

A MIGHTY PROMISE



by
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Please open your Bibles to Jeremiah thirty-three and verse one. I would like to preach a message entitled "A Mighty Promise." In Jeremiah 33:1-3, the Bible says, "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying, Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name; Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Brethren, you ought to believe that God Almighty is a prayer hearing and prayer- answering God. I want us to examine Jeremiah chapter thirty-three and verses one, two, and three and notice some things: number one, the promise made in verse three; number two, the maker of the promise in verse two; and number three, the circumstance under which that promise was made in verse one.

Please notice number one, the promise made in verse three. The Bible says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." This verse, Jeremiah thirty-three and verse three, is one of the greatest promises on prayer in all the Word of God. It is the very nature of God to hear and answer prayer. It is the norm for God to hear and answer prayer. In Psalm 65:2, the Bible says, "O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come." In Mark 11:17, the Bible says, "Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?" Think with me. Why would Jesus say in Luke 18:1, "That men ought always to pray, and not to faint" if He were not a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God? Why would the Apostle Paul command us to pray in I Thessalonians 5:17, which says, "Pray without ceasing," if God were not by nature a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God? I submit to you that God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. The Bible says, "Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

What does it mean when God says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee"? What does that mean? It simply means that God will respond according to your request. God will respond according to your prayer. God will respond according to your call. That's what it means when God says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee." Listen to the Word of God. In Matthew 7:7-8, the Bible says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." In John 15:7, the Bible says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In John 16:24, the Bible says, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." In Philippians 4:6, the Bible says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." In Proverbs 3:5-6, the Bible says, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Can you grasp the absolute assurance of those promises? In John 14:14, Jesus said it this way, "If ye

shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Jesus said He would do the very thing that you asked for.

Why then don't you pray? You are the very objects of God's grace! If you are born again; if you have been cleansed by the shed blood of Christ; if you have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, you have found grace in God's sight; and God has given you a mighty promise in Jeremiah chapter thirty-three and verse three, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee."

Have you presumed that God would do absolutely nothing about your sin of prayerlessness? He already has done something. In James 4:2, the Bible says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not."

Listen folks! There are things that God wants to do for you today. He wills to do it. He wants to do it. He would do it. He would love to do it. He would delight in doing it for you today, but He won't do it because you do not take the time to pray. How foolish you are! How you must anger the God of heaven when He has opened the door of promise (Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not) and you won't spend ten minutes a day in prayer. That doesn't make much sense, does it?

A sad commentary on God's children today is that they take very little time or no time at all with God in prayer. Did you know that the average Christian prays less than three minutes a day? That's hardly enough time to bless the food. Did you know that the average preacher (I am talking about the evangelist, the missionary, and the pastor of the 21st century) prays less than seven minutes a day? No wonder there is no blessing or power of God on the lives of God's children today. They have lost the art of praying. That's not right. That is the sin of prayerlessness. One great sin among God's people today is the sin of prayerlessness. We who embrace God as our Father; Jesus Christ, God's Son, as our Savior and Friend; and the blessed Holy Spirit as our indwelling Comforter, do not take the time or make the time for prayer. It is a great sin among God's people.

One concern of the Devil, our Adversary, Satan, is to keep Christians off their knees. He fears nothing from the prayerless Christians. He fears nothing from the prayerless preachers of the 21st century. He laughs at all of their toils, and he mocks at all of their wisdom.

Why then don't you pray? It must be that you really do not believe that God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. You see, if you were sold on prayer, you would rarely stop the act of praying. If you truly believe that God Almighty would give you every thing that you asked for, you would rarely stop the act of praying. Why then don't you pray? It must be that you don't really believe it will matter if you do.

