

Welcoming Travailing Prayer

Travailing for Christ to Be Formed In Us

Galatians 4:19

June 26, 2016

I. The Goal of Travailing Prayer

1. People can travail for many issues.

- In the last session, we spoke about the fact that travailing prayer results from a person or group experiencing the burden of the Lord for an issue in which the Lord is grieved.
- The burden will then lead the individual or the group to pray with great fervency for the solution to that issue. As they do so, then different manifestations may occur—things like lamenting, crying, pain similar to the pain of childbirth, mourning, and other manifestations often associated with grieving or childbirth.
- As we saw in the last session, this type of prayer is very effective for birthing the solution to an issue or problem.
- There are many and greatly varying issues that can create the burden for which people travail. People travail for the salvation of a loved one, for the return of a wayward child, for a spouse who has drifted away from love or marital commitment. They can travail for an issue within a local church or a job situation. So, there are many issues in which travail is very helpful.

2. At RLC and Lifeschool, we sense the Lord calling us specifically to welcome travail for two essential and related purposes: 1) the eternal purposes of God to be realized on the earth and 2) the birth of the man-child of Revelation 12.

- Eternal Purpose prayer from a heavenly perspective is prayer that will ascend to the golden altar described in Revelation 8. In our Prayer Guide, *Summoned to the Golden Altar*, we define golden altar prayer, that is, the type of prayer that will fulfill the mandate of Revelation 8 and effectively activate God's end-time purposes as:

Golden altar prayer is prayer which focuses on the eternal purposes of God and originates from a heavenly perspective.

- In the urgency of the end times, God is calling His church to raise the bar on its prayer life and to move beyond just praying for needs, comfort, pleasure, and ease in this life. He is calling His church to pray into the eternal purposes of God so that our prayers will ascend as incense before the heavenly golden altar and make a difference now and in eternity.
- The ultimate eternal purpose of God is to unite heaven and earth as one and to do it as a family of mature sons for the Heavenly Father, an equally yoked bride for the Son, and a spiritual house for the Holy Spirit. The ultimate eternal purpose of God is to have His family live together with Him eternally in the New Jerusalem. God wants to dwell in intimacy with His family for eternity and to do it from the unfathomable splendor of the new Jerusalem. From there His

purpose is to use His family in partnership with Him to spread the gospel throughout the vastness of His creation and to do this in an ever expanding way--forever.

- This is the eternal purpose God has for mankind. He has invited every person on earth to join His family and to participate in His eternal purposes to the maximum degree possible. Of course, we know that not everyone will accept His invitation or pay the price to become one who will ultimately dwell in the eternal city or in the new heaven and new earth.
- The purpose of golden altar prayers is to remove every hindrance to this objective and to pray with the objective of fully populating God's family with all who will say "yes" to His invitation and prepare themselves to live there in fullness.

3. The scriptures tell us of a journey that the church and the world must take to arrive at the eternal city.

- As we read through the book of Revelation, we observe several major aspects of the journey that ultimately will culminate in the coming to earth of the new Jerusalem and the new heaven and earth.
- We see the invitation given to the church to overcome (Revelation 2-3) so as to be made ready as the eternal wife of the Lamb. At the end of the church age (Revelation 19), we see that the bride has made herself ready through the process of overcoming.
- We observe in the book of Revelation, toward the end of the church age the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. These days will be great in that God will use His overcoming bride in great authority in the end times. These days will also be terrible as horrific events relating to the judgment of God, the final outpouring of the wrath of God, and the rage of Satan will fill the earth.
- We see also that at the end of this period, the Lord will return as Bridegroom, King and Judge to defeat His enemies, rescue the saints, judge both believers and non believers alike and set up His kingdom on the earth.
- We observe that Jesus will rule from Jerusalem for 1,000 years as the earth is prepared for the coming to earth of the new Jerusalem and a new heaven and earth at which time every non believer and Satan and all of his demonic army will be cast into the lake of fire.
- The new heaven and earth and the new Jerusalem will descend from heaven and God will live eternally as family with His people.

4. Believers must take on the nature and character of Christ in fullness to be prepared for every aspect of the journey to the eternal city.

- It is essential that we understand very clearly that the process we must all go through in order to be made ready for every aspect of this journey is to take on the nature of Christ in fullness.
- For this to occur in the church in any significant measure will require the church *to offer the specific golden altar prayer of Christ being formed in His church!* That is the purpose of this session on travail. We must travail for Christ to be formed in His people. Let's begin with an explanation of the man-child of Revelation 12.

