

These two verses will give to us the theme of or study this morning, and we'll be reading a number of verses throughout the course of the message as we deal this morning with the subject HOW TO PRAY FOR THE LOST". Ezekiel 22:30-31....

*Close w/ list of ways to pray - especially*

Now if the word of God means anything at all it means that through the ministry of intercession there is that unbelievable possibility of oneman standing between God and a lost world, and ~~proclaiming~~ <sup>preventing</sup> and even ~~provoking~~ <sup>preventing</sup> the ~~laws~~ <sup>wrath</sup> of God upon that nation. Upon that individual. The possibility of intercession is to ~~prevent~~ <sup>postpone</sup> and prevent the wrath of God from coming upon an individual. And when there is no intercessor, no one to make up the hedge, no one to stand in the gap, then God comes in judgment. *Joh 42 - @ II Chron 7:14* If that be true, and I believe it is, it is just as big a crime and sin for me to withhold the ministry of intercession from an individual as it would be for me to withhold a cure from a dying man. It becomes an equal sin for me to ~~with~~ withhold intercession as it would be to withhold food from a starving man and I submit to you this morning that what we say, and what the word of God says in this passage about the power and the potential of intercession, there are few sins that are greater than the sin of prayerlessness. The more and more I study the word of God and in particular the N.T., the more am I convinced of this unbelievable and remarkable power that God has placed in my hand and in your hand. The church <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ able to pray Peter out of jail, Abraham was able to save Lot from destruction, for even after God had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, the Bible says, "and God remembered Abraham and spared Lot." It was Abraham that God ~~was~~ remembered

and spared Lot. Abraham stood in the gap between God and Lot. God remembered Abraham and spared Lot. It was Moses who stood in the gap and made up the hedge between an angry God and ~~aXX~~ rebellious people and God spared them. I read in Luke chapter 5 where four men brought the crippled man to Jesus, they opened the roof and let him down so that Jesus could minister to him, the Bible says, "when Jesus saw THEIR faith he said unto the man sick of the palsy, 'rise up thy sins be forgiven thee.'" ~~XX~~ When he saw THEIR faith, I don't know if that man had any faith at all, the Bible doesn't mention it right there, it simply says when Jesus saw THEIR faith. The (/) Syro-Phoenician woman came to Jesus, in Matthew chapter 15 and said, "have mercy on me for my daughter is in need." And Jesus had mercy on HER and healed ~~of~~ her daughter. And I tell you this morning when you and I get to the place where we come to God and ~~X~~ our burden is so great we say, "Lord, have mercy on ME and heal this person, and "have mercy on ME and save this person -- then God will honor our petitions of intercession. It is possible through the ministry of intercession for you and me to stand in the gap and to bring the blessings of God upon people and to prevent his wrath upon the disobedient. When he sees OUR faith, when He has mercy on US, when He remembers OUR intercession. You remember when -- in the early church, there arose a murmuring because the apostles weren't able to do everything that was required of them to do, some of the widows were being neglected in the daily affairs, in the daily distribution, and so they set aside a group of men who would watch over this matter and in the Acts chapter 6, the apostle says "that we ~~XXXXX~~ will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word." We will give ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. Notice the order, notice the sequence, what comes first? We will give

ourselves to PRAYER. Notice the word he uses, we will GIVE ourselves ~~XX~~, as though there was a great restraint, as though there was something pulling, a drawing, a burden, they said, literally what they were saying, "we will surrender ourselves to prayer, first, foremost before anything else." And if what we are saying this morning, out of the word of God, is true about this matter of intercession, before you do anything else and above all else, you must pray. No preacher has a right to go out and play golf until he's prayed up. No preacher has a right to go fishing if he's not prayed up. No Christian has a right to sit down and watch television tonight if he's not prayed up. Above everything else, before everything else, we must pray, we must give ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. And the ministry of the word will be blessed and will multiply when first of all we give ourselves to prayer. Well how do you pray for the lost? Is ~~XX~~ it possible to pray for the lost? I mentioned the other morning that there are a number of people who believe that you cannot pray for the lost, that we should not pray for the lost. One particular person pointed out that in John chapter ~~XX~~ Jesus made this statement, "I pray not for the world but I pray for these -- the disciples-- I pray not for the world. Now it seems to me that all Jesus is simply saying there is, at this moment, I'm not praying for the world. That's a prayer for His disciples and I think that we're stressing the Scripture if we take that expression of Jesus and conclude from it that we are not to pray for the world. All Jesus was saying there to the Father was, right now I'm not praying for the world, I'm praying for them. Paul said in Romans chapter 10, verse 1, "brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be sa

Now I find that Paul is a pretty fair example ~~of~~ to follow in this matter of intercession.

