

Thanksgiving & Revival

I. Thanksgiving for Answered Prayer

A. The Power of Persistent Prayer

The church prayed. God exceeded my expectations! He heard our prayers. Not about a political party, but a national opportunity to return to the original purpose. An opportunity for **awakening, revival, renewal** of our culture, **reformation** of our institutions!

In **revival**, God accomplishes in days what usually takes decades.

There is more!

[Luke 11](#) — Jesus tells us that Prayer is like a child who wakes up a loving father in the ***middle of the night***... Father's great love... ***more than enough.. who gives good things to his children.***

B. Prayer Partners with God's Purposes

[1 Peter 1:1](#) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are **elect exiles** of the Dispersion ... 2 (1)**according** to the **foreknowledge** of God the **Father**, (2) **in** the **sanctification** of the **Spirit**, (3) **for obedience to Jesus Christ** and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace **be multiplied** to you. (Participates in the Purposes of the Trinity)

FOREKNOWLEDGE — Not just knowing facts, but knowing each of you in a personal, loving, and fatherly knowledge.

[Romans 8:29](#) For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, ... 30 And ...he also **called**, and ... he also **justified**, and ... he also **glorified**.

Why past tense? "It is finished!"

We we can see is only part...

[Screen of CIRCLE and SQUARE]. Can these be the same?

[1 Corinthians 13:12](#) For **now** we see in a mirror dimly (an enigma, a mystery, a paradox), but **then** face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

Add a dimension.... **[Screen of CYLINDER]**

Last week Chandy spoke on **predestination**. That is **not determinism**.

We have **freedom** to think, speak, choose, make. It is integral in the **Image of God**.

"Seek first the kingdom... and his righteousness and all these things shall added to you."

Choice & consequence. "I am with you to the end of the age"

[Deuteronomy 30:19](#) ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

[Galatians 5:13](#) For you were **called to freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**.

It's **real freedom**. Not just freedom desire.

But **freedom to choose** and experience the **consequences** when we say to God, "Not your will but mine." Long history of bad choices... in Adam, we all die. In Christ we are all made alive.

Love lays down its prerogatives and says to God, "Not my will, but yours." We choose love.

II. When the Ekklesia Prays

A. The Clash of Two Kingdoms

[Acts 12:1-19](#) (NIV)

¹ It was about this time that **King Herod** arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.

² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

³ When **he saw that this met with approval** among the Jews, **he proceeded to seize Peter also**. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be **guarded by four squads of four soldiers** each. **Herod intended** to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

⁵ So **Peter was kept in prison**, but **the church was earnestly praying** to God for him.

⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, **Peter was sleeping** between **two soldiers**, bound with **two chains**, and **sentries** stood guard at the entrance.

⁷ **Suddenly** an **angel of the Lord** appeared and a light shone in the cell. He **struck Peter** on the side and woke him up. "Quick, **get up!**" he said, and the **chains fell off** Peter's wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, "**Put on your clothes** and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your **cloak** around you and **follow me**," the angel told him.

⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but **he had no idea** that what the angel was doing was **really happening**; he thought he was seeing a vision.

¹⁰ They passed the **first** and **second guards** and came to the **iron gate** leading to the city. It **opened** for them **by itself**, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, **suddenly** the angel left him.

¹¹ **Then Peter came to himself** and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

¹² When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where **many people had gathered** and were **praying**.

¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.

¹⁴ When she **recognized Peter's voice**, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

¹⁵ "You're **out of your mind**," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It **must be his angel**."

¹⁶ But Peter **kept on knocking**, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

¹⁷ Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and **described how the Lord had brought him out** of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he **left for another place**.

II. The Natural and Supernatural

A. The Supernatural and Prayer

1. If you don't BELIEVE in supernatural solutions, you will never become a person of prayer at a heart level.
2. If you don't become a person of prayer, you will never become a Christian with power.
3. If you don't internalize this at a deep level, you will never become a person who accesses what God has for you as a birthright.
4. Thanksgiving Opens the Door to the Supernatural

[Psalm 100:4](#) (ESV) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

B. The Two Realms of Creation

1. God created the all things, visible and invisible, known as Creation.
2. Creation is one REALITY with two realms, the physical (generally perceptible to the senses) and the spiritual (not usually perceptible).
3. The unseen realm is much more powerful than the realm we can see.
Sometimes the unseen becomes visible.

verse 7 "the angel of the Lord appeared."

