

## **BIBLICAL PRAYER (9)**

**(Theological Assumption #6)** - Prayer assumes the Omnipotence of God.

When we pray, we assume God has all the power necessary to answer our prayers. Prayer is a tremendous form of worship which truly must recognize and believe in the Omnipotence of God. When we pray to God, we acknowledge our God has “Almighty Power.”

- 1) If, for example, we pray for rain, we make the assumption that God can and does control nature and has the power to send the rain.
- 2) If we pray for the salvation of someone, we make the assumption that God has the power to reach into the heart and mind of a person who is in sin and rebellion against Him and turn it to faith in His Son. I have never read any who believe in the “sovereign free will of man” who gives a rational answer to this point. If you pray to God and ask Him to save someone, you must obviously assume God’s will can overtake man’s will and it is right at this moment when you admit it is God who actually has a sovereign omnipotence which is far more powerful than any human will. This point shatters Arminian theology.
- 3) If we pray for God to heal a sickness or an illness, we make the assumption that God has all necessary power to heal. This also assumes that God knows about the human body and all things connected to the human body, including that which may heal it.
- 4) If we pray for wisdom and help and strength in difficult circumstances, we make the assumption that God can impart all of that in any situation. We also make the assumption that God has the power to change the circumstances.

One of the greatest worshipful acknowledgements of the fact that we believe in the unlimited power of God is prayer.

**(Theological Assumption #7)** - Prayer assumes the Omniscience of God.

When we pray, we assume that God knows all things about everything and we also assume that God knows what is best in every given situation. When you consider all the things we pray about, the assumption we make of the knowledge level of God is incalculable.

- 1) For example, when we pray for someone to be healed or we pray for someone about to go into surgery, we assume that God knows everything about the sickness or the physical problem and is able to bring about a cure or positive result.
- 2) If we pray for protection, we assume God knows everything about all of the dangers we may potentially face and knows how to keep them from harming us.
- 3) If we pray about a job, we assume that God knows our skills and knows of a job somewhere that we have the ability to do and can actually direct us to this job.
- 4) If someone prays for a mate, they assume God knows every person in the world in regard to them and He knows how to sovereignly direct events so that the couple ends up together.

One of the greatest worshipful acknowledgments concerning the unlimited knowledge of God is prayer.

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (10)

**(Theological Assumption #8)** - Prayer assumes the Mobility of God.

Prayer makes a major assumption that God moves and does things or does not do things in direct connection to prayer. Although we will discuss this in depth later, it needs to be stated that God does not change (immutability), but God does move (mobility). In other words, **God is immutable but He is not immobile.**

For example, God has Divinely structured things so that prayer is part of a process that will prompt Him to move in regard to His people. This is an unchanging principle that will stand for all eternity. **James 4:2** says, “You do not have because you do not ask.” The clear inference is there are some things God will be moved to do if we simply ask Him to do them. The antithesis of this is that there are some things God won’t be moved to do unless we do ask Him.

When we pray, we assume God is a living and moving God who may be moved through our prayers. The mobility of God is one of the main assumptions we make about God when we pray.

**(Theological Assumption #9)** - Prayer assumes the Sovereignty of God.

When we pray, we make one of the great assumptions about God in that He is the supreme and sovereign ruler over all things.

We assume that God is supreme ruler over sickness, government, circumstances and spiritual conditions. We will explore this in greater detail later, but the fact is when we pray about something we do assume that God is sovereign and supreme ruler of a person’s heart and mind and can overrule a variety of decisions. We assume that God is completely sovereign and can answer in complete conformity to His perfect will. Prayer totally acknowledges God’s sovereignty in everything and I am convinced that until a person comes to the point where he truly believes in the Sovereignty of God, he probably won’t be much of a prayer warrior.

There is a great illustration of this very point concerning the influential ministries of the famed Calvinistic evangelist, George Whitefield, and the famed Arminian evangelist, John Wesley. On one occasion, both were conducting meetings in the same area and were staying at the same boarding house and actually sharing a room. One night after a particularly strenuous day, each knelt by his bed to pray before retiring. Whitefield prayed, “Lord, we thank Thee for all those with whom we spoke this day and we rejoice that their lives and destinies are entirely in thy hand. Honor our efforts according to thy perfect will. Amen.” With that he climbed into his bed. Wesley looked up and said, “Mr. Whitefield, is this where your Calvinism leads you?” Then Wesley put his head back down and went on praying. Whitefield went immediately to sleep and two hours later woke up and saw that Wesley was still on his knees beside his bed. Whitefield got up and went around to where Wesley was kneeling and discovered he was sound to sleep. Whitefield said, “Mr. Wesley, is this where your Arminianism leads you?” Clearly, those who believe in God’s sovereignty, tend to pray specifically and see God sovereignly work (James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, pp. 484-485).