My Christian friends, it matters when you pray. Listen to the Bible. Joshua prayed. Joshua prayed, "Sun and moon, stand thou still," so the sun stood still and the moon stayed in the midst of heaven and did not go down for the space of a

whole day. Jacob prayed. We find Jacob wrestling with a man, as the Bible says in Genesis chapter 32. The man who wrestled Jacob is called an Angel in Hosea chapter twelve verse four, and was evidently the pre-incarnate Christ. The pre-incarnate Christ said, "Let me go, for the day breaketh." Jacob said, "I'll not let you go, except you bless me." The Bible says that Jacob wept. That Jacob wept sore. That Jacob made supplication. You can read this in Hosea chapter twelve and verse four. The Angel said unto him, "What is thy name?" And he said, "Jacob." The Angel said, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel. Thou hast power with God. Thou hast power with men. Thou hast prevailed."

It matters when you pray. Hezekiah prayed. It was the prophet Isaiah who told Hezekiah to set his house in order because he was about to die. The Bible says that Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed unto the Lord, and he wept sore. Before Isaiah could leave the middle court, the Lord told Isaiah to go back and tell Hezekiah "I have heard thy prayer. I have seen thy tears. I will heal thee. I will add fifteen years unto thy days, and I will deliver thee out of the hand of the king of Assyria."

Elijah prayed. In James 5:17-18, the Bible says, "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

Why then don't you pray? It must be that you don't really believe it will matter if you do. Perhaps there is another reason you don't pray. It must be that you don't really believe that God Almighty will hear you. Sure, He will hear Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Sure, He will hear Jeremiah, Joshua, and Moses. Of course, He will hear Peter and Paul. Sure, He heard those guys; but, you say, I am just an ordinary Christian.

Listen folks! You don't have to be an Apostle Paul. You need to be right with God. You need to be in fellowship with the Lord. In Psalm 66:18, the Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this: If there is a sin in your life and you know it, and you are not willing to confess or forsake it, you can pray until you are blue in the face, and God Almighty is not obligated to hear or answer your prayer.

It matters when you pray. God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God.

We have noticed number one, the promise made in verse three; but notice number two, the maker of the promise in verse two, which says, "Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name."

A promise made is only as good as the character of the person making that promise, and that is why the identity of the Person making this promise in verse three is absolutely crucial. Anyone can promise great things. Satan did. In the

garden, he looked at Eve and promised her, "Thou shalt not surely die." Satan promised something great. But was he able to deliver that which he promised? "Thou shalt not surely die." No sir! In Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die." So my question is, in verse three, is the Person making this promise able to deliver? Is the Person making this promise able to do that which He promised? "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Who is He? He is the LORD. Look how He says it in verse two, which says, "Thus saith the LORD, the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name." Did you notice that the word LORD in your Bible is in all capital letters? Our King James translators did us a real favor here. Every time you see the word LORD in all capital letters, it means Jehovah. Jehovah is God's Personal name. Jehovah is God's intimate name; and when it is used, He is putting His very reputation on the line.

Notice with me how God used His personal and intimate name in verse two, which says, "Thus saith Jehovah, the maker thereof; Jehovah that formed it, to establish it; Jehovah is his name." Three times in one verse, He says that the Person making this promise is Jehovah. He is saying it in a personal way. He is saying it in an intimate way, putting His very reputation on the line. Gabriel didn't make that promise. Michael the archangel did not make that promise. Not Jeremiah. Not Joshua. Not Peter. Not Paul. Not Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. But Jehovah, known by His personal and intimate name. Jehovah says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

So my first question was, who is He? He is Jehovah. My second question is, can He do it? God can do anything He chooses to do. God can bring to pass everything He wills, and His power admits no bounds or limitations. In Jeremiah 32:27, the Bible says, "Behold, I am Jehovah, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?"

My dear Christian friends, there is absolutely nothing in the entire universe too hard for God. All things are possible with God. Why then don't you pray?

We have noticed number one, the promise made; number two, the maker of the promise; but notice number three, the circumstance under which that promise was made, in verse one, which says, "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was shut up in the court of the prison."

