

A Time to Pray

John 4:4

And He must needs go through Samaria.

Introduction:

1. Mention the Past

- a. Prayer is necessary because of the authority that God gave man, and God needs man to accomplish His work on this earth.
- b. Prayer is re-presenting Jesus to this world. Jesus did the work, and we re-present it to the world through prayer.
- c. Prayer is creating a meeting. A meeting between God and Man where man is reconciled, and a meeting between Satan and man where a union is severed.

2. Today's message is "A time to pray."

Note John 4:4 in the AmpC... It was necessary for Him to go through Samaria.

- a. A specific need caused Jesus to go through Samaria.
- b. That need was a woman visiting a well who needed to meet Jesus.
- c. There are times that there are specific needs that cannot wait, so Prayer must take place right now, or disaster will strike.

3. Involved in "A time to Pray" is setting Boundaries.

- a. We need to post a sign in the Spirit that says:
"No Dumping Allowed, Satan. Trespassers will be violated."
- b. We put up "Protective Boundaries" through prayer.

4. The three points to this message are

- I. Setting Protective Boundaries
- II. Building Boundaries Through Prayer
- III. Well-Timed Times To Pray

I. Let us set protective boundaries.

A. The Hebrew word “paga” is used several times in the 19th chapter of Joshua.

1. It is used in v11, 22, 26, 27, and 34,
2. Each time, this word is translated “reached to,” in the KJV, “touched,” in the NIV, or “bordered,” or “boundary” in other translations.
3. The Spirit Filled Bible says that in this context “Paga” is
“The extent to which a boundary reaches.”

B. Let us look at this thought in the view of “Intercessory Prayer.”

1. The same word for “Intercession” in Isaiah 53 is the same word referring to “Boundary” in Joshua 19.
2. The thought here is that “perimeters of protection” can be linked to prayer.
 - a. We can build boundaries of protection around ourselves and others through intercession.
 - b. Protection does not automatically come “just because” we are Christians.
 - c. I want to mention three things that I feel is never God’s will.
 - i. God would never decide a person should be raped or abused.
 - ii. God would never desire that the innocent suffer.
 - iii. God would never “will” murder, pillage, racial genocide and a thousand other things.
 - d. Adversity happens.
 - i. Some of it happens because we are simply in this world,
 - ii. Some of it happens because Satan is trying to destroy us.
 - iii. Some adversity happens because we did not set boundaries against it.

C. Let us look at the Governing Principles for setting boundaries.

1. The law of “sowing and reaping” is always in effect.
 - a. Individual responsibility and the free will are not negated when we come to Christ.
 - b. All promises to God are attached to conditions.
 - i. These conditions are “Governing Principles.”

- ii. These conditions involve “Responsibility” on our part.
2. Protection from God involves responsibility on our part.
- a. This threatens us.
 - b. We do not like this.
 - c. We become offended if it is implied that a “failure” on my part caused me to not receive----
 - i. Protection
 - ii. Provision
 - iii. Healing
 - iv. An answer to prayer, or
 - v. That anything else from God could be our fault.
3. Here are some problems that we face.
- a. We are not perfect, and we will fail at times.
 - b. Our imperfections and failures might cause us to face adversity.
 - c. Our lack of belief can keep us from receiving the promises of God according to Matthew 17:20; 21:21; Mark 11:22-24; and James 1:6-7
 - d. Our inability to persevere causes problems because “through Faith and Patience (we) inherit the promise according to Hebrew 6:12.
 - e. Our failure to be “willing and obedient” keeps us from eating of the good of the land according to Isaiah 1:19
 - f. About 80% of professing Christians do not tithe which places them under a curse, and then they are offended if someone suggests that their being in need is their fault according to Malachi 3:8-12
 - g. We live with unforgiveness in our heart, and then wonder why God does not answer our prayers according to Mark 11:25-26
 - h. We abuse our bodies, eat poorly, and fail to exercise, and then want to blame God when we get sick and say well it “must be His will.”

