

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

CHAPTER 3 - “THE AUTHORITY OF PRAYER”

On what basis do you have a right to pray?

We have this right by virtue of our relationship with Him and our purpose of exercising dominion over the earth.

As a result of the fall, our relationship with God was broken and our dominion was forfeited, and Satan became ‘the god of this world” (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). We became estranged from God and His plans for us so that we feel:

- Isolated from God
- Unsure of where we stand with God
- Didn’t know what God wanted to do for and through us
- Lost our sense of purpose

GOD’S PLAN OF REDEMPTION IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS CHARACTER AND PURPOSES

God’s eternal plan for humanity was made possible through the coming of Jesus Christ. *Only* through Christ are we restored to our purposes in God, and *only* through Christ do we have a right to pray with authority.

CHRIST RESTORED OUR RIGHTS TO DOMINION AND PRAYER

To restore God’s purpose, Jesus had to come as a Representative of the legal authority of the earth – man.

- Jesus was the Second Adam, who brought with him the beginning of a new family of mankind who would be devoted to God
- To restore man’s broken relationship with God, Jesus had to be without sin, and He had to choose to do the will of God.

What qualities did Christ manifest *as* the Second Adam?

1. He is the image of God both in Jesus’ humanity and His divinity.
2. He has a deep relationship of love with God

3. He lives to do God's will. He is one with God and His purpose
4. He reigns with authority. Jesus has the right and power to reign on the earth and to ask God to intervene in the world since He was the perfect Man and the perfect Sacrifice. This means that even if no other men are in agreement with God, God's purposes for the earth can be brought about in Christ.
5. Jesus reclaimed mankind's earthly authority.
6. Jesus transferred authority to those who believe. Those who believe and receive Christ have their relationship with God and their authority on earth restored.

Prayer is both a right and a privilege of redeemed man, who is now in a position to enter fully into a relationship of love with God and to agree that "His kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

MAN'S REDEMPTION ALLOWS HIM TO HAVE DOMINION

What does redemption *mean* to us?

1. This is the Father's description of who we are in His Son.
2. Satan has no authority over us *because* we have been delivered from his dominion. We have authority over him!
3. We have authority through Jesus' Name. **(John 14:12-14)**
4. We have access to the Father through Jesus' Name – we have a right to approach the throne of grace with confidence. This enables us to agree with the Father and His purposes, to ask Him to fulfill His Word as He meets our needs and the needs of others.
5. We have authority through the Word. We must pray according to God's will, which we find in His Word. His Word is the guarantee of answered prayer.

JESUS IS OUR MODEL OF DOMINION AUTHORITY

Jesus kept a close relationship with the Father through prayer. He did what God directed Him to do and what He saw God actively working on to accomplish in the world. Jesus' prayers were effective because He had a relationship with God, knew His purpose and prayed according to God's will – according to what God had already spoken and promised to do. We are to imitate Him.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

*Thank You for never giving up on us but for redeeming us for Yourself and Your purposes through Jesus Christ, the Second Adam. Paul prayed in **2 Thessalonians 1:11**, "That our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith." We ask You to count us worthy of our calling and to enable us to fulfill Your purposes, through grace, faith, and authority we have in Christ. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer and King. Amen.*

Revelation/Insight/Notes:

[Individual/Small Group Activity]

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BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

What information presented in Chapter 3 impacted/influenced each team member the most? *(It could be a principle, revelation, understanding, insight or obstacle, etc.)*

1. What does the name Jesus Christ represent?
2. Why was it necessary for him to come into the earth as the Son of Man?
3. What does it mean that we have authority through Jesus' Name?
(John 14:12-14)
4. As God is sitting by listening; how would you describe your relationship with Him?
5. Are you willing to help the Father and Jesus, His Son, fulfill His purposes for your life and for the earth? Is a change required? Are you truly willing to submit (be obedient) to the will of God?