

Isn't it grasping, to presume to speak on behalf of God? Isn't it above our status and pay-grade to think we have the authority of Christ? When we exercise in such 'high places', aren't we ignoring the more tangible disqualifying evidences of our 'sinfulness' in my life? Trying to depart from all my learned traditions and dogmas feels so awkward! Isn't that a sign that something is wrong? Won't someone point an accusing finger at me and assign me with heresy? Now I have to find the mind of Christ before I declare... it was so much easier when all I had to do was ask. Isn't this co-ruler-ship status reserved for when we have glorified bodies?

All are legitimate questions and comments. But remember there is no shame in being like the noble Bereans who went back to the Word to see *"whether these things were so"* (Acts 17:11). We must determine if our questions and fears are justified... or are they just the last vestiges of a passing age?

Without a doubt, we're in a birthing process which includes discomfort and trauma... in the transition stage of birth. Even Paul ached for his children as they experienced the rigors of birth, *"...my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!"* (Gal 4:19) Paul's had a revelation and was laboring to see the fullness of Christ formed and perfected (Heb 10:14) in us. That's right, until we are in one-ness with Christ... even until *"we are as He is in this world"* (1 Jn 4:17).

So among all the Christ-like-ness issues we could focus on, what does God think about our prayer posture? What is the Modus Operandi of New Testament/Kingdom Age prayer? Well, let's evaluate and define two starkly different prayer patterns.

A. Beggar, orphan and widow prayer - we only ask and petition... no need for faith... we ask out of our pain or need.

A misinterpretation of Lk 18:1-8 helped entrench our widowly asking, which has been the only acceptable posture for millennia. We felt so distant from God... and so 'beneath' Him. There was no authority position to be had. God was the Authority... I was NOT! No one even dared speak to Father... much less on behalf of Father (which is what caused Jesus so much trouble). And since we were so sin conscious we could barely muster the courage to even approach Him. We could only cry out in hope that He would relent and grant mercy-drop concessions to salve our need and pain. And if we ever mustered the courage to speak with God or on His behalf, there were any number of 'friends' who would remind us that we are only unworthy sinful servants who must wait until glory-land for our full-fledged status and privileges of sainthood to be appreciated. Such was the Old Testament prayer M.O..

B. Co-heir and co-ruler prayer - we hear then we speak... we have faith to speak because faith comes by hearing (Rms 10:17)

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Eph 2:13) Not only have we been brought 'near' but we're now co-seated with Christ and His intention is that we would comprehend the magnitude of our inheritance that has been lavished upon us... and embrace co-ruler-ship with Him (Dan 7:27). This dominion ruler-ship was abdicated by Adam, but legally restored by Jesus, and is now being more fully revealed in our day. We are being *"transformed by the RE-newing of our minds"* (Rms 12:2)... made new again (as in the beginning)... purged of outdated paradigms. We've been liberated into a 'large place' (Ps 18:19). He is restoring to us all that was lost in the Fall... only now it's better, we have Holy Spirit who labors with us.

Our posture now, is one of joining Jesus in ruler-ship. So what kind of prayer is Jesus praying? It's something like this: "Be healed!"... "Come forth!"... "Arise!"... "Stretch forth!"... etc. We could describe these prayers as; declarative, prophetic, release, proclamation, etc. Then Jesus invites us to adopt the same posture in prayer... which is more in line with our current theology. As long as we have truly heard, then faith comes by hearing, and faith is the substance that lets us declare a thing as being so. We follow in the footsteps of God who *"calls forth those things which are not as though they were"* (Rms 4:17).

Disclaimer: Of course, if we don't know God's mind on a matter, then we always ask (Jms 1:5). We're not God... like Jesus, we *"can do nothing apart from the Father"*. None of this is possible without abiding in the Vine. The Vine is our identity, life source and empowerment.

Consider these Biblical examples of saintly authority, where God instructs or empowers US to 'do the stuff'. Note that He does not instruct us to ask Him to do the stuff. In fact, He chides or corrects Moses and Ezekiel for asking.

1. Don't beg, you do it! – Ex 14:15-16 - *God said, "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. "As for you, (You) lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea*

and (You) divide it," My paraphrase: **"Moses, don't cry to me when I've empowered you to do the job! You lift up your staff and you divide the sea."**

2. Jesus empowers His 12 - Matt 10:7-8 – *"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' '(You) Heal the sick, (you) raise the dead, (you) cleanse the lepers, (you) cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.'"*

Jesus did not say, "If you preach, I will do the stuff for you." No. He clearly says that THEY / WE are supposed to do the stuff. No begging God to do it, allowed.

3. Anointed to 'do' - Luke 4:18-19 - *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of the sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."*

Of course, Jesus is quoting a fulfilled prophecy of Himself. We also believe that He has given us the permission to do the same things He did and even greater. SOooo... we are to preach the Gospel, **we are** to declare release to captives, **we are** to give sight to the blind, **we are** to set free the oppressed, etc. Who is supposed to do this? **We are!** Jesus didn't say if you make loud appeals to me, then I will do it for you. Our current theology says, He has empowered **US** to do all these things and more.

4. You prophesy! – Ezek 37 - God asks Ezekiel a tough question; whether dry bones can live. Zeke takes the humble route, *"Only You know, Lord."* God says, "No way, Jose! You don't get off with a response like that... so far below your saintly status. You can't stay a baby forever! Partner with me! You prophesy!" We know that Moses and Ezekiel were Old Testament saints... right? Then how much more should we New Testament saints move into this partnership with God... we have the finished work of the Cross and Holy Spirit!

One could say, "Well, God/Jesus spoke to them directly telling them what to do." And that is true... but we're veterans of hearing the voice of the Lord, aren't we? Then God's M.O. for us is; we hear, we believe and then we speak.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak," - II Cor 4:13

So in prayer, if we know the mind of Christ then it would be quite inappropriate to mindlessly default to asking again... and again. Because of our maturing understanding of Father's intentions for us, we now assume our rightful places as co-heirs and co-reigners... we prophesy, release, bind, etc... all from our Heavenly position of being co-seated with Christ

"Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." - (Matt 18:18).

Did you catch that? Any binding and loosing in earthly situations, gets done by us in the heavenly places. Stunning! Our incredible place of favor and authority is so big that it almost defies our believe-ability. But we're getting there! And we might as well get used to it. Guaranteed, focus on this topic will only increase in the future.

So are you ready for some homework? For one week, don't pray default asking prayers... simply ask God what His will is about your situation, then declare, release and proclaim whatever He tells you. It's going to be a great 'workout' at the 'gym' this week.

What an amazing Father! He really is equipping us for this Kingdom age.

-- MLH

For more related articles posted on Beyond the Map:

[Luke 18's Unjust Judge - God or Satan?](#)

[Our New Prayer Posture: Declare/Prophesy](#)

[The Three Eras of Prayer Posture](#)

[Intercession: From faithless beggar petitions to confident kingly prophetic declarations](#)

[Dual Realities of the Believer \(No More Pickle Juice\)](#)

Published at: <http://wp.me/p23r7p-EG>