II. The Preparation of the Man-Child

1. **The man-child of Revelation 12 is a general description for a remnant within the body of Christ who have taken on the nature of Christ in fullness and are used in awesome ways in the church age and throughout eternity.**

- The man-child is a general characterization to describe an equally yoked bride for Jesus who will be the eternal wife of the Lamb and for a group of mature sons receiving the privileges of being first born sons for the heavenly Father.
- This is the group who will have developed an intimate relationship with Jesus and will have embraced the cross so as to take on the nature of Christ in fullness to become an exact representation of Jesus in the earth.
- This is the group who will be prepared to stand in the extreme pressures soon coming to the earth and those who will be used in great authority as God's instrument in those same days.
- This is the group who through their overcoming lifestyle and their golden altar intercession will be used in partnership with God to cast the dragon and his demons to the earth so as to initiate the period of great tribulation.
- This is the group who will receive the maximum eternal reward at the judgment seat of Christ and those used in the most authority in the millennial kingdom reign of Christ.
- This is the group who will dwell eternally in the new Jerusalem and be used as Jesus' partner to take the gospel throughout God's creation.
- So the preparation of the man-child is a major assignment of the end-time church—to create an environment for it to arise, to proclaim it as God's end-time messengers, and to pray for this group to arise.

2. **The man-child company will be a people who have embraced the cross life so as to allow the Holy Spirit to produce in us a life sanctified in body, soul and spirit.**

- Paul writes about God's objective for the preparation of the man-child in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 in which he writes, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass."
- As Paul states, our goal is to be set apart completely in body, soul (which is our thought life, our choices, our emotions, and our heart attitudes), and from acting on the incorrect impulses of our body (our eyes, tongue, hands, feet, stomach, sexual organ, etc.). Those who allow the faithful work of the Holy Spirit to bring this to pass will be sanctified entirely, be blameless at Jesus' second coming, and be prepared to be a part of this man-child company of believers.

3. **Christlikeness in fullness is the goal for those desiring to be a part of the man-child company and overcoming is the process to that goal.**

- Speaking about overcomers, John wrote "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death" (Rev. 12:11).

- Those who have overcome by allowing God to crucify their soul life or soul life and the sinful impulses of their body to become Christlike in fullness will become a part of the man-child company and be used in great ways in the end times and throughout eternity.

III. Travailing for Christ in Us

1. Like Paul, we are to travail until Christ is formed in the church of Jesus Christ.

- Paul wrote to the Galatians, "My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—" (Gal. 4:19). The King James Version states, "of whom I travail in birth again".
- Referring once again to Revelation 12, we note that the woman (who represents in our day the end-time church) must labor or as the King James Version puts it must "travail" to brith the man-child.
- The end-time church must labor, in fact, travail to facilitate the emergence of a people who have overcome so as to take on the nature of Christ in fullness. Without fervent, passionate intercession—even travail—the man-child will not arise in fullness in either measure or number.
- Paul wrote a similar idea calling the church to travail for the emergence of mature sons in the book of Romans,

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that *the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth* together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, *even we ourselves groan* within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body...In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but *the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words*; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God...And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren*" (Rom. 8:19-29).

2. As an end-time church and a forerunner ministry, we must take on the attitude of Hannah to birth a present day man-child.

- To give us a proper understanding of the attitude we must have toward travailing for the birth of the man-child, we can look at 1 Samuel 1 as a type and shadow of the attitude we must have if we are to successfully birth the end-time man-child. We will just share one verse, 1 Samuel 1:11, but you should read all of chapter 1 to get the context of the attitude we need.
- First Samuel 1:11 reads, "And she [Hannah] vowed a vow, and said, 'O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid *a man child*, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head'" (1 Sam. 1:11, KJV).
- The name "Samuel" means "one with the name of God" or "his name is God".ⁱ We know that in the biblical idea, one's name represents their character so we can readily infer that the name

Samuel represents in our allegorical picture one who has taken on the character and nature of God.