And Paul said, "I'm praying for Israel that they might be savedX." And you'll never find a harder bunch to pray for than Israel, because they had a special blinding that nobody else has. But Paul says "I'm praying that they'll besaved." And if you'll read over in Romans chapter 11, you'll see he says they're going to be saved. Paul, praying with confidence, that 's praying according to the will of God.

I John chapter 5 says that if we "ask anything according to his will we know that he hears us and if we know that he hears us then we know that we are already having the petitions that we have desired of him." If we ask anything according to his will. Well II Peter chapter 2 verse 9 tells me that God "is not willing that any should perish but that ~~that~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~that~~ should come to repentance, now notice the next phrase, but is long suffering towards US. Did you get that? Not long suffering towards the sinner, long suffering toward US. Why does God have to be patient with us? Because it is through the instrumentality of His people that He reaches the unsaved. And so God is not willing that any should be lost, that any should perish. He's waiting on us to get with it. He's waiting on us to wake up, He's waiting on us to take the place of intercession. He's waiting on us to get revived so we can effectively share Jesus. But ~~that~~ God is not willing that any should perish, therefore I can take that verse 2 Peter chapter 3 and verse 9, combine it with I John 5 and I know that when I pray for the lost to be saved, I am praying according to the will of God. And if I ask anything according to the will of God, I know he hears me. That's faith and if I know He hears me then I know that I am having the petitions that I have desired of him. Now if I don't believe

Now if I don't believe he's hearing me, I'm not going to have it. But if I know that He opens His ears when I pray in sympathy with His will, then I'm already having the things that I've desired of Him.

All right, how should we go about praying for the lost? And what I simply want to do this morning is to give a little Bible study and instruction basic in how we should go about praying for the lost. And when we take the place of intercession in the place of the lost, we should pray in three directions. We should pray in three directions. Now if you've been with us during these series, you'll know that everything I preach pert near has three points. And I have scripture for that, the Proverbs says "a threefold cord is not easily broken." The Bible was written in threes, it's just everywhere, and so we're going to have the tripod of this message standing on three legs this morning. There are three directions in which you should pray when you pray for the lost. First of all,

YOU MUST PRAY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SINNER.

Now in praying for the lost, there are three things you need to understand. First of all you need to understand the condition of the lost man. The condition of the lost man, what is his condition? Number one he is bound by the god of this world. Now this is essential to understand and where we are missing it in evangelism, we have failed to reckon with this fact. That the lost man is chained and is bound by the god of this world. Let's read some verses, over in 2 Timothy, first of all, in 2 Timothy chapter 2, verses 24 and 25. Listen to what Paul says. ~~XXXXXX~~ Instructing Timothy now how he should minister, and he should ~~minister~~ minister, "In meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them

IP 6, page 6

repentance to the acknowledgeing of the ~~truth~~ truth." Did you get that? That God must give them repentance. That God would perhaps, peradventure, give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth so they can acknowledge the truth, they cannot ~~see~~ even see the truth and acknowledge the truth, until first of all something previous is done in their lives. Notice verse 26 "And that they may receive themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." What is the condition of a lost man-- he is held captive by the devil. Taken snare by the devil. All right, I John chapter 5, vs 19, one of the most revealing verses in all the word "And we know that we are of God and the whole world lieth in wickedness" is the KJV, the correct translation is "the whole world lieth in the wicked one." We're of God, but the whole world lies in the wicked one. And that is interesting picture that John uses there in language. He uses the picture there of a mother who is holding her little baby in her arms and has gently nursed it and gently stroked its forehead and that little baby is sound asleep - what a picture. Absolutely at the mercy, absolutely dependent upon its mother unaware of anything else except its mother, the whole world lieth in the wicked one. And every lost man and woman on the face of this earth has been ~~we~~ rocked to sleep in the arms of the devil and is \_\_\_\_\_ (?) and doesn't even realize his condition. Eph ch 2 and the second verse says that before ~~you~~ we were saved we "walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of ~~this~~ disobedience." What Paul is saying in that second chapter of Ephesians

