

DEPTHS OF PRAYER SERIES

POSSESSING THE LAND

Joshua 1: 1 onwards, It came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise go over to Jordan, you and all these people to the land, which I am giving to you the children of Israel. Every place the sole of your foot shall tread upon I have given you as I said to Moses. From the Lebanon and from this great river, the Euphrates, all the land of the Hittite and to the Great Sea towards the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous that you may observe to do with all the laws, which Moses my servant commanded you to do. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate in it day and night that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success.

We want to touch on something new tonight and that is what I call possessing the land. It is important to know where we gather in prayer, what we pray and how we pray. We also to a certain extent emphasize with who we pray. It seems that in the scripture it is important to be in the right place where you are praying. We have looked at the *what* to a certain extent and we have looked at the *why*. We have looked at the *who* and we have looked at the *how*. Tonight as we are talking about possessing the land we need to look at the *where* we pray. It may not seem significant and we need to look at this truth in a context. Don't take it out of context from what we are saying as a whole. A truth can easily be taken out of context when you move out of tangent from the circumference of truth that God wants us to have. As far as where we pray, it seems that where we pray can make a difference between success and failure in certain areas. There are laws of prayer

behind it.

Take for example what God spoke to Joshua that we read just now. Apparently it is not just important for Joshua to send his troops out. It's important that he himself should go through the length the breadth the width of the land. God says that every place that you tread upon shall be yours. That means his footprints. If his footprints only go half way that will be all the land he had. It's important where we step. We are emphasizing the *where* tonight. That is currently a revival or prayer in some places in different nations. Prayer warriors are beginning to do things that they have never done before. One of the things that are happening is that prayer warriors are going into the very places where Satan and his demons trod and praying right there. You may have read in the Christian news about how they are organizing prayers over cities, like Larry Lee and his prayer campaigns over Los Angeles and San Francisco too.

What they had been doing is this. They would select and choose a place that is the very center of Satan's activities, and they go right inside and pray in tongues there. It seems strange to us that Satan as a spirit being would have a geographical place. We know that he is a unipresent spirit and these demonic spirits do set up headquarters. If you have been in the spirit world long enough, you will notice that demonic forces do concentrate where population centers are greatest. And certain places seem to carry an atmosphere of the spirit over that city. Smaller spirits and domains and principalities may have control over smaller sections of that city where they make it their domain. Put it this way, if the wicked ruler of darkness loves to possess a human body, which is limited physically to one place at one time, that gives you a clue that they have a certain sense of geographical positioning. Then there are other spirits whose domains are over a larger area and they will concentrate over those areas.

Think about the bible talking about the first rank of demon power or fallen angel like the prince of Persia. Doesn't that tell us that there are geographical domains? What happens is that it seems necessary at times for Christians to be led of the Spirit and go right into those domains and bring the presence of God there. It makes a difference for example Christians began to spread themselves out and

perhaps organize themselves where they may go to all the main places or centers of activities and start praying there. It does make a difference to that very place. It's important where we pray.

Now here is the extreme where people will take it to that you must avoid. Some will take it to the extreme of this truth and say if that so, then let me go to some places and pray there. You may have heard of a group of Christians who went all the way to the Eiffel Tower to cast the devil out of France. Then there was another group that chartered a plane to fly over a principality where the demons were supposed to be having their throne. They have no intention to land. They just wanted to be up there. The Christians in the plane then spread their hands out and went in tongues, face to face encounter with the devil according to them. These are some possible extremes that people can take the truth to. If that is all that these people understand about this truth, then it is very little that they really understand. If you are led by the Spirit and there was a special instruction to do it, no problem. But if you do it because you thought that is the only pattern of tearing down principalities that would be what we call off tangent.

There seems a leading of the Spirit where it may be necessary for us to be positioned correctly. There must be a good reason for God to tell Abraham to walk through the length and the breadth and the width of the land that He promised him. There must be a good reason for that. There is also here in Joshua 1 a good reason for God telling him to walk through the length and breadth and width and every place that his feet steps on shall be his. There is a good reason for that. It only applies to him. See he was the leader over Israel. He was God's natural leader and it was necessary for him to take dominion over that area not only physically with swords and spears but also by his presence. Taking over by his stepping all over in that land. In looking and studying in this aspect, there seems to be a truth that is emerging on being opened to the Spirit of God to pray at the right place as He leads us. It may be necessary for you to do that. It's a different thing praying right where Satan put his activity.

