

Prayer Changes Things

Several years ago, a woman in Mexico lived with her children in a city ruled by corrupt leadership, overrun by drug cartels, and she had no one to trust in for help.

Except this woman was a believer. She knows her help comes from the Lord, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Every morning, she walked her children to school, passing through streets where there had been shootouts the night before, sometimes even shielding her children's eyes from a body dumped at the curb.

Frightening stuff for most parents.

Each morning after this woman kissed her kids goodbye and dropped them off at the large elementary school they attended, she wouldn't retrace her steps back home, at least not right away.

Instead, she would then walk the block around the sprawling campus, praying, calling on God for protection for her kids and all their classmates, asking Him to reveal Himself to even the youngest there.

She didn't pray quietly, either. She figured God's promises were meant to be declared, so all could hear.

"Lord, You told me not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, to let my requests be made known. I trust You with the lives of my children as I leave them in school. I know that You are a Shield around them. Protect the other children, too, and the teachers. You have promised me that when I call unto You, You hear me and answer. I have confidence in Your promises! You are the God of miracles who is able to do more than I could think or ask.

Great Lord, You are the Faithful One who watches over Your Word to see it is completed. I declare over my children and this school that You will establish them and guard them against all evil. If trouble comes, You will be their strength and refuge. As I go from this place I call for the angels assigned to watch over my children to be present and on guard. I know that You will never leave them or forsake them. I draw a blood line around this property and declare that no weapon formed by gangs or drug cartels will be able to harm one hair on the heads of those in this school. I am grateful for the angels of the Lord that encamp about this school, delivering each one safely home at the end of the day. I trust You with their lives. In Jesus' Name, amen."

People gathered to make fun of her, to mock her, to jeer at her words. Others turned up their noses and scoffed. What could God do in this pit of moral decay?

That didn't stop her, though. Every morning, rain or shine, heat or cold, she walked that block around the school, thanking God that He's faithful to keep His Word.

And then one day it happened; what every parent dreads.

After she'd prayed and already arrived back at her home this particular morning, she heard shots; so many that it seemed they would never stop. A neighbor ran to tell her that the kids' school was at the epicenter of a large gun battle between a cartel and military forces, one faction on one side, the opponents on the other, shooting at each other, with her kids and all the others in the direct line of fire.

It seemed forever before she and other parents could get close to the school; before the shooting stopped.

As she rushed to the main gates with other frantic parents, it looked like the aftermath of a war, with bodies, blood, and weapons cast about.

There were many casualties that day, with dead and wounded on both sides. Buildings and vehicles were destroyed and shot to pieces on all four sides of the school.

But not one person was harmed at the school. Not one.

She still prays as she walks around her kids' school each morning, just as she's always done.

Only now, other moms join her, and grandmas and dads and community members. They all pray as they walk the block around that school, but no one is making fun of her anymore. They've seen what God can do when people, even a lone woman, will pray.

At the 50th Anniversary Aglow International Conference in 2017, Dutch Sheets said, "God has given us (Aglow) air supremacy and we are now no longer only going to move in the priestly aspect of intercession, we are going to marry it with the kingly aspect of intercession. We are not just priests who offer up petitions... we are now moving in to the *royal* priesthood area. The Melchizedek order of kings and priests. A Kingdom of priests where we represent the King from up there, seated with Him, and we are not just going to ask as priests, *we are going to decree as kings*. (No longer praying like a widow, but a bride)

We are going to make our decrees and where we have been quoting, Job 22:28 *You will decree a thing and it will be established*, we are going to do more than quote it now. We are going to decree a thing and we are going to watch the situation change.

- We are going to decree that walls around nations are coming down and then we are going to watch them come down.
- We are going to decree that evil systems controlling the minds of men and women around the world will now be dismantled by Holy Spirit, and then we are going to watch them be dismantled.

I heard Holy Spirit say...You will fully shift this nation when the praying church fully shifts from priestly intercession to kingly intercession as well."

14 and My people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves, and pray and seek (crave, require as a necessity) My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear [them] from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer offered in this place." 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Practical Applications

1. What does praying as a priest mean to you?
2. What does praying in kingly intercession mean to you?
3. How do you feel you pray, more as a priest or as a king? What could you do to shift the way you are currently praying?
4. When you pray, do you feel you are praying towards Heaven, hoping God hears, or are you praying from your heavenly position of being seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father?
5. Discuss with others, the importance of your position in Christ.
6. What do you think Dutch meant when he said that God has given us air supremacy? Can you define air supremacy? Google it.
7. We know that God has given us authority and power through Jesus. We know that He hears us when we pray. We know that the effectual, fervent prayers of the righteous avail much. (James 5:16) Take some time to think about your prayer life. Does it reflect the truth that you are seated in Heavenly places and the enemy has no defense against those prayers? Or do you find that you are not confident that God hears you and will answer? Be honest. This is the moment of your awakening to what God has placed in your hands. Heaven needs us to be the powerhouse God has made us to be. It isn't our own strength, but Christ in us.
8. As citizens of Heaven walking the earth with the keys mentioned in Isaiah 22:22, we are intended to pray prayers in such a way that the earth realm is affected and hell is defeated, doors are opened and closed, captives are set free, the sick are healed, and the peace of God rules in every nation down to the very street we live on. Pause and think about your prayer time. Make two columns with one side being the ways you align with Heaven as you pray and the other being things you may need to shift to a higher level as you pray. There are no wrong answers. This is a time of exploration to take you to a higher level so that when you drive around your local schools, the results are the same as in our real-life story above.
9. We must pray with the authority Jesus has given us in Luke 10:19 (TPT) "Now you understand that I have imparted to you My authority to trample over his kingdom. You will trample upon every demon before you and overcome every power Satan possesses. Absolutely nothing will harm you as you walk in this authority." After taking time to allow this scripture to sink in, discuss what this means to you and how you can incorporate it into your prayer time.

Holy Spirit, open our eyes as we look to You to give us any course corrections we need. You have placed us where we live to be the help Heaven has sent for this time in history. We want to go to a new level in prayer even if we are decreeing at a high level. Tune us to be the prayer warriors that we must be for this level of warfare in the world day. You have equipped us with the best weapons available to Heaven and that makes us to have the upper hand in all things. Thank You!