IP 6, page 7

is simply this, that the lost man is energized by the devil. Every thought, every act, every philosophy, he is completely energized by the devil. Where does the lost man get his energy? Where does the world get its fantastic ideas? Where does the world get its resources to carry on the devil's work. The spirit of the Satan is dwelling within them, energizing them, giving them power and that lost person, his very life, his strength, his power is coming from the devil, he is energized by Satan himself. He is bound by the devil. But not only is the lost man bound by the devil, he is also blinded by the devil - he's blind to the gospel of Christ. Listen to what the apostle says in II Cor. chapter 4 "but if our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is ~~this~~ the image of God, should shine into them." The gospel has been blinded in the eyes of the lost person so that they cannot understand it. I Cor. 2:14 it says, "the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him." Notice he didn't say they seem to be foolish, they are foolish unto him. He receives them not, that word means to welcome with open arms. He cannot welcome the ~~world~~ world. Only the spirit of a man can understand a man. Now I don't know what it's like to be a woman, I don't even know if a woman knows what it's like to be a woman. But if I had the spirit of a woman, I could know what it was like to be a woman. I've know Dr. McBeth for a number of years, and I know him, but I really don't know him. If I had his spirit, if somehow God could perform major surgery and give to me his spirit and put his

spirit in me, I would know Dr. McBeth. I could talk just like he talks. I would think just like he thinks. I would react just like he reacted. I would know him as intimately as he knows himself. But I cannot know that unless I have his spirit. The lost man cannot know God. He cannot figure out God, he cannot understand God. That's why it says that the spiritual man is an enigma to the carnal, to the lost world, they can't figure them out. But I'll tell you what, if God were to give to that lost man His spirit, that lost man would know God, he could think like God, he would have the mind of God, he could react to God, and that's exactly what happens in salvation. God has given unto us his spirit that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. A lost man is blinded by the devil, he cannot see the gospel. Now listen, ~~two~~ *two* ~~things~~ things must happen before you can win a lost man to Jesus. There must be an emancipation and there must be an enlightenment. Now I said that when you pray for the lost your praying must be in the direction of the sinner, and I said that but I want to carry it a little farther at this time and say that at the same time as we pray in the direction of the sinner, our intercession must also be in the direction of SATAN. In the direction of the devil, because intercession - now listen - intercession is aimed primarily not at the sinner, but aimed ~~primarily~~ primarily at the devil who has him bound. You remember when Jesus was telling his disciples about his soon crucifixion in Jerusalem and Peter always the first to speak, always the first to argue, comes and says to Jesus, "Lord, be that far from you, you're not going to do that." What did Jesus say? Jesus said, "Now Peter let me sit down and explain



something to you. Let me get the prophet Isaiah and explain to you what the prophet says that I'm going to do. Let me read ~~Y~~ to you Micah. Let me read to you Ezekiel. Let me read to you the 22nd Psalm. " Did Jesus do that? Did He sit down and try to explain to Peter --- what did Jesus do? Jesus didn't speak to Peter. He said, "Satan, get thee behind me thou savourest not the things of God." What did Jesus do? Jesus recognized that his problem wasnt with the flesh and blood of Peter, but with the power that was behind Peter, he dealt with the devil who was behind him. In Acts chapter 16 when Paul and Silas were in Phillipi, a little fortune teller began to follow them around. She wasn't doing anything bad, most of us try to get the world to advertise our revival meetings for us. And this fortune-teller, who was very successful, followed Paul & Silas around for several days, saying "every body listen to these fellows, they are from the true God. You listen to them, they are from the true God." And if you want to know what God thinks of the world advertising for Jesus, you read the next verse. Paul became grieved in his spirit and turned and said to that girl, " now I want you to read Kurt Koch's book on occult bondage, and I want you to understand that fortune telling is wrong, and I want to explain to you why you must give up your fortune telling. That's not what Paul did. The Bible says, he turned and ~~said~~ spoke to the spirit within her and sai, "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth come out of her and the spirit came out. " Now what was Paul doing, Paul was recognizing that his welfare was not with flesh and blood, he was not primarily aiming at that girl, but he recognized that girl was what -- bound and blinded by the devil, and he knew first of all, he had to deal with Satan before he could deal with ~~N~~ her.

