

Striking the Mark through Prayer

Job 36:32

Kjv

With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt.

Introduction:

1. In ministering on Intercessory Prayer, I have preached about
 - a. Prayer being necessary
 - b. Prayer is Re presenting Jesus
 - c. Prayer creates meetings
 - d. Prayer being Spirit Directed
 - e. Prayer is “Laying Hold of...” (Warfare)
 - f. Prayer--”A time to pray”
 - g. Prayer is Supporting
 - h. Praying for the Lost
2. This message is about “Striking the Mark” through Prayer.
 - a. The last words of v32 are “not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt” is translated from the Hebrew word “paga” which can mean “to strike” and “to reach the mark.”
 - b. Look at these versions
 - i. Niv... He fills his hands with lightning and commands it to strike its mark.
 - ii. Nlt... He fills his hands with lightning bolts and hurls each at its target.
 - iii. Ce... Each flash of lightning is one of his arrows striking its target,
 - iv. Amp... He covers His hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark.
 - c. These other versions are using “paga” as to say that God “strikes the mark” with His lightening.
 - d. “Paga” is the Hebrew word “Intercession” in Isaiah 53:12.

- e. Thus from this word “paga,” we have used it in the above messages concerning Intercessory prayer, and that is what we are going to do this evening.

3. Note the Scriptures

- a. The text is Job 36:32...Niv

He fills his hands with lightning and commands it to strike its mark.

- i. Can't you see God filling His hands with light and drawing back to throw or release it toward a certain mark.
- ii. When God releases His light, causing it to flash forth from His presence like lightning, it strikes the desired target, which is a result of our intercessory prayer

- b. Habakkuk 3:4

- i. KJV...

And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

- ii. Niv...

His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.

- iii. Nlt...

His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from his hands, where his awesome power is hidden.

- iv. AmpC

And His brightness was like the sunlight; rays streamed from His hand, and there [in the sunlike splendor] was the hiding place of His power.

- c. Compare “God striking the mark” to a boy with a magnifying glass.

- i. We are like magnifying glasses.
- ii. We do not add to or magnify God's power, but
 - 1) We do let the “Son” shine forth through us
 - 2) We do direct His light to desired situations, allowing it to “strike the mark.”

- d. Have you ever seen a tree “Hit by lightning”

- i. The lightning is so hot it changes the molecular structure of the trees and twists the trunks until they look like the stripes on a candy cane.
- ii. The temperature in a lightning bolt can reach 30,000 degrees Celsius (45,000 degrees Fahrenheit), hotter than the surface of the sun.

1) Lightning is hot stuff.

2) Lightning is a picture of God's judgment.

4. Now, think about this

a. The Creator is greater than His creation

b. Thus, His power and energy is greater than a lightning bolt

c. No Wonder the Scripture says

i. In Psalms 68:2...

As wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

ii. In Psalms 97:5... The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD,...

iii. In Psalms 46:6...

The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

iv. In Hebrews 12:29... For our God is a consuming fire.

Note: No Wonder

i. The people were afraid when they saw God's glory on Mt. Sinai

ii. Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel, fell as dead when the Glory and presence of Almighty God was revealed to them.

iii. The mob that came for Jesus at Gethsemane fell backwards when He said, "I am He."

iv. People today "fall out" when they come into the overwhelming presence of God.

v. Body's shake when the "Power of God" comes over them.

vi. Hearts are broken and tears wet our faces as we come into the electrifying presence of the Spirit of God.

I. God is Light (and for the sake of this message we will refer to Him as "lightning")

A. Scriptures of God and His Son Jesus being a Light

1. 1 John 1:5...God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

2. Hebrews 1:3...

Who (Jesus) being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,...

3. 1 Timothy 6:16...

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see:...

4. James 1:17...Father of lights,...

5. Exodus 19:16...

And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightning's, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

6. Ezekiel 1:14...

And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

7. Revelations 4:5...

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

B. This light, or the release of it, is at times associated with His glory

1. Luke 2:9...

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

2. Luke 9:29-32...

29) And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. 30) And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: 31) Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. 32) But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

3. Revelations 21:23...

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did

lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

4. 2nd Corinthians 3:7..

a. Versions

i. KJV...

But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

ii. NLT...

The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading

iii. AmpC...

Now if the dispensation of death engraved in letters on stone [the ministration of the Law], was inaugurated with such glory *and* splendor that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [a glory] that was to fade *and* pass away,

b. Comments

i. God's light shines as "Glory"

ii. When we spend time with our Lord in His Glory, it rubs off on us and reflects through us to such an extent that we "Shine" because of His Glory.

iii. The glory would fade and pass from Moses' face, and the glory will fade and pass from us if we do not continue to move in His glory so that His light, His love, His glory will continue to impact our lives so that it doesn't fade because we make a purposed decision to constantly be renewed.

iv. Moses' experience was a onetime experience, but our experience is constant through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives because we are under Grace not the Law.