- i. We fail to train our children and then wonder why they are so rebellious according to Deuteronomy 6:7 and Proverbs 22:6
- j. We fail to abide in Christ and His Word, and then blame it on God's Will if we do not get our answer "when we ask what we will" as seen in John 15:7
- k. Faith comes by hearing and meditating on God's Word, and most Christians do very little of this, but they get irate when it is suggested that their lack of faith keeps them from receiving their promise.

l. The Scriptures teach that

- i. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High" receives the protective promises of the remainder of Psalms 91,
- ii. And the Scriptures teach in Ephesians 6:13-18 that I have an armor I must wear and carry, including a shield of faith, to ward off satan's fiery darts,
- iii. And The Word teaches in 1 Peter 5:8 and James 4:7 that Satan goes about like a Roaring lion seeking whom he may devour and that I am to resist him,
- iv. But even though I may not follow the above Scriptural direction, I get upset if someone suggests that the blame of what happened to me could be laid at my door.

D. There are times that God allows us to walk through difficulties, but please understand that all problems are not caused by "our fault." Understand that We do have a part to play in the securing of "Protection" and other "Heavenly Provisions."

- 1. Let us lay down our fears, insecurities, and tendencies toward offense when it is indicated that part of the blame for our problems could be ours.
- 2. Let us accept the fact that the Scriptures are filled with principles that put Responsibilities on us, which must be met to receive God's promises.
- 3. Let us realize that this does not cancel grace and promote salvation by works.
- 4. Grace does not imply "No responsibility" on our part.
- 5. Let us realized that the love of God is unconditional, but His favor and blessings are conditional.
- 6. Let us cast off all laziness, complacency, and apathy.
- 7. Let us realize that we will fall short at times and not feel condemned when we do.

II. Now, Let us build our Boundaries through prayer.

A. We must do things to secure God's blessings.

1. One of those is to build boundaries (paga) of protection through prayer.
2. Let us examine a minister who received divine protection as a result of prayer-building walls or boundaries of protection (paga).
 - a. He started every day with an hour of prayer.
 - b. One day, he felt a strong leading of the Holy Spirit to pray longer.
 - i. He prayed another hour.
 - ii. He felt the need to keep on praying, so he prayed another hour asking for God's protections and blessing on his day, as well as for other things.
 - iii. After three hours he felt released from prayer.
 - c. So, he went about his day's activities.
 - i. That evening while mowing his lawn, he felt something repeatedly brushing his leg.
 - ii. He looked down and saw a coiled rattlesnake trying to strike him, but it just could not hit him. It would just brush His leg.
 - iii. The man felt the need to pray for two more hours that morning, because he was building "boundaries" (paga) of protection through prayer.
3. Some would say that God did not need the man to pray for three hours to give him Protection, which is true, but that is what the Spirit directed him to do, for the man had a part to play in his protection.
 - a. God did not need Israel to march 13 times around Jericho either, but they did;
 - b. Neither did Jesus need to spit in a person's eye to heal them, but He did once.
 - c. The key is Obedience. We are to just do what God says, and It will work.

B. Part of what we do is to Dwell in the Secret Place

1. Consistency is a key when it comes to prayer for protection.
2. We must "Dwell" in the secret place to "Abide" under the Almighty's protective shadow.

Note Psalms 91:1

i. KJV

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

ii. NIV

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

iii. AMP...

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand].

a. Dwell in the Hebrew is “yashab” (ya shav) in Psalms 91:1

i. Means “to remain or abide,” “to dwell in or inhabit”

Note: Are you meaning, abiding, inhabiting, abiding in the secret place of the Most High?

ii. Here is the point.

- 1) Dwelling in the secret place “must be a Lifestyle” not a once in awhile activity.
- 2) We must make the “secret place” our habitation or “dwelling” place
- 3) Many believers’ prayer lives are to sporadic to build solid walls of protection.

b. If we “dwell” then we can “abide”

i. “Abide” is the Hebrew word “luwn” (lun) in Psalms 91:1

- 1) Among other things it means “To spend the Night”
- 2) Let us read it like this:

He that dwelleth (continues to inhabit) in the secret place of the most High, shall “spend the night” under the shadow of the Almighty.

ii. In other words, Prayer is like the Word of God.

- 1) We cannot read enough today for the entire week.
- 2) We must have “daily bread” or manna.

iii. Likewise, we must go to the secret place daily, and when we do, we can “spend the night” there.