Jesus recognized this, listen to what Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew chapter 12. verse 29 "Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods except he first bind the strong man and then he will spoil his house." He says the same thing in the gospel of Luke chapter 11, the very same thing. X How can I go into a man's house and capture his goods and spoil his goods, that's the lost, until first of all I bind the strong man. Jesus was saying there before you can spoil the devils goods, before you can move into his territory and capture his possessions first of all, you must incapacitate him, first of all you must bind him. Jesus recognized that evangelism's primary target is not the sinner, it is Satan who binds and blinds him. Eph. 6:12 "For we wrestle not with flesh and blood." That to me became one of the greatest revelations of my Christian life. We wrestle not with flesh and blood. It is not a flesh and blood evangelism. Paul says in II Cor. chapter 10, "the weapons of our warfare are mighty to the pulling down of strongholds." Any the stronghold the devil erects we can pull it down with our weapons. Well, what are our weapons? He says, they are not carnal, they are not weapons of the flesh, they are not weapons of ~~materialism~~ materialism, they're not weapons that you can see, they are spiritual weapons. I want you to follow me very closely now for just a moment. Paul says we wrestle not with flesh and blood, but we wrestle against, that world wrestle means ~~what~~ hand to hand combat, five times in those verses he uses that little word against, it's the same Greek word that is translated with in John chapter 1, where it says "the Word was with God", it means faces to face, intimate relationship. Here's what the apostle is saying, we are in an hand to hand combat

it is face to face, it's just as close an action as you could imagine, it's just as intimate as it can be. We're wrestling but not with flesh and blood, against spiritual powers ~~in~~ ✈ darkness. Now, you know why the church has been losing the battle? I'll tell you why. We've not even been showing up for the war. They're just isn't any way that you can win a war if it's being fought over here in one theatre and you're across the globe in another theatre. And the reason the devil has been beating us every day and seven times on Sunday is because he has been fighting in one theatre and we've been fighting in another theatre, and we've lost the war by forfeit, we didn't show up. Because we have thought that the battle was fought on material grounds and physical grounds, with flesh and blood and we've thought we could use flesh and blood evangelism and appeal to the fellow's senses, appeal to his emotions, appeal to his intellect, appeal to his will, everybody come to church and hear the preacher, everybody stand up and ~~sing~~ sing with the songleader, everybody sit down and listen to the preacher, everybody stand up now for the invitation, everybody come forward and get saved. And a ~~few~~ fellow is drawn by his senses and we had joined in our churches and in our evangelism, we have joined the worship of Jehovah with the worship of ~~him~~ Baal, which was a sensual worship. And in much of our services were are not appealing to the spirit of a man, we're appealing to his rhythmic nature. We are appealing to his emotions, we're appealing to his soul, to his sensate emotions, and we're having a flesh and blood evangelism, and that is not true salvation. We've not been showing up for the war. The weapons of our warfare are not buildings, the buildings that's just the Red Cross trucks that you use to drive out on the field of evangelism and pick up those that

you've already won. The devil doesn't mind how many buildings you build and how many you have in SS and if you send up balloons and have a new committee and give away free pony rides, and all of this. But when a Christian realizes that his weapons are spiritual, listen, the devil is a spiritual being, the warfare is spiritual and you must meet him on the spiritual ground, if you don't he's got you licked every time. The greatest revelation I said to me, was that my battle is not with flesh and blood.