C. Light, lightning, glory of God is at times released from His mouth and identified with a sword.

1. Ephesians 6:7...The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

2. Revelations 2:16...I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth.

3. Revelations 19:15...And from His mouth comes a sharp sword,...

4. Psalms 29:7...The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

5. Ezekiel 21:9...

Son of man, prophesy and say, 'This is what the Lord says: "A sword, a sword, sharpened and polished—

6. Ezekiel 21:10...Sharpened for the slaughter, polished to flash like lightning!...

7. Ezekiel 21:28...

A sword, a sword, drawn for the slaughter, polished to consume and to flash like lightning!

D. The Light or Lightning of God at times shines forth as His glory, and at times, it is released from His mouth as a powerful weapon.

1. Psalms 97:3...Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

2. Psalms 97:4...His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

3. Revelations 8:5...

Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

4. Revelations 16:18...

Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake.

E. Then there are times that God's light is released for the deliverance of His people

1. Psalms 18:14...

Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

2. Psalms 77:17-18...

17) The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. 18) The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

3. Psalms 144:6...

Send forth lightning and scatter the enemies; shoot your arrows and rout them.

Note: Now remember, we are like magnifying glasses for the Lord to use to direct His Glory and lightning towards a certain target, and we do this through our intercessory prayers. Then God

- i. Sends His light Flashing forth from Him as bolts of lightning.
- ii. Releases this glory or light in a situation to deal with His enemies whether for Himself or for His people.

- 1) When He sends forth His light or glory, it “strikes the mark,” and “Paga” happens
- 2) He did this thousands of years ago when lucifer, inflated with pride, decided to try a coup in heaven as he tried to exalt himself to God’s position.
 - a) It did not take long for God’s light to do its work, and what a work for through that work we also have authority over this “wannabe god.”
 - b) Luke 10:18-20...

18) ...He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 19) Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20) Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Note: We have power to tread on serpents and scorpions (demons) because of the Glory and Lightning of God.

- 3) How about with Saul persecuting the church. A little light and Saul became Paul
- 4) Or when Elymas the sorcerer tried to fight against Paul’s ministry, a little light and a little blindness for a while to demonstrate the power of God
- 5) A little lightning and cell doors open for Paul and Silas
- 6) A little glory and lightning and my sins were revealed by the Holy Spirit and as conviction came over me, my eyes were opened and I became a new person through the work of The Holy Spirit of God.
- 7) How about you? Has the lightning of God touched you? God hits the mark, and we help direct the lightning through our prayers.

II. Light overcomes darkness

A. Darkness cannot overcome light

Note John 1:4-5

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

1. Comprehended is from the Greek “katalambano,” and it means
 - a. To take eagerly,
 - b. To seize,
 - c. To possess,
 - d. To apprehend, or overcome
2. The darkness would like to “apprehend” the light as a police officer would “apprehend” a criminal, but it cannot.

Note Jesus’ Words in Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

3. The light is constantly shining in the dark, and darkness did not and cannot overwhelm it.
4. God has been at war ever since lucifer rebelled, and the battle raged hot at the Cross,
 - a. But light overcame darkness,
 - b. And life conquered death,
 - c. And sin was slain by righteousness
 - d. And God arose and His enemies were scattered.

B. God’s battle with satan is in the spiritual realm.

Note: We cannot see the battle, but it is no less real. God’s word is like a sword and lightning, and by His word satan is brought down like a bolt of lightning from God.

1. Satan’s rebellion brought darkness to the world

Note: A guide turned off the lights in a cave, and a little girl cried out in fear, but her brother said: “Do not cry because somebody here knows how to turn on the lights.”

2. Creation was groping in the darkness of sin
 - a. Terror gripped the hearts of man
 - b. But 2000 years ago God announced to His groping and frightened creation: “Don’t cry because somebody here knows how to turn on the lights.

- i. Thank God, He knew how to turn on the light of Salvation for mankind.
- ii. Thank God, He knew how to turn on the light of Salvation in my dark heart.
- iii. Thank God, He has men and women who know how to pray and direct his lightning to hearts covered in darkness so the light of Salvation can be turned on for them.

Note John 20:22-23

22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23) Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

3. Imagine with me

- a. Lightning flashed and satan was kicked out of heaven
- b. Our enemy satan may have reoccurring nightmares
- c. It is possible that satan hates thunderstorms because of the lightning, and the thunder which sounds like the majestic voice of God

Note Psalms 18:13-14

13) The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. 14) Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.”