- With that, let's briefly summarize the story of 1 Samuel 1. Elkanah had two wives: Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah had many sons and daughters, but Hannah was barren. Elkanah loved Hannah even more than Peninnah and even gave her a double portion of his provision. Peninnah would intentionally irritate Hannah in her barrenness provoking her to cry out, travail in desperation for a child. Elkanah and Peninnah were content with the situation as it was but Hannah had to have a child—one that she could dedicated totally to the Lord and His purposes in that day. Because as you know, the priesthood of the day was corrupt. In her desperation, Hannah cried out to the Lord for the birth of Samuel and God gave her a man-child who was used to restore God's voice, government, and faithful priesthood into the land and ultimately anoint David as king of Israel.
- Now that we have been refreshed in the story, let's draw an analogy for today and our need to travail. We live in a day in which corruption, immorality, and defiled religion rule the land. As this takes place all around us, much of the church is like Elkanah and Peninnah. They are content with the status quo. They have an attitude similar to that conveyed to Hannah, "Then Elkanah her husband said to her, 'Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?'" (1 Sam. 1:8).
- Elkanah and Peninnah were content while Hannah was extremely burdened by her barrenness, the compromise in the land, and the corruption in the priesthood. This is the case in the church today. There are essentially two brides for Jesus. There is the majority of the church who is flourishing in their prosperity. This group has many sons and daughters and they are content with that. At the same time, there is another part of the church that is like Hannah. There is a barrenness upon them in terms of numbers but they see the current state of affairs in the church and the land.
- They refuse to be comforted until they birth God's solution into the earth. They cry out, they mourn, and they fast until God moves to give them a man-child.
- We must be a part of this latter group. We cannot be content with the status quo or the current state of the church or our world. The church and the world need the birth of another Samuel. We must be a part of the group who labors and even travails to birth that end-time expression of God's mature church.
- And it will take fervent prayer, even travail to see this birthed in our day. We must not take on the attitude of Peninnah but take up the mantle of Hannah and pray fervently until the end-time man-child is birthed.

3. It is a season for travail for Christ to be formed in His people in greater fullness.

- Terry Bennett in referencing Ezekiel 21 published this on his website to promote his July 2016 conference,

The hope of our hearts and the burden within us is for the continued preparing of The Lord's people for His right to His own inheritance. This title was given to me, so I believe the Lord would commence a further contending over His desire for His house to be cleansed and purified. Verse 27 tells us the "until" or goal of this, "until He comes whose right it is, and I shall give it to Him". The Lord desires to come powerfully among His household of faith but, rebellion,

stubbornness and a love of self is regularly blocking the Holy Spirit coming. May we all allow The Spirit to change this devastating condition. – *Terry Bennett*

- If you were to read all of Ezekiel 21, you would see the following verses in relation to what is written above,

Because I will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore My sword will go forth from its sheath against all flesh from south to north. Thus all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have drawn My sword out of its sheath. It will not return to its sheath again. *As for you, son of man, groan with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight.* And when they say to you, "Why do you groan?" you shall say, "Because of the news that is coming; and every heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint and all knees will be weak as water. Behold, it comes and it will happen," declares the Lord GOD...*Cry out and wail, son of man; for it is against My people, it is against all the officials of Israel. They are delivered over to the sword with My people, therefore strike your thigh (Ezek. 21:4-7, 12).*

- We are in a season in which God is directing His sword toward His church to divide soul from spirit, flesh from spirit and He is calling for His church to intercede for this to happen—to labor until Christ is formed in His people.

4. We can pray things like the following.

- Let's pray with a real burden released by the Lord for the separation of soul and spirit in the lives of the people of RLC and Lifeschool and the church in general.
 - Pray that God would separate soul from spirit in the lives of believers.
 - Pray that people do not resist the work that God is doing in us in this season.
 - Pray in accordance with what wrote in Galatians 4:19 to labor that Christ be formed in us that the deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-21) would be taken to the cross so as to be crucified in us and delivered from us.
 - Pray along these same lines that the fruit of the spirit of Gal. 5:22-23 would come forth in the places where the flesh once ruled.
 - Travail for our adoption as mature sons who would inherit first born status.
- There are many other similar types of prayer topics that can be prayed; in fact, anything that is related to the theme of laboring or traving until Christ is formed in us in fullness.
- As we strengthen golden altar prayer traving for Christ to be formed in His church is a major component of what we are be about in this season. Let's do it with fervency.

ⁱ Samuel, International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database Copyright (c)1996 by BibleSoft.