

CAYA Series – “Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer”

CHAPTER 2 - “THE GENESIS OF PRAYER”

*We will review for understanding the essential truths about **God’s nature and His purposes** for mankind that lead to the necessity of **prayer**.*

Truths (Isaiah 14:24; Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21)

- God does everything for a reason
- He is a God of purpose
- His actions are *not* arbitrary
- Everything God created was created to fulfill His purpose

Man was created in God’s image and likeness:

- Image – so love could be freely given and received
- Likeness – to have His nature and moral character
- We need a relationship with God to reveal His image and likeness
- We were intended to reflect God’s nature in the context of being continually connected to Him in fellowship. **1 John 4:16**
- *No* human being is going to be truly satisfied with life until he or she loves God.

HUMANITY WAS CREATED TO HAVE DOMINION

- Man was given the ability to plan and make decisions, and *then* to act to fulfill those plans. Man was meant to carry out God’s purposes for the earth using his own will and initiative.
- God gave humanity physical bodies manifested in two genders-male and female (**Genesis 1:27**). Man is the spirit being called ‘man’ and *includes both* male and female. Therefore, dominion was given to both male and female.
- God *never* desired or intended to rule the earth by Himself. God is love and a person of love wants others to share in what he has. The relationship of love is *not* separate from the purpose God has for humankind.

THE MEANING OF DOMINION

- Man (male and female) has been given the freedom by God to exhibit creativity while governing the physical earth and all the other living things that dwell in it. Man is meant to reflect the loving and creative Spirit of God.
- Man was *not* made for heaven. God created man for the earth. God wanted to share His rule.
- It was *never* intended that Adam and Eve leave the garden, but to take the garden (God's presence, light, and truth) and spread it throughout the world.
- God didn't create men and women to be servants *but* to be sons and daughters who are wholeheartedly involved in running the family business.

THE NATURE OF PRAYER

- Prayer existed before the fall. It existed from the beginning of God's relationship with man.
- Prayer is the expression of man's relationship with God and participation in His purposes.
- To pray means to commune with God, to become one with God, union with God, to have unity and singleness of purpose, thought, desire, will, reason, motive, objective, and feelings.
- Prayer is man's vehicle of the soul and spirit by which he communes with the invisible God.
- It is the medium through which the human spirit affects and is affected by the will and purpose of the divine creator.
- Prayer is the involvement of oneself (one's whole self) with God.
- Prayer is essential for God's will to be done in the earth.
- Prayer is mandatory (*not* optional) for spiritual progress and victory in our individual lives and in the world at large.
- Prayer is man giving God the freedom to intervene in earth's affairs.
- Prayer should *not* be open ended, it should be purpose driven, motivated by a knowledge of God's ways and intentions.

PURPOSE IS THE RAW MATERIAL OF PRAYER

- God wants us to will His will
- His will is meant to be the backbone and center of your prayers, the heart of your intercession, the source of your confidence, the strength of your effectual and fervent prayers.

- Praying does *not* mean convincing God to do your will *but* doing His will through your will.
- God's will is the authority of your prayers.
- Prayer is calling forth what God has already purposed and predestined for the earth.
- When we stop praying, we allow God's purposes for the world to be hindered.

PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, You have said, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (**Proverbs 19:21**). We ask you to fulfill Your word and make Your purpose reign in our lives. We all have plans and goals that we are pursuing. We ask you to establish whatever is from You – whatever is in line with Your purpose – and cause to fade away whatever is not from You. We honor you as our Creator and as our loving heavenly Father. We affirm that it is You who work in us to will and to act according to Your good purpose. (See **Philippians 2:13**). Renew our minds so we may understand Your ways and Your plans more fully. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is our Way, Truth, and Life. Amen*

[Individual/Small Group Activity]

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BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

What information presented in Chapter 2 impacted/influenced each member of your team the most? *(It could be a principle, revelation, understanding, insight or obstacle, etc.)*

- Why are these truths important to understand?

God does everything for a reason. He is a God of purpose. His actions are not arbitrary. Everything God created was created to fulfill His purpose.

- No human being is going to be truly satisfied with life until he or she loves God.

Is this true? Why or Why not?

- His will is meant to be the backbone and center of your prayers.

What does this statement mean to you?

- Prayer should not be open ended, it should be purpose driven, motivated by a knowledge of God’s ways and intentions.

How will this impact your prayer life?