Let's look at Exodus 17. We read about the story about the Israelites against the Amalekites. In this particular story Moses had to go up on a hill. Now we always read that story and emphasize the importance of Moses' hands being lifted up. This

is one of the points that is important. No doubt that represented prayer beseeching God. That represented everything we are teaching about in prayer and praise. His uplifted hands represented victory and trust in God. It represented his surrender in God. It was important for his hands to be lifted up. That is in Exodus 17: 11, *And so it was when Moses held up his hands, the Israel prevailed and when he let down his hands the Amalekites prevailed.* So it was important that his hands were up.

But the other fact that was important that we must not miss was that he was up the hill. It must have been important for him to be on that hill too. Why must he climb up that hill? Why don't he just sit on a chair and do it. Why climb up the hill and take the extra effort? Why go to the prayer meeting things like that? Why go and attend the prayer meeting in that place? I can pray in my home. Moses could have said, "I can do it in my tent. You guys go and fight the Amalekites and I pray as long as my hands are lifted up we will win." He will be there in his tent and Aaron and Hur can go to his tent. That would be warm and nice in the tent. So apparently its not just the hands but the place was important. Where he was, was important. God instructed him apparently to climb up on a hill.

In Joshua 17: 10, *So Joshua did as Moses said to him and fought with Amalekites. And Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill.* He says I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hands. It was important for him to see the battle going on. It was important to position himself. There are so many ways he could position himself. But apparently he has to have a bird's eye view of the battle. He has to position himself where he could see the battle going on. His physical presence could be seen. I could imagine some of these Israelites fighting down there looking up and seeing Moses. I mean Moses was not hiding behind a bush. It is important where we are. The positioning seems to affect the spiritual realm.

Have you notice the number of times the prayers and the encounter with God taking place on a mountain? On Mount Horeb Moses met God there. We have Elijah and his Mount Carmel. We have Jesus and the Mount of Olives. It is mountain business. All this climbing up mountains is not easy work. If you climb up a mountain for your overnight prayer, by the time you reached up there you wish that you had brought your pillow along. The Mount of Olives overlooks

Jerusalem. Jesus positioned Himself where He could encompass the city in a sense.

Do you notice that there is an evil spiritual realm that seeks to do that? Let me point to something that is happening outside in the religious world. On every tall hill or tree there is always somebody trying to build some sort of worship shrine there. All you have to do is to drive all the way to Genting Highland, a popular casino resort on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, just before you reached the top you will find a huge Chinese temple there. You go to any nation where idol worship is prominent you will find a shrine on the mountain. These demonic powers that are present always seek the highest place where they could overlook the whole place. Demon powers are applying the spiritual principles that are in the bible. So we need to know part of this truth of being where we are.

And if you notice it, where you are praying also makes a difference. If you were to translate to another city and country and pray there, you will find a different atmosphere altogether. You need a certain break even point group of zeal, quality Christians and quantity Christians. There has to be quality and quantity up to a certain point where you break even over the spiritual powers in that area.

Let's take for example we adjourn our over night prayer to Bombay. We charter a flight to specially go there. I tell you, in each place there is a break-even point for quality and quantity Christians. In some place where a lot of Christian work of prayer has been done, things keep changing in the spiritual realm. In New Zealand, when I traveled to several cities, I find that Auckland has a different atmosphere from Wellington. In each city you could sense whether it is easy to function in the Spirit, which city is easy to pray or not so easy to pray. Of all the five cities we went the easiest was Tauranga. It seems that when you enter that place there was an open heaven there. There are a lot of Christian spiritual activities going on there.