1) But tomorrow we must go again.

2) Consistency is the key.

3. Example

a. A Christian in the navy in WWII.

b. Every day, he and a few other sailors would pray.

i. They would seek God's protection for themselves and their ship.

ii. They were building boundaries (paga) of protection.

c. In one battle, an enemy plane dropped a bomb onto the deck of the ship.

i. It did not explode.

ii. It bounced off the ship into the water, and in battle after battle their ship was spared.

Note: By their daily praying, they were building boundaries of protection (paga).

III. Then, There are "well-timed" times to pray.

Note: Boundaries of Protection! No trespassing, satan! Life in the secret place! This is to be done on a general regular basis for our families and loved ones, But there are Specific times when the Holy Spirit alerts us to particular situations that need protective prayer.

A. These times are "Karios" times

1. There two Greek words for time.

i. "Chronos" which is time in general.

ii. "Kairos" is the "strategic" or "right time" the "Opportune point of time" at which something should be done.

1) A window of opportunity would be "karios" time.

2) A well-timed attack in war would be "karios" time.

3) When someone is in danger or about to be attacked by Satan, that is a "karios" time.

Note: "Chronos" times is the time, like it is 7:00 p.m. or 7 a.m., but when we use the phrase "it is God's Timing, or in God's Time" we are referring to "karios" time

2. There are “karios” times of temptations.
 - a. There are coincidental temptations when a person is in the wrong place at the wrong time.
 - b. A “karios” time of temptation was waiting for Peter when Jesus prayed that his faith would not fail after he had denied Christ in Luke 22:31-32, and Jesus’ prayer worked
 - c. I have felt directed by the Spirit to pray for individuals at certain times, because I felt they were under attack by Satan through temptation.
3. There are “karios” times of Persecution
 - a. Acts 12:1-3

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

- b. Acts 19:23...And the same time there arose no small stir about that way....

Note: Demetrius, the silversmith stirred up a riot against Paul and the Christians of Ephesus

B. Note the following comments

1. Here is our problems
 - a. We forget the instruction to not lean on our own understanding, and fail to acknowledge Him in our intercession (Proverbs 3:5,6)
 - b. We do not wait for or listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, usually to our own hurt.
 - c. We forget that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood,” as seen in Ephesians 6:12
 - d. We forget that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, as Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 10:4
 - e. We are so afraid of becoming demon conscious that we become demon unconscious.
2. Here is what we should do.
 - a. Ephesians 6:18—
 - i. Be on the alert...for all the saints and

- ii. Pray at all times (karios) in the Spirit
- b. Paul is telling us to “Pray at strategic times (karios)”
 - i. We are in a war,
 - ii. If we are alert, then the Spirit will warn us of the well-timed attacks (karios) of the enemy, so we can create a boundary (paga) of protection by praying.
 - 1) Darryl and his mother praying for Frank in Pontiac, Illinois.
 - 2) Darryl kept saying, “We have to pray for Frank.”
 - 3) Frank had an accident during this time, and as he lay at the scene, he heard the Emergency crew say he is not breathing
 - 4) Frank wanted to say, “Yes, I am breathing,” but nothing came out.
 - 5) They finally found his pulse, and through this, Frank gave his heart to God, and he went around town praying in the parking lot of various business for revival in that town and church

Note: Perhaps, if we would abide in Christ and continue to abide in Him, not allowing anything to keep us from the Presence and the House of God, demonstrating by lifestyle that our priority is serving God, then the Spirit of God could prompt us in those “Karios” times to pray for family members who were about to be tempted, or in danger, or in need of job promotion, etc.

C. Examples:

- 1. A Person was praying and saw a Rattlesnake coiled at his father’s feet.
 - a. He prayed about 15 minutes
 - b. The next day he was told that his step-mother pushed the shed door open
 - i. Instead of doing the normal which was walking in
 - ii. She looked in, and there was a rattler
 - c. Here is how he prayed
 - i. He had asked the Father to protect them
 - ii. He bound any attempt of satan to harm them

- iii. He quoted a verse or two of Scripture that promised protection
- iv. He prayed in the Spirit for a while (in tongues)
- v. He “Set Boundaries” (paga) through “Timed” (karios) prayer

2. Story in Dutch Sheet’s book, Intercessory Prayer, found on pages 84, 85 and 86

We were driving home in threatening weather, my husband, turned on the radio for a local report. funnel clouds had indeed been spotted nearby. After arriving home, things grew strangely calm, and in a short while, the wind started to blow fiercely. Trees were bent over and the very walls of the house began to flutter. Windows rattled and hail bet on the car port.

