**God NEEDS Our Prayers**

Why does God want us to pray? Does a sovereign, all-powerful God need our involvement or not?

If you look at the Scriptures you will see that God originally gave Adam and Eve dominion over the entire earth and all creation (Gen 1:26-27). This is supported in other passages. Psalm 8:4-6 speaks of the position God has given to man, and the dominion, the rule, the power He has given to him. He did not give the earth as a possession but rather as to a manager or governor. We were made in God’s image to represent Him here on earth. The earth was Adam’s assignment and whatever happened on earth for better or worse depended on Adam and his offspring. Adam’s authority was so complete that he had the ability to give it away and that is what happened in the fall: he gave his authority on earth to Satan. Jesus Himself called Satan the “prince of this world”. Because God had decided to do things on earth through human beings, He made the ultimate sacrifice through the incarnation, so that His relationship with mankind could be restored. He chose to do that through Jesus the Man.

God has chosen from the time of creation to work on the earth through humans, not independent of them. Even though God is sovereign and all-powerful we clearly see in Scriptures that He has chosen to limit Himself to working through human beings when it concerns the affairs of this earth.

Isn’t that the reason the earth is in such a mess? This is not because God wills this, but that He has chosen to work and carry out His will through imperfect people. God and humans, for better or worse, doing it together. God needing faithful men and women, humans hands to do, human voices to speak, human feet to go. Jesus told us to pray for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done. Why would we have to pray that if it was going to happen anyway?

We have the specific example of Elijah who prayed for the rain to come, but it was God’s idea to send the rain, so it is God again choosing to do His work through a human. Even when the Lord Himself initiates something and earnestly desires to do it, He needs us to ask.

God’s existence and character and unlimited resources are totally independent of His creation, but Scriptures show repeatedly that He has created a limitation on the release of His power and will. Ezekiel 22:30-31 show this principle again. *“I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. ‘*Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads,’ declares the Lord GOD.” If God had been able to find a human being to stand in the gap He could have shown mercy—but He didn’t.

None of us believe that it is God’s will for the earth to be in the condition it is—or that He is powerless to change it. So we can only assume that He is waiting on something from us to bring about the necessary changes. So let us accept the incredible invitation to be co-laborers with God in prayer. He values our prayers, He stores up our prayers. And in some incredible way our prayers release His power to carry out His will in this broken world.

It is an incredible concept that an eternal God should desire our contact with Him, and that this Wonderful God limits Himself to do things until we discuss it with Him in prayer.

Let us take a fresh look at the passage from Ezekiel 22:30-31 again and apply it to our local situation. What would it look like if God spoke those very same words to our church leaders. “I searched for a man among *you* who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the *province*, so that I would not *have to* destroy it; **and - - - - - - - - I found one – because I heard one man say “Here am I send me”**. “*Thus I did not* have *to* pour out My indignation on them; I *did not* have to consume them with the fire of My wrath; now their way I *will not bring* upon their heads,’ declares the Lord GOD.”

God found one – and now God can show mercy. As you go out to pray about this I hope the Lord hears a “Yes, send me!!! Let us go and pray.

Partly taken from *Giving Ourselves to Prayer,* “Does God Really Need Our Prayers?” by Dutch Sheets.