Perhaps when you are praying there, it may just take two Christians praying together to have a breakthrough in that town. Then perhaps in another city let's say Bombay, the breakthrough point may take let's say about a hundred Christians who are one hundred percent committed to God. So on that basis it would two hundred

Christians who are fifty percent committed to God. You balance the quality with the quantity. What happen if the Christians there in the city still haven't reached the breakthrough point, you sense a difficult atmosphere. You do pray through certain items, God still hears you but I am talking about the atmosphere in the spirit realm that you sense because you haven't reached what I call the minimum point required for breakthrough in each place.

Every geographical place on this earth has a break-even point. It is just like sending a rocket out into space. How many feet you go above the sea level will depend how much thrust you need to send the rocket out. So spiritually speaking where we are there is a break through point. Of course we expect that in your own home the Lordship of Christ has taken authority, then there should be no problem.

So lets talk about Bombay again. Lets say the breakthrough point can only be achieved if there are one hundred Christians who are one hundred percent committed to God. So by the same principle if you got Christians who are fifty percent on fire, you will need two hundred of those guys. Some place because of its propensity for spiritual prayer atmosphere and revival, the break-even point is very low. For example when you go to the prayer mountain in South Korea, you can pray easily. So when you come here to this church there is ease because here is a place where we worship God, sanctified by the teaching of the Word. So the atmosphere here the break-even point for your spiritual rocket to take off may be easier than another place. But yet we are not supposed to seek where it is easy. God may require us to go into difficult places to pray there.

There was this person was leading this revival in prayer for his nation. One day God told him to go into the streets and pray. Now that was the leading of the Lord. So a whole bunch of Christians went into the streets and they knelt down right on main street praying. When they were right down in the main street, it seems that the presence of God started coming into that very place. People coming by began to be convicted by the presence of God brought by the Christian group. We understand it in this sense that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit. Every we go we carry God's presence. So when we enter a place especially when two or three are gathered together it began to generate the presence of Christ in that very place. So when people are planning to go tracting usually some groups don't pray at all. They

just go and give out tracts. Then some groups will send some to go and tract and some will stay back in the church and pray for them.

If you really are led by the Spirit to go, you get different Christians at different places to surround a shopping complex in all four corners. So the whole shopping complex has a canopy of prayer around it, but provided you hit the break through point for that area. There is a break through point of quality and quantity Christians. So you must sense what is the break through point for that place. Make sure that there is a number of Christians to break through that point. Surround that place and I can tell you it is very easy to win souls in that place. You have sort of put a blanket cover over it. Demons find it very hard to go in. What about those demons who were trapped inside the shopping complex? Angels will probably shoot them to one corner. Suddenly there will be tremendous angels going in and out of that place because there is a canopy.

It is important also where we pray. Notice that Jesus every time He went up a hill to pray. One of the things He did was to overlook and to see. Lets look at Matt. 14:23 *Now when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray.* There you have it again He always goes up to a mountain to pray. Jesus frequently did that. According to the account given to us in the gospel of Mark 6: 46, *He went to the mountain to pray.* Now in verse 47, When evening came the boat was in the middle of the sea. The disciples were crossing half way. And He was alone on land. Then verse 48 notice this, *He saw them.* That is what I want you to know. He was up there and He had a good view of the whole place and He saw them. That tells you that Jesus saw everything as He was praying. He was possibly praying about many things. He had a view of the whole place that He used to minister. He had an overview of the place. These are the small, small details that we must not miss.

Like in Gen. 18 we know that Abraham prayed for Sodom and Gomorrah. But I want you to notice where he prayed. Gen. 18:16-17 *Then a man rose from there and looked towards Sodom and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.* Now Abraham was not in his tent talking to God. He went with them. There were three of them. Two of them were angels. And Abraham went with all three visitors. Then

as two of them were going down, as Abraham sees the two angels going down to Sodom and Gomorrah he was talking to God. He had a bird's eye view of Sodom and Gomorrah while he was talking to God and interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah. To prove that you also find that after he had prayed and finished praying in verse 33, *Abraham returned to his place*. That tells you that he had not returned home yet before his prayer. He was still there perhaps on a hill or part of a hill, but in a position where he could see Sodom and Gomorrah. It was important where they were. The intercession was taking place right there.