Get into the hall and close the doors, my husband shouted. Get pillows, blankets and a flashlight.

Nana, I’m scared, cried our five-year-old grandson, William.

Jesus will take care of us. Don’t be afraid, I told him.

Suddenly sirens began to go off in our small town. The walls moved as though they weren’t anchored to anything, my husband said, as he ran into the hall, If we’re not in a tornado, we’re close.

Link arms and sit on the floor, I said.

My husband said, I love you, as he surrounded us with blankets and pillows, covered us with his body and enveloped us with his arms.

A mighty rushing wind was all around us and sucked us together into a ball. Pray! Keep praying, my husband said.

God Almighty, help us! we screamed.

An Explosion! And Windows shattered, glass flew everywhere.

Another explosion, and the walls caved in. Debris shot everywhere like arrows toward their target.

Jesus, Help us! You are our Savior! You are our King! I cried.

I looked up--the roof was falling on us. A ladder crashed down on my husband’s back.

Now start praising Him, my husband shouted through the wind. The next blast was the worst. There was nothing we could do. Only He could help us. Everything was out of control, but we knew the sovereignty of God. We knew we were at the point of death but we shouted, “Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Lord!”

Suddenly, peace filled me like a flood. A sweet voice filled my heart, “I’ve heard your cry for help. I’ve bent the heavens for you. No matter what happens around you, I’m here protecting you.” Tears flooded my face and I knew Jesus was protecting us. It seemed His arms had surrounded us. I knew we would be safe.

The tornado was over, and the rain beat down on us with a force I had never felt before. We were safe. “Mama, I see the sky,” little William said.

“William, that’s because the roof is gone, and we probably won’t have any walls either,” my husband informed him.

“I’m so thankful we’re okay,” our daughter Wendy cried. “Jesus protected us, didn’t He?”

Though buried under tons of debris, our hair covered with insulation and glass, we were okay. Just a few minor injuries.

3. Story of protection in a storm for Sister Swiger and her children in Warren, Arkansas
4. Story of Randy feeling the need to pray, and 43 tornadoes in Arkansas and one went over the houses where 2 sons, a brother, mother, and nephew lives.
5. Another story from Intercessory Prayer by Dutch Sheets on Pages 86-87, where A Mother prayed a karios prayer for her son.
 - a. This mother had went early one morning to visit her son and daughter-in-law.
 - b. The son worked an all-night shift so, mother and daughter-in-law visited for awhile.
 - c. The son did not arrive as he should, and Mom began to feel uneasy. Something did not seem right.
 - d. They called the place where he worked to see if he was still there, and they were told that he had already left.
 - e. Mom said to the boy’s wife, “I am worried!” Let us drive toward his place of work.
 - f. Mom had assumed her son had left work at his normal time and should have been home by then when, in fact, he had left just moments before she had called.
 - g. The Lord was directing even in that because, though he was not in any danger yet, but the Holy Spirit knew a kairos moment was coming for this young man, and He (Holy Spirit) wanted this praying mother there when it happened.
 - h. As they drove toward his workplace on a busy Dallas parkway, they saw him coming from the other direction on his motorcycle, traveling around 40 to 50 miles per hour, and as they watched,

- i. He fell asleep and veered off the road, hit the curb
- ii. He flew 40 or 50 feet through the air.
- iii. He was not even wearing a helmet.
- i. As the boy was moving through the air, Mom was praying, Jesus, protect my son!
- j. She continued to pray as they turned around and drove back to him. A crowd had already gathered around him, and they ran to the scene wondering what they would find.
- k. They found a miracle! No injuries--no bones broken, no lacerations, no internal injuries. Just a dazed young man wondering what had happened.