C. Angels and Prayer

1. Angels are messengers
 - i. Different ranks and orders (cherubim, seraphim, heavenly host, watchers)
 - ii. Angel comes from Gk. word for messenger

iii. Lots of angels 10k x 10k

2. Terrifyingly powerful

- i. The most common statements they make are “fear not” and “get up”
- ii. Can appear as a man,
- iii. Or NOT — Ezek, Isa, and Rev —Six wings, eyes front and back (like a drone from Heaven?).
John mistook an angel for God twice in Revelation.

3. Guardian angels are real.

- i. only humans are created in the image of God
- ii. Angels long to fully look into the Gospel [1 Pet 1.10](#)
- iii. Believers have angelic ministers [Heb 1.14](#)
- iv. Churches have angels. [Rev 2](#) & 3
- v. Churches that abandon the Gospel lose their lampstand (angel)

4. Demons and satan are fallen angels.

When the risen Christ returns he will destroy the enemy with the breath of his mouth [2 Thess 2:8](#)

5. Angels and demons are currently at war.

Daniel intercedes but there is a delay [Daniel 10:12-13](#)

Ruling spirits have areas of dominion.

III. The Impact of a Praying Church

[Acts 12:5](#) (NIV) So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was **earnestly praying** to God for him.
(praying without ceasing)

The church prayed for him earnestly. Church (EKKLESIA) is a multi-person assembly.

A. The Symphony of Prayer

[Matthew 18:19](#) (NIV) Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth **agree** about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

It's good to pray alone, but ...

Praying together in harmony is powerful. It breaks chains, it opens prison doors, it stops the enemy's plots.

symphoneo — symphony — many different instruments that play different voices at different times. Together they produce something powerful and beautiful that cannot be duplicated by just one voice.

B. Exponential Release of Power

There is exponential POWER when the church comes together in prayer.

[Joshua 23:10](#) (ESV) One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the LORD your God who fights for you, just as he promised you.

[Deuteronomy 32:30](#) (ESV) How could **one** have **chased a thousand**, and **two** have **put ten thousand to flight**, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had given them up?

1. Ripple Effect of Prayer

Moravians Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf. Grandmother. Hernnhut. Order of the mustard seed. Fast and Pray. Turned into a 24/7 prayer meeting that lasted over 100 years. Over the years, 1 out of ten Moravians felt called to missions.

William Carey — still churches in India, because of his life. at 22yrs old reads a Moravian pamphlet, why can't we reach the heathen like the Moravians?

John Wesley — boat from America, stormy night. Mainsail broken. All the English were panicking. Meanwhile the Moravians were singing hymns to God. Falls under conviction. Walks by a prayer meeting, heart was strangely warmed. First Great Awakening in England.

George Whitefield — Great Awakening in America Attends a Moravian prayer meeting. Around 2 or 3 AM the glory of God falls. Everyone is prostrate. Presence and Weight. "Surely you are the Lord." After that, when Whitefield preached, people would fall under the weight of the Spirit.

Moravians went to St. Thomas island. 1732. Two young men willing to be sold into slavery so that they can share the gospel. "May the lamb who was slain receive the reward of his suffering."

When they came, there was no light. When they left there was no darkness. More than 13,000 baptized on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, and St. Kitts before any other missionaries arrived.

William Wilberforce... as he began to fight for abolition, references the transformation on the Caribbean islands.

2. Power in a Church that Prays.

When we pray, things **start moving**. Things **start changing**.

IV. Release of the Prisoners!

Some of you will take step of humility and faith you have never taken before. God is going to move in ways you have never experienced before.

Prodigal child — not the culture, but then god of the is world had blinded their mind.

Illness...

A sin that you can't overcome

Marriage on the last leg. The problem is that you have a supernatural enemy.

Depression, despair, anxiety. Need God to restore the joy of your salvation.

Provision.

Some broken hearted for **the person who is closest to you that is farthest from God.**

Take a step in humility to receive prayer.

His house shall be called a house of prayer.

Prayer, Impartation, and Thanksgiving!

RECEIVE POWER

Holy Spirit Upon You