It was important for the disciples of Jesus to have their prayer meeting before the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. Jesus says in Lk. 24:49 *Tarry in Jerusalem*. Now you will have to believe that Jerusalem was important too at that time. Now I don't mean you don't have to go to Jerusalem to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That will be taking the whole thing out of context. Jesus said in Lk.24:49 don't get out from Jerusalem. It was important that they be there in Jerusalem. You could call the hundred and twenty disciples and just be in the outskirts of Jerusalem and nothing would have happened. They could have done everything that they ought to do but just because they missed the place, it would not have worked for them at that time. God was going to fulfill the prophecy in what He was going to do for the Jews in Jerusalem and it must take place in Jerusalem. Many times Jesus cries and intercession is that way. As He was heading into Jerusalem, Jesus said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem." While He was speaking to Jerusalem He saw the view of Jerusalem. It is a tremendous thing to be able to see those areas that we are praying for.

If you have a burden for a country and you are an intercessor, God may specially send you there to pray. A Singaporean brother came to me and said that God has been speaking to him to go to Israel. I told him I too sensed that God wanted him to go there to pray for that nation. There must be a purpose of God for sending him there. He went any way. I believe there were many things that happened in the spirit that we do not see. We do not realize the protection of God over Jerusalem because of the presence of some praying Christians there.

It will make a great difference if suddenly all the Christians were to leave a country. There would be a difference if all the prominent men and women of God suddenly

leave America. Many times I felt it in the spirit realm that when a prominent man of God dies and his spirit leaves the planet earth I could feel the vacuum. It is like a shock in the spirit world. Most people wouldn't know it happened. It's like you are traveling on an express train. Suddenly there is a cow lying across the railway track. The driver puts on the emergency brakes. Everybody in the train fall down. So in the spirit realm you feel a shock wave when a prominent man of God who has been doing God's work all over the world dies and his spirit leaves this planet earth. It is a loss to the planet earth. It is important for us to realize that just being here on the planet earth, just being in the city, just being where you are makes a difference. You as a part of the temple of God, as a part of the body of Christ, bring the presence of God, the authority and the dominion into that place.

It's important sometimes as we listen to the Spirit to know what to do, how you do it, where you do it. So once in a while God may speak to you and say just drive all over the town and pray. Do you know that practitioners of other religions also do that sort of thing? That's not just for activity and fun. Sometimes things are taking place in the spirit when they are carrying out their religious ceremonies. I sensed it even one time as I was driving through an old town. There was a temple and a medium there. That night I sensed some spiritual activity in that area. And true enough there was a procession going on in honor of some of their deities, which are not heavenly beings but demonic spirits. These religious ceremonies released demonic spirits into the atmosphere and into the lives of their worshippers.

It's important for us to be led by the spirit and know that where we are is important. We need to saturate the land. We need to saturate the nation. Now in a citywide crusade, a lot of times Christians conduct a prayer meeting here and there. It won't be as successful if they look at a whole map of the city and just pray. It would be better if they look at the whole city to get an aerial view. Pray carefully and ask the Lord where are the points that we shall cover the city. Strategically plant Christians in various places to pray and map the whole city out. You would have a spiritual atmosphere hanging over the whole city during the citywide campaign. We are talking about secrets of bringing and possessing the land. If you are having a campaign over the whole nation, it is not enough to say you just, "Pray on." But we have taken care of the what, we have taken care of the why, we have taken care of the how, but we forgot to plant Christians strategically. While the devil and his crowd is having a strategy. He will plant evil shops or places of sins at

different places. He will plant spiritual influences at strategic points. He will plant his influence and he will calculate it not only in the spiritual world he will look at it geographically. To demon powers geographical domains are important. And we must not neglect that. For geographical domain sometimes you need to be where God wants you to be. Not only what it is but where geographically and plant it strategically. And you will have a tremendous work of God in your neighborhood, in your place and in your life. Now that's what we emphasize so far on where.

