



OUR AUTHORITY IN PRAYER

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Pastor Ann Burns

HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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OPENING PRAYER

RECAP OF LAST WEEK

KEY SCRIPTURES

1. - Matthew 16:15-19 (The keys of the kingdom)
2. - Psalm 115:16 (God gave us the earth)
3. - Psalm 8:3-6 (Made a little lower than God)
4. - Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)
5. - Colossians 1:9 (Filled with knowledge of His will)

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

1. Prayer is Not a Duty—It's Authority
 - a. Prayer is not a moment of silence or "sending prayers". Prayer is a powerful tool God has given every believer. We have been given the keys of the kingdom!
2. The Church is on Offense, Not Defense
 - a. The gates of hell will not prevail against the church. We are God's "legislative assembly" on earth.
3. God's Will Doesn't Automatically Happen
 - a. Jesus taught us to pray "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". If God's will always happened automatically, prayer would be unnecessary. Our prayers give God entrance into situations.
4. We Have Been Given Authority
 - a. Adam lost the keys to Satan through disobedience. Jesus won them back through His death and resurrection and then gave the keys to the Church—to us!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 16:19 together. What does it mean to "bind" and "loose"? What are some practical examples of things we should bind (forbid) and loose (release)?
2. Pastor Ann challenged the phrase "God is in control." What's your initial reaction to this? How do you reconcile God's sovereignty with our responsibility to pray?
3. Discuss this statement: "Not everything that happens is the will of God." What examples from Scripture or your own life support this? How does this affect how we pray?
4. Pastor Ann mentioned the hymn "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" and how the lyrics say

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer!

Can you share a time when you worried about something for days (or longer) before finally praying about it? What happened when you did pray?

5. You have not because you ask not" (James 4:2). What are you currently not asking God for?

What's holding you back from asking?

6. Romans 8 tells us the Holy Spirit prays through us when we don't know how to pray. Have you experienced praying in tongues or being led by the Spirit in prayer? How has this helped you?

CALL TO ACTION

1. Identify Your Authority
 - a. Make a list of situations in your life, family, or community that are "not right"
 - b. Ask yourself: "Is this happening in heaven?" If not, it shouldn't be happening here
 - c. Begin praying with authority over these situations
2. Study God's Will
 - a. Pick one area where you're unsure of God's will
 - b. Search Scripture to find out what God says about it
 - c. Begin praying confidently according to what you discover
3. Activate Your Prayer Language
 - a. If you're filled with the Holy Spirit, commit to praying in tongues daily
 - b. If you've never been filled with the Holy Spirit, talk to your discipleship group facilitator or one of the staff Pastors, they would be honored to pray with you.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. Revelation Prayer
 - a. Pray that God would give each person supernatural revelation about:
 - i. Who Jesus really is
 - ii. Who they really are in Christ
 - iii. The authority they've been given
2. Boldness in Prayer
 - a. Ask the Holy Spirit to:
 - i. Remove religious mindsets about prayer
 - ii. Increase faith to pray with authority
 - iii. Help each person recognize when they're praying out of duty vs. privilege
3. Specific Situations
 - a. Have each person share ONE situation they want to exercise authority over in prayer:
 - i. Pray together, declaring what is lawful in heaven to be lawful on earth
 - ii. Bind what is forbidden in heaven
 - iii. Speak life, healing, provision, peace as appropriate

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Choose one to memorize this week:

- Matthew 16:19
- Psalm 115:16
- Matthew 6:10

CLOSING THOUGHT

"We are the legislative assembly of heaven. The keys of the kingdom have been given to us. It's time for believers to rise up and take charge—not militarily or politically, but spiritually, by exercising our authority in prayer."

Spend some time thanking God for all He is doing in our weekly services and praying for the people in our services to receive all that God has for them.