- d. About the time satan thinks he has won, God thunders or lightning flashes and satan has lost again, and
 - i. Can you imagine satan’s horror when at the cross, the “light of God” flashed, the same light that had expelled him from heaven.
 - ii. Can’t you hear him screaming, “Oh, no. Hear it comes again! He wouldn’t let me have heaven and He won’t let me have the earth either.”

C. We see “The Lightning Anointing” when God “strikes the mark” again at the Cross

Note: The devil might tell us that the old adage of lightning never hitting twice in the same spot is incorrect, for he has been the victim of several lightning strikes, and he is still the victim as we magnify the Glory of God through our prayers.

- 1. The angel of light met Mr. Light Himself, and not only that, but the great “light” reproduced Himself into a bunch of little lights (you and I) filled with his glory.

Note Ephesians 5:8...

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

2. Satan finally understood Isaiah 60:1-3

1) Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. 2) See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. 3) Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

a. Maybe satan thought, “What a bummer”

b. Satan now saw that the old Testament temple was a picture of us, this new race of people called Christians, and that the glory of God is in every one us.

Note: For satan, this is a “major bummer.”

3. Think about this

a. If intercession is pictured by God’s lightning striking the mark

b. And if Christ’s work of intercession when He met satan, breaking his headship, was light overcoming darkness

c. And if our praying intercession simply releases or re-presents Christ’s work of intercession

d. Then it is safe to say that our intercession releases the lightning of God to flash forth into situations, bringing devastation to the powers of darkness.

e. Therefore when we pray

i. Calvary flashes forth again

ii. The light of the God shines again

iii. The royal priesthood proclaims the excellences of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

iv. The laser of prayer burns intensely

v. The lightning sword of the Spirit flashes brightly

vi. Jesus and the Father are glorified in the church

Note John 1:5...And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

- i. The light not only shines in the darkness, but the “light” is constantly shining through us.
- ii. The light that overcame darkness is still shining.
- iii. The victory lives on.
- iv. Therefore, as the church, let us release this light, for the church is to be a light.

Note: The Holy Spirit is powerful and destructive to darkness so let us with confidence release the power to overcome the works of darkness.

D. Examples

1. Dutch Sheets on Bourbon Street.

- a. He was met by a giant of a man who was disturbed by their Christian testimony.
- b. He came at them growling like a dog, and they “paga’d” (prayed).
- c. God’s lightning hit the mark, and he became confused saying “go ahead with what you are doing,” as he left.

2. Dean Sheets was ministering in Haiti where the national religion is voodoo.

- a. Demons are real, and he felt impressed to pray for blind individuals by “casting out the spirit that caused blindness.”
- b. 19 times out of 20 as he prayed for these 20 individuals, he prayed the same prayer.

E. We are the temple of God

1. 1st Corinthians 3:16 refers to us as the temple of the Holy Ghost.

2. This reference is from a word that signifies “holy of holies.”

3. Paul was saying that “you are the holy of holies.”

- a. “Dwell” in this verse means a “dwelling or abiding” like a house
- b. In Christ the “shekinah” glory of God “dwells” or “abides” in us as the temple of God
- c. We are the new holy of holies
- d. We are the temple of living stones not made with hands, but created by God
- e. Israel carried the Ark of God into battle with them for it represented God’s Glory

i. Numbers 10:35 says that when the ark was taken up the people would shout

“Rise up, O lord! And let Thine enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Thee flee before Thee.”

ii. This is warfare, and we house that same Spirit in us as His temple, so let rise up and scatter His enemies.

Conclusion: Let us Release the Light

1. It is time to “Arise and shine church for our light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
2. Darkness does cover the earth, but it is a defeated darkness.
3. Let us
 - a. Position ourselves toward the Son and let Him shine through us, striking the mark.
 - b. Wield the laser sword of the Spirit for it is destructive to the darkness and it has supernatural power to overcome the works of darkness, when we release it with confidence.
 - c. Station yourself spiritually in front of your rebellious children and ask God to send a bolt of meekness to them.
 - d. Aim the light of liberty at their addictions, whether they be drugs, sex, alcohol, or whatever, and be aggressive in the spirit.
 - e. Spouses, ask God to shine forth into the live of your mates, breaking through the darkness of deception and liberating them
 - f. Pastor, teachers, call upon the Holy Spirit to flash, breaking strife, division and complacency over our congregations/classes, because God could be waiting on us to release the light, so let us call the Light forth in Jesus’ name.
 - g. As the Israelites carried the presence and glory of God into battle, so must we, remembering that all that was in the Ark is in us:
 - i. The bread of Life,
 - ii. The rod of priestly authority, and
 - iii. The law of God.
 - h. Furthermore, the Glory that was upon the Ark now shines through us.

- i. Act like it!
- ii. Strike with the sword!
- iii. Speak the Word!
- iv. Let God arise through our intercession, and let His enemies be scattered.