

SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*

MARK 16:15-20



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PRAYER, COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

I suppose that if there is one particular area that most Christians have trouble with, it is in the area of prayer. Don't get me wrong, we say we believe in prayer, but unfortunately it is more of a mental agreement than a real statement of faith. Because let's face it, if we really believed in the power of prayer we would have as many show up for prayer meetings as we do for the Church "pot-lucks."

1 John 5:14-15 (AMP)

¹⁴ And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us.

¹⁵ And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.

When Jesus was here on the earth, He said something that shows us how to pray,

John 12:49-50 (KJV)

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

Jesus Himself tells us here that He ONLY SAID what the Father told Him to say. When we pray, we need to pray the WORD OF GOD because the Word is the Father's thoughts, words and will about everything.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for

reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Too many Christians pray with what I call "shotgun" prayers, or prayers of generality such as, "bless so and so," and of course the BIG FINISH, "If it be your will."

If we truly want God to hear us when we pray, we must know His Will. The only way to know His Will is to know His Word. Only then will we be able to pray effectively.

Sometimes, we may not be able to locate "specific" Scriptures that will reference the particular need, but God in His Grace and Mercy even has that covered.

Romans 8:26 (KJV)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

So, it's this way, Pray the Word or pray in the Spirit. Either way, you will be praying the will of God and HE WILL HEAR YOU. And when God hears His will being prayed, HE ACTS ON HIS WORD!

James 5:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

May your prayer life become more and more effectual!

Mark 5:33 *Agape Sister Kathy*

Kathy and I call you BLESSED in Jesus Name!

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GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

From "American Minute" by William J. Federer

"So Help Me God:" What is the Purpose of an Oath?

On February 28, 2019, Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN.) was **swearing in** witnesses before a House Judiciary subcommittee. Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA.) made a point of parliamentary inquiry: "I think we left out '**so help me God.**'" Cohen replied: "We did." Johnson asked "Can we have the witnesses do it again for the record?" Cohen responded: "No," then added: "if they want to do it, but some of them don't want to do it, and I don't think it's necessary, and I don't like to assert my will over other people."

Johnson responded: "Well it goes back to **our founding history**, it's been part of **our tradition for more than two centuries** and I don't know that we should abandon it now." Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY.) interrupted: "If any witness objects he should not be asked to...and we should let it go with that." That was it. Gone.

Over two hundred years of precedent of witnesses ending their oath with the phrase "**so help me God**" abruptly discarded.

Why did the founders include "So Help Me God" in the oath? Human nature! Greek philosopher Plato explained that human nature was such, that if a person could escape accountability, they would act unjustly, with selfish immorality. Plato wrote in *The Republic*, 380 BC: "According to the tradition, Gyges was a shepherd in the service of the king of Lydia; there was a great storm, and an earthquake made an opening in the earth at the place where he was feeding his flock. Amazed at the sight, he descended into the opening, where, among other marvels...looking in saw a dead body of stature...having nothing on but a gold ring; this he took from the finger of the dead and reascended..."

Plato continued: "Now the shepherds met together, according to custom, that they might send their monthly report about the flocks to the king; into their assembly he came having the ring on his finger, and as he was sitting among them he chanced to turn the collet of the ring inside his hand, when instantly he became invisible to the rest of the company and they began to speak of him as if he were no longer present. He was astonished at this, and again touching the ring he turned the collet outwards and reappeared; he made several trials of the ring, and always with the same result—when he turned the collet inwards he became invisible, when outwards he reappeared. Whereupon he contrived to be chosen one of the messengers who were sent to the court; whereas soon as he arrived he seduced the queen, and with her help conspired against the king and slew him, and took the kingdom."

Plato added: "No man can be imagined to be of such an iron nature that he would stand fast in justice. No man would keep his hands off what was not his own when he could safely take what he liked out of the market, or go into houses and lie with any one at his pleasure, or kill or release from prison whom he would, and in all respects be like a god among men. Then the actions of the just

would be as the actions of the unjust; they would both come at last to the same point. ...And this we may truly affirm to be a great proof that a man is just, not willingly or because he thinks that justice is any good to him individually, but of necessity, for **wherever any one thinks that he can safely be unjust, there he is unjust.** For all men believe in their hearts that injustice is far more profitable to the individual than justice, and he who argues as I have been supposing, will say that they are right....”

Plato concluded that it would be **illogical** for a person with **Gyges’ ring** not to yield to the temptation: “If you could imagine any one obtaining this power of becoming invisible, and never doing any wrong or touching what was another’s, he would be thought by the lookers-on to be a **most wretched idiot.**”

Only the **belief in God—an eternal, invisible, just God**—and that **one is personally accountable to Him in the next life**, could someone resist the **temptation of the ring of Gyges.**

William Linn, unanimously elected the **first U.S. House Chaplain**, stated May 1, 1789: “Let my neighbor once **persuade himself that there is no God**, and he will soon **pick my pocket**, and **break not only my leg but my neck.** **If there be no God**, there is **no law, no future account**; government then is the ordinance of man only, and we cannot be subject for conscience sake.”

The tradition in America has been for **oaths** to end with “**So Help Me God.**” The **military’s oath of enlistment** ended with “**So Help Me God.**” The **commissioned officers’ oath** ended with “**So Help Me God.**” **President’s oath of office** ended with “**So Help Me God.**” **Congressmen and Senator’s oath** ended with “**So Help Me God.**” **Witnesses in Court** swore to tell the truth, “**So Help Me God.**” Even an **oath proposed by Lincoln** for individuals wanting to be **U.S. citizens** ended with “**So Help Me God.**” Lincoln announced his plan, December 8, 1863, to let back into the Union those who had been in the confederacy: “Whereas it is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion to resume their **allegiance to the United States....**therefore I **Abraham Lincoln**, President of the United States...make known to all persons who have...participated in the existing rebellion...that a **full pardon is hereby granted...**with restoration of all rights of property...upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an **oath...to wit:** “I _____, do solemnly swear, **in the presence of ALMIGHTY GOD**, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and **defend the Constitution** of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that **I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support** all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with **reference to slaves...**and that I will in like manner abide by and **faithfully support all proclamations of the President** made during the existing rebellion having **reference to slaves...so help me God.**

(To be continued next month)

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

IT IS TIME FOR CHRISTIANS TO AWAKEN AND ACT!

MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!