "keys of the Kingdom" and introduces the concepts of "binding" and "loosing." Keys "open" or "close" the "locks", and keys are held by those in authority. So this is where Christ provided the capacity

and strategy for His people to minister in dynamic prayer, to exercise His delegated authority to “bind” or “loose” in accordance with His Sovereign will.

Christ has provided the means which enables effective prayer to be applied in distinct and demanding situations. And He has called us to partner with Him to:

1. Pray against the strategies (gates) of hell that they will not prevail.
2. To apply delegated authority and power from on High to “bind” and “loose”, so that His will in heaven may be established here on earth.

In verse 19 ... *“whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven”*, it is important to note:

1. The tense and mood ... *“whatever you bind/loose on earth”* indicate that the “binding” and “loosing” are **conditional**, requiring **our participation** in prayer regarding specific situations on our earth-side of the partnership.
2. The verb form of the ... *“shall have been bound/loosed in heaven”* (perfect passive participle) indicates completed action with a present result. It’s action completed in the past which now becomes effected in the present. The past action refers to the completed triumphant work of Jesus on the cross which has secured in heaven **all** release of redemption’s future workings. *“It is finished”* becomes functional wherever it is appropriated – whether in the visible on earth or in the invisible in the face of satanic forces.

So while we are called to participate, we can’t just bind and loose at our own discretion or in accordance with our presumptions. Through our participation we may only bind or loose on earth that which has already been bound or loosed in heaven. In other words, we are here to enforce on earth that which our Sovereign God has established as His will in heaven. We need to confer with our heavenly Father and ask Him (petition Him) and find out what His will in heaven is so that we can declare it here on earth. We find His will by revelation of the Holy Spirit from His word. What He has declared as His will in His word and confirmed by the Spirit we can boldly declare, and He will do it.

Now with this in mind let’s move on to some scriptures which speak of supplication and see how it fits into this.

1 Tim 2:1-4 (NKJV) ... *“Therefore I exhort first of all that **supplications**, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

While there are four different types or aspects of prayer mentioned here (supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving) for now we will focus only on ‘supplications’.

The Greek word δέσις (*deēsis*) translated here as ‘supplication’ comes from the root word δέω (*deo*) which means “to bind” (or to “tie” or “confine”). So supplication is the specific kind of prayer which focuses on binding and loosing.

Supplication is that prayer that first seeks the will of God for a specific situation, and then acts as His voice in declaring it in a binding manner or a loosing manner.

So in this passage we are encouraged to offer supplicatory prayer, prayer of binding and loosing, on behalf of all men, kings, and people in authority in order that we may live quiet, peaceable lives in godliness and reverence. This supplication is to extend to loose people from the chains of darkness that they may be drawn to the light of salvation. The will of God is clear here, that all may be saved. Similarly, those things that are contrary to us living quiet, peaceable lives in godliness and reverence we are to bind and stand against.

Let's look at a couple more scriptures.

Phil 4:6-7 ... *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and **supplication** (δέησις – deēsis) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Supplication, the binding and loosing in accordance with God's will for the situation, will bring peace to the situation and give you peace of mind.

Rom 10:1-2 ... *"Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer (my supplication δέησις - deēsis) to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge."*

Paul's 'supplication' here is a prayer of loosing of the blinders off the eyes of the people of Israel that they may come to a knowledge of salvation, for this is the will of God.

Heb 5:7-9 ... *"In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications (δέησις – deēsis) with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation."*

Christ's prayer to the Father would have been to confirm His will (the cross) and His supplicatory prayer would have been the loosing of the Father's will for Him, the cross, which would have been a painful thing to accept but through this obedience to the Father's will Christ became the source of eternal salvation to us. The Father's will established on earth as it was ordained in heaven.

Eph 6: 10-19 ... *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armour of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armour of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of*

*salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and **supplication** (δέησις – deēsis) pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and **supplication** (δέησις – deēsis) for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.”*

And one last scripture:

James 5:16 ... *“The effective fervent prayer (supplication δέησις – deēsis) of a righteous man can accomplish much.”*

So let us be those who offer up effective fervent supplication, binding and loosing in accordance with the will of God that His will may be established here on earth.

Supplication opens the door to the dynamics that shakes and shatters, and does violence to the world of darkness. Hell’s forces have no choice but to yield to the binding and loosing of supplicatory prayer.

The ‘keys’ have been given to us to unlock, to overthrow and cast down the gates (the strategies) of hell, those strategies that seek to destroy our families and nation. Let us bind and disallow those works of darkness that are seeking to destroy our children. Let us pray for the opening of the eyes of the understanding of the people of this nation. Let’s loose the chains of darkness from the captives, to set free the prisoners that they may come to salvation. Let’s pray and ask for a releasing, a mighty outpouring of the Spirit across this nation! That’s all part of God’s declared will.

So let’s get to it! Let us pray! Let bring heaven’s will to bear here on earth!

Ps 108:13 ... *“Through God we will do valiantly, and it is He who shall tread down our adversaries.”*