Note: Paga happened...kairos paga happened! Boundaries happened.

- 6. How about another Dutch Sheets story from Intercessory prayer on page 87, where a Minister felt need to pray for his married daughter who he felt was dying.

This minister kept having a vivid reoccurring dream, which he felt strongly was a warning from the Lord, of his married daughter dying. In the dream he was not shown how her death happened, but he felt strongly that satan had a well-laid plan to take his daughter's life.

So as not to alarm her, he told only his son-in-law and the two of them began to intercede (paga) daily for her safety. They were building boundaries (paga) of protection around her.

This minister related how several times a day--while he worked, drove his car, walked, whenever it came to his mind--he would bind satan's plan to take his daughter's life

Note: How would he do this? What did he say? Probably some things like the following:

- i. He would create a meeting (paga) with God by saying: Father, I bring my daughter to you.
- ii. He would build boundaries (paga) of protection by saying: I ask You to protect her from any trap satan has set for her. You said You would deliver us from the snare of the trapper in Psalms 91:3
- iii. He carried her burdens and weaknesses that were laid on (paga) him by the Spirit of God by saying: Thank You for laying this prayer burden on me that I might lift off and carry away from her this assignment of death.
- iv. He met (paga) the enemy to break him by praying: satan, I bind this plan of yours and break any hold you may have gained in this situation. Your weapons against her won't prosper and you're not going to take her life.

- v. He based all his prayers on the work Christ has already done which is representing Him...administering what He has already accomplished...enforcing His victory by saying: "I do this in the name of Jesus!"

About a month later--remember, I said this was a kairos season and I said he prayed daily--his daughter received a promotion at work. With the promotion came a life insurance policy which mandated a physical exam.

At one point in the process, after a blood sample had been taken, a doctor addressed her in a near panic with the question and comments, "Lady, what have you been doing in your diet? We can find no potassium in you at all! You should be dead. There is no reasonable explanation as to why you're alive. When this deficiency occurs a person normally feels fine but suddenly drops dead. We must get you to the hospital immediately and begin to replenish the potassium."

She lived, of course. She had been on a strange diet for several weeks during which she had eaten only one or two kinds of food. Though there was no reasonable explanation as to why she lived, we know the spiritual explanation: A boundary (paga) of protection built in the spirit through prayer.

Conclusion

1. Let us live under the Shadow of the Almighty so Satan has to Keep out.
2. One last story about some missionaries Dutch Sheet's Intercessory Prayer on pages 89 & 90

A group of 40 to 45 individuals on a missionary trip were to travel to a remote place on the Passion River in the Peten Jungle. They were to build a combination clinic and outreach station on the river, and go a little farther to preach in some nearby villages.

Their first night (Friday) was spent in Guatemala City. They had arranged months earlier for Guatemalan airlines to fly them the following day into the jungle. They arrived at the airport on Saturday afternoon, and were informed that plans had been changed and they would fly to their destination the next day.

The leaders felt an urgency to keep on schedule because of a limited amount of time to accomplish their mission and pressed the airlines for three hours to honor their original agreement.

The airlines said, No! They haggled for three hours. Finally one of the officials threw up his hands and said, Okay! We will take you now! Get on that plane--quickly!

That night while they were 250 miles away, an earthquake hit Guatemala City and killed 30,000 people in 34 seconds. They would have been killed and/or injured if they had remained in the city. Their motel was flattened and huge beams lay across their beds. They saw it when they returned to the city.

Where was the kairos time of prayer in all this?

An intercessor from their home church in Ohio received a strong burden to pray for them on the second day (Saturday) of their journey. She prayed for three hours in intense intercession for them. The three hours were the same three hours they were negotiating with the airline officials.

They did not know their lives were in jeopardy, but God did. The intercessor did not know their lives were in danger, but God did. She was alert, and felt a strong burden to pray for the group, and helped create the protection and intervention they experienced.

2. There is a life in the secret place, but it is not automatic for believers.
3. Although we are promised protection from our enemy, we have a definite part to play in the securing of it for ourselves and for others.
4. The intercessor knows this and leaves nothing to chance, posting signs for all the forces of hell to see: "Under the shadow of the Most High. out!"