So let me ask you something. Was that promise made to Jeremiah during a great revival in his life, during a great mountain top experience? No sir, that promise was made to Jeremiah while He was shut up in prison, the Bible says. While He was shut up in jail; while He was on the bottom; while there was no way out of the situation he was in, God said, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

As a child of God, it is during that time in your life, when there is no way out of the situation you are in, that God will prove Himself to be powerful, just as He did with the children of Israel by the opening of the Red Sea.

My Christian friends, are you having trouble among your family and friends? Are you having trouble in your finances? Are you having trouble in your business, in your marriage, in your home, with your son or daughter, with your grandson or granddaughter? Are you having trouble with your health? It may be there is absolutely no way out of the situation you are in today. Praise the Lord! That simply means that God is preparing to do something among your family and friends, with your finances, in your business, in your marriage, in your home, with your son or daughter, with your grandson or granddaughter, with your health, in response to your praying, that when the answer comes, He will receive all the credit.

Don't you see? God wants to make sure that, when the answer comes, you do not credit your own clever plannings or your own human abilities. God wants all the glory. God wants all the credit to go full and free to Himself. With that in mind, let me ask you this. When was the last time you wept for your family and friends for a need that they have? When was the last time you wept over your financial needs to be met? When was the last time you wept over your business to be prosperous? When was the last time you wept sore over your marriage? Perhaps your spouse is not even interested in going to church. Perhaps your spouse is not even saved, or perhaps your spouse is saved but not interested in serving the Lord, not interested in living for the Lord.

Listen! My family can relate to that. My wife and daughter prayed for me for eight years that I might be saved. I am so grateful that they did.

When was the last time you wept sore over your home? When was the last time you wept sore over your children? Mom, do you remember that day you gave birth to your children? Dad, do you remember that day? You poured your hearts into your children. You brought them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and they are away for the Lord today. They have rebelled against all that you have taught them in the Word of God. They have no interest in doing the will of God. The will of God is the last thing on their agenda and the least of their concerns. Today they are living a withered, dry, useless life, as far as the cause of Christ is concerned, and you know it.

So let me ask you something. How much time have you spent on your knees praying for them today, Dad? How many tears have you shed for them today, Mom?

When was the last time you prayed for your grandchildren, grandma and grandpa? You have a great responsibility to pray for your children and your grandchildren. You need to pray that they be saved before it is eternally too late. You need to pray for their health. You need to pray for their safety as they play at home and at school. You need to pray for their education. You need to pray for a godly mate.

When was the last time you wept sore over the healing of a loved one? When was the last time you wept sore over your unfruitful life and your unfruitful ministry? When was the last time you wept sore over the souls of men? We need men and women of prayer. We need some young people who can get a hold of God through prayer. We need some senior saints who can get a hold of God in prayer. We need to cry out like Jacob of old, "I'll not let you go except you bless me. I'll not let you go except you bless me. I'll not let you go except you bless me."

It matters when you pray because God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. Why then don't you pray? It must be that you don't really believe it will matter if you do. It must be that you don't really believe God Almighty will hear you. It must be that you really do not believe that God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God.

If you were sold on prayer, you would rarely stop the act of praying. If you truly believed that God Almighty would give you everything that you asked for, you would rarely stop the act of praying. Why then do you go day after day with your needs being unmet, with wisdom being absent, because you do not pray? How foolish you are! How you must anger the God of heaven when He has opened the door of promise--Call unto me and I will answer thee--and you won't spend ten minutes a day in prayer!

We have noticed the promise made in verse three, which says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

We have noticed the maker of the promise in verse two. He is Jehovah. He is using His Personal and Intimate name, putting His very reputation on the line.

We have noticed the circumstance in which that promise was made, in verse one. Jeremiah was shut up in prison. Jeremiah was in jail. Jeremiah was on the bottom.

Are you on the bottom today? What a privilege you have, as God's children, to carry everything to God in prayer.

"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying, Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name; Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

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