

03 – PRAYING WITH OTHERS – (Prayer #2 - Agreement)

Matthew 18:19 – “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Why Would You Want Someone Else to Pray with You?

- a.) It Increases Your Prayer Power by 10x – “One shall put a thousand to flight, two will put ten thousand to flight” (Josh. 23:10 ESV, Deut. 32:30). There’s a synergy there, that you wouldn’t expect. (You’d think that if *one* can put 1,000 to flight, then *two* could put 2,000 to flight. But agreement adds far more than that!)
- b.) It Supports Your Faith – It helps to bring someone into your prayer who’s not so close to the situation. See, you’re right in the middle of it. *You’re* the one who’s sick. *You’re* the one who read the doctor’s report. *You’re* who’s gripped by fear. (When you’re *that* close to the situation, it’s easy to be overwhelmed by the circumstances.) But your friend, who’s *removed* from the situation a bit, and isn’t experiencing what you are, will probably find it easier to believe God.

The Breakdown – (God’s Part & Our Part)

- ✓ God’s Part – In all these prayers, God’s part remains the same – answering the prayer.
 - ✓ Our Part – As I said, with many of these prayers, “our part” consists of four things. In the Prayer of Agreement, there *are* four things, but three of them are so easy, it’s nearly *impossible* to mess them up.
1. You Need At Least Two People – Matt. 18:19 – “If **two of you** ...” –
 - ✓ I *told* you that this was going to be easy! (How many of you can count to two? Yeah, *all* of us!) That’s the first condition, you need to get at least two people involved. (Yourself and one other.)

- ✓ Sometimes People Ask: Can there be more than two? Sure! But the more people you add, the more difficult it is to get into agreement. (You know that, if you’ve ever served on a committee. The more people there are, the longer it takes to reach a consensus.)
 - ✓ The same thing is true here. It’s easier to get *two* people into agreement, than it is to get a *whole church* agreeing. So, that’s step one. Find at least one other person to agree with.
2. You Need to be On Earth – “... If two of you shall agree **on earth** ...”
 - ✓ This isn’t hard, either. (Very seldom do I ever leave the planet.) When I was teaching Bible College, every year one of the students would ask if the prayer of agreement will work on the moon. I’d always say, “I’ll tell you what. If you ever become an astronaut, and you’re actually going to the moon, then phone me. I’ll pray and get an answer for you. Until then, you really don’t need to know.”
 - ✓ The Truth Is: The point isn’t whether or not this will work on the moon. Jesus had something *else* in mind. Let me explain it this way. Before I got married, my mom was my “prayer partner”. That was fine while she was alive. But after she died, I couldn’t say, “Hey God, could You ask my mom to agree with me on something?” (If your prayer partner dies, you’ll have to find someone *else* to agree with, because you both need to be on earth.)
 3. You Need to Agree – Mark 11:24 – “If two of you shall **agree** ...”
 - ✓ This point is going to take a bit of explanation. (So, let’s do the same thing we did *last* week. Let’s set it aside for now and look at the fourth point. Then, we’ll come back and talk about *this* one.)
 4. You Need to Ask – “If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall **ask** ...” (He says “anything”. But it still needs to be in line with God’s Word.)
 - ✓ Now, think about it. So far, there’s really nowhere to mess this up. You’re not going to miscount *two*. You’re not going to *leave the*

planet. And it's easy to *ask*. So, all that's left is the *agreeing*. If you get *that* right, you've "got it made".

What Does It Take to Be in Agreement?

a. I Have to Understand You

- ✓ That means the prayer of agreement can't be prayed in tongues. I've seen people say, "Will you agree with me in prayer?" "Sure!" Then, they both start praying in tongues. But you can't agree with a person who's praying in tongues! (1 Corinthians 14:16 is clear on that point.)

1 Corinthians 14:16 – (Paul is talking about blessing your food in other tongues) – "If you give a blessing using your private prayer language, **how can someone say 'amen' or 'I agree'**, to your prayer? They don't know what you are saying!" (Int)

- ✓ They didn't understand you. So, **they don't know if they agreed** with your prayer or not! (So, that settles it! The prayer of agreement can't be prayed in tongues. I have to understand you. *Then* I can agree or disagree.)
- ✓ The same thing would apply to "unspoken requests". Sometimes in a prayer meeting, the pastor will ask if there are any prayer requests. Quite often, someone will stand up and say, "I have an *unspoken* request. Would you agree with me?". No. I can pray a *different* kind of prayer. But I can't "agree" if I don't know what I'm praying for.
- ✓ Someone Might Say: "Well, can't we just agree that it's done?" No. Jesus said we need to agree **on the content** of the prayer. For that to happen, I *need* to know what we're praying for.

b. It's a Good Idea for One of Us to Do the *Praying* and the Other One to Be *Listening & Agreeing*

- ✓ That's just common sense. If we're both praying out loud (at the

same time), we're not really *listening* to each other. So, I could go off in *one* direction, and you could go off in *another*.

- ✓ Actually, it wouldn't hurt to lay out the points of the prayer *before* we start. Then, if I'm praying, and you hear something you can't agree with, you need to stop me and get me to amend that part of the prayer. Because if you pull back, and *stop* agreeing, it won't be done. There has to be agreement.

c. We Both Need to Be in Faith

- ✓ **It won't work, if one of us is believing, and the other one is doubting.** (If I'm saying, "Amen! God heard us! My answer is on the way!", but you're saying, "Well, *that'll* never happen!" ... then you've killed the prayer. There wasn't any agreement there!)
- ✓ **It ALSO won't work, if one of us is in faith, and the other one is just hoping.**

There's a Difference Between Faith and Hope

- ✓ What's the difference? **Faith is present tense. Hope is future tense.** Let me explain that ...
- ✓ I Said: **Faith is present tense. In Other Words: Faith is NOW.** I *pray* NOW, God *hears me* NOW. He *holds it out* NOW. I *take* it NOW, I *have* it NOW. It's done! Thank you. (Can you see that? Everything is RIGHT NOW.)
- ✓ **Hope, on the other hand, leaves it in the future.** I believe that God will do it SOMEDAY. He'll hold it out SOMEDAY. I'll have it SOMEDAY. Notice, my answer is out in the future. (Let me show you the problem with that.)
- ✓ When I say, "I believe the Lord is going to do it **someday**." I'm saying "I don't believe He's going to do it *today*. But "**someday**". (**When I said that, I pushed it into the future.**)

- ✓ If I'm not careful, I can do that for years! "I believe the Lord is going to do it **someday**. I believe the Lord is going to do it **someday**. I believe the Lord is going to do it **someday**. I believe the Lord is going to do it **someday**." Notice, I keep pushing it off into the *future*. If I do that *long enough*, I'll die of old age, and it *still* won't be done.
- ✓ If I want results, I've got to get it into the present tense. I believe I receive it NOW. God is holding it out. I believe I take it. And, as far as I'm concerned, it's done. It's on the way!" (If we both do that, then we're both in faith. We're in agreement.)
- ✓ So, here are the "rules" again. (i) Have at least two people. (ii) Be on earth. (iii) Ask. And (iv) agree – with both of us believing we receive. And it'll be done.