

*Morning Nourishment*

**Isa. Thus says Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel and the 45:11 One who formed him, Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands, command Me.**

**Matt. Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth 18:18 shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.**

The Bible contains a most lofty and spiritual prayer. But few people pray this prayer, and few pay attention to it. What is this prayer? It is the "prayer of authority." We know that there are prayers of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, supplicating prayers, and begging prayers. But few of us know that there is a prayer of authority. A prayer of authority is a commanding prayer. This is the most crucial and most spiritual prayer in the Bible. This kind of prayer is a sign of authority and a declaration of authority. (Watchman Nee, *The Prayer Ministry of the Church*, p. 61)

*Today's Reading*

Brothers and sisters, if you want to be a man of prayer, you have to learn to pray with authority. This kind of prayer is described by the Lord in Matthew 18:18, "Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven." In this verse, there is a prayer that is called a binding prayer and a prayer that is called a loosing prayer. The move in heaven is dependent on the move on earth. Heaven listens to the earth and obeys the command of the earth. Whatever the earth binds will be bound in heaven, and whatever the earth looses will be loosed in heaven. The earth does not pray; it binds and looses. This is to pray with authority.

Isaiah 45:11 has the phrase, "Command Me." How can we command God? This appears too presumptuous. But this is God's own word. We cannot give excuse to the flesh, but this shows us a commanding prayer, a prayer in the form of an order. As far as God is concerned, we can order Him, and we can command Him. Everyone who endeavors to learn to pray must learn this kind of prayer.

(Watchman Nee, *The Prayer Ministry of the Church*, pp. 61-62)

If you really wish to have some worthwhile prayers before God, you need to be able to give out some authoritative commands before God. Standing before God, I can tell you that in the past years in some places, as we encountered some problems in the work or in the church, we prayed this kind of commanding prayer. We expressed ourselves boldly before God, saying, "God, we cannot allow this matter." If your position is wrong and your condition is not in the heavenly realm, such prayer would be an insult to God. But if your position is right and your state is in the heavenly sphere, then such prayer would be a real pleasure to Him. The words you pray are equal to God's administration; they are equivalent to executing His commands. I can testify that God answers such prayers. (*Lessons on Prayer*, p. 202)

Christ is the Head over all things, and all things are under Him. Christ is the Head of all things to the church. He is the Head of all things on behalf of the church. Since He is the Head of all things on behalf of the church, all things are necessarily under the church. This is something that we have to pay particular attention to.

A prayer with authority has two aspects. One is to bind, and the other is to loose. What is bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and what is loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven. Matthew 18:18 tells us that whatever the earth does, heaven will also do. In verse 19 there is the matter of prayer. Therefore, binding is done through prayer, and loosing is also done through prayer. Both binding prayer and loosing prayer are prayers of authority. Ordinary prayers are prayers that ask God to bind and loose. Prayers with authority are those in which we bind and loose by exercising authority. God binds because the church has bound, and God looses because the church has loosed. God has given this authority to the church. When the church exercises this authority to speak something, God does it. (Watchman Nee, *The Prayer Ministry of the Church*, p. 70)

*Further Reading: The Prayer Ministry of the Church*, pp. 61-65; *The God-man Living*, msg. 16

**Enlightenment and inspiration:** \_\_\_\_\_

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