What are the deep principles behind it? The main key is to visibly and tangibly experience the place so that you could pray with all your being. If you understand that point here is where you could pray via proxy. If we could reach the point in our spirit where our spirit could travel and move to a place and pray there in the spirit world it would make the same influence. But not everyone has learned to pray in the spirit. I am talking about what Paul was saying when he told the Colossians, "I behold your order." Now Paul has the ability to place his spirit in any place. He has enlarged his spirit and localized it. Let me give you a few examples of that. In the book of First Corinthians 5: 4, *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ when you are gathered together along with my spirit*, what in the world is he talking about? As he wrote this letter he was not in Corinth he was many miles away. But he says *when you gather together in the name of Jesus and with my spirit there*. What kind of talk is this? To most people when they read it, they understand it this way: When you are gathered together in the name of Jesus and with my approval. Approval and spirit are two different things. Now there are many other places where he says I behold your order. Paul is very far away and he says I know what is going on there. My spirit is there he says. So there is mobility in the spirit. This is not astral traveling. Do you know that Jesus is at the right hand of God but His spirit is with you? For example I am right here and if I want to concentrate and intercede for India, I have to put my spirit right there. While I am doing that I completely lose my consciousness of Malaysia. You cannot be omnipresent but you can be mobile. I am talking about unipresence in difference places through the spirit realm. The only thing is that you can't preach the gospel that way. Because when you speak in the spirit they can't hear you. We have seen where we are geographically is important because our physical body carries the presence of God. So the essence of the principle is to be able to concentrate and experience everything as if you are geographically there. You either have to be there geographically to experience the whole thing or today in the New Testament there is a sense of your ability to concentrate and be there geographically by your spirit.

John G. Lake experienced that one time when he was praying. As he was praying and interceding he felt his spirit traveling all the way from America to England. He entered a place and saw a certain person and laid hands on that person and then he went back. Many years later he traveled physically and visited the same place in England. One of these ladies who was healed whom he prayed for when she wrote to him said to him, "I saw you coming in through a vision and laying hands on me and I was healed on that day." What was that? His spirit. See our spirit is not limited to the dimension of space. Our spirit can move anywhere. Lets say you have a brother in Singapore. You could never be able to pray successfully unless you could fully concentrate and tangibly and visibly be there. We are talking about deep sense of prayer now. If you cannot develop that concentrated presence there, you can only have what I call pray cannonball prayer. You shoot prayers all over the place, and whether it hits the target is anybody's guess.

Let's recap number one it is important where we pray. Sometimes God will deal with your life like Elijah and demand that you go to a certain place. Elijah had to go to the mountain of God before God spoke to him. God has His choice and He has His ways and we just follow along. Then the essence and principles behind that is visual. Visualizing visions are very powerful. As far as visions are concerned our spirit can move all over the planet earth. There is no limit. You can go to the North Pole and visit the polar bears there. Then your spirit can move into the past and as easily your spirit can move into the future. The only difference is that it is the Holy Spirit that bring it to past. It takes the Holy Spirit and God. You cannot just will it. You can only yield to it. You position yourself and then you yield to God. As you are praying God may choose to move your spirit to a different place, sometimes not very far and place you there to pray through. And you actually see yourself there while you are praying.

Prayer is traveling into the spirit world. Prayer is walking into the spirit realm. It is doing things in the spirit that we don't do in the natural. As you mature you move into phase two. At phase two you don't even have to be there. You could just move into that place by your spirit. Generally most people are in first phase. Some people have not even entered into the first phase yet about where they should position themselves to be. They have never pass the break through point. Then as you

mature you move into the second phase of prayer where geographical things become something different. . The higher you go up into the spirit realm the wider the area you could move in. Can you imagine the view that you will have if you just open you window and look out? Let's says you began to rise up another hundred feet, you can see a wider area and your domain increases spiritually. As you go higher you can see the whole city. As you go higher still, you can see the whole country. So it depends on our spiritual position level that the extent that you could cover. Tonight lets move into the spirit realm. You are not supposed to be limited physically by your body. Move into the spirit realm and that is geographically and also God will have you move into your future to let you experience it and pray it through. Sometimes God deals with something in the past. He gets you moving in the past. And God may get you moving into the future.