That cantankerous fellow in my church - I thought he was my problem. I thought I was wrestling with flesh and blood, and so I tried to out maneuver him. I tried to out think him. I tried to push him out of the building. And when I recognized that my warfare was not with that cantankerous man, not with flesh and ~~blood~~ blood, but with the devil who was behind him, and I just ignored that man and went straight to the source of the problem, there was victory. Some of you think that you're ~~wrestling~~ wrestling with the flesh and blood of tobacco. You'll lose it every time. The warfare is spiritual, it's the devil behind it that has you bound. Our wrestling is not with flesh and blood. And so before you and I can ever win a lost man to Jesus and before we can really intercede we must do two things- we must first of all have that man emancipated and then we must have that man enlightened and the only way we can do that is to deal with the devil. And so the second thing we have to understand if we're going to pray for the lost is not the only the condition of the lost, but we have to understand the ~~EMX~~ CONQUEST OF THE DEVIL.

I want to say two things about the conquest of Satan, first of all it is ABSOLUTE. It is absolute. Let's read a few verses of Scripture. We've already read one in Matthew 9:29 where Jesus says that he went in and he bound that strong man, referring to the devil. One of my favorite verses is Hebrews chapter 2, the book of Hebrews, the second chapter, verse 14, listen to what the writer says, ~~XXX~~ "forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, this is the devil." "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." ~~XXXX~~ Now that verse said that Jesus destroyed his power. I John 3 :8 says "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil. One more verse, in Col. the second chapter speaking here of the cross work of Jesus, ~~X~~And on the cross Jesus "blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us and took it out of the way, nailing it to ~~MX~~ his cross: " Now notice what he did in addition to that, if all Jesus had done on the cross was simply take away our sins, there would be no such thing as a conference on revival. If all Jesus had done on the cross was take away my sins, there would be no such thing as victorious living. He had to deal with something else, and notice, "And having spoiled principalities (that word spoil means to disarm, to strip them of their power) he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." He added injury to disgrace. Not only did He defeat the devil, ~~XX~~ He made a show of him openly and publicly. Back in those days when these Roman generals would come back from a victorious war, they would take the officers and leaders and the men of rank in that defeated army and chain them

and tie them to the victorious general's wheel, and as that chariot would go into that city all the people would line the streets, and by the way, they would send a messenger ahead, do you know what that fellow was called? He was called a preacher. Do you know what the word preach means, it means to run ahead and announce a victory, and before, before the Roman general who had been victorious would come to the city he would send a preacher ahead to announce victory. Do you know what preaching is? It's not winning the victory, it's announcing the victory that's already been won. That's what preaching is, it's to stand before the people, that's what witnessing is, to stand before the people and say "I want to tell you of a victory that's already been won." All you have to do is take it. " And so that preacher, that runner, that messenger, would precede that mighty parade, and here they would come, the trumpets blaring, marine band at the head, letting everybody know, here they come. And then standing up in his chariot, drawn by those white stallions was the victorious general. And behind him, chained were the defeated generals and captains and lieutenants and lords, and the chariot would run just a little faster than those fellows could walk and they would fall and eat dust and be dragged in the dust, humiliation, humiliation. Notice what Jesus did, he didn't do this thing in a corner, he conquered the devil on the cross and then he made a display of himself openly, that display was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His defeat is absolute. Somebody says, well if his defeat is so absolute then why am I so absolutely defeated? Somebody said the devil is chained, and another fellow said he must have a mighty long chain. The conquest of Satan is not only absolute, it must also be APPROPRIATED. Listen, everything that God has done and this is really one of the keys to the spirit-filled life and victorious living, everything God has done, He

has done ABSOLUTELY, but everything He has done ABSOLUTELY must be APPROPRIATED. You don't have to pray through to be filled with the Spirit today. As soon as you get to the place where you're willing to repent of your sins, then in a moment, God will fill you, when Jesus is Lord. Everything in the Christian life has already beendone ABSOLUTELY, ~~but~~ but it must be appropriated <sup>Pov</sup> ~~for~~ us.

All right let's read some scriptures, Matthew 16 ... now it is important that we see things from God's viewpoint, we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies, now I want you to listen very closely, we are seated with Christ in the heavelines, that is our POSITION in Jesus, isn't it? If you'll read carefully Eph chapter 6 where he describes the spiritual warfare, you'll discover that the warfare is also at the same place we're seated at - in the heavenlines, in the heavenlies. Where is the warfare taking place? Man it's taking place on my grounds, I'm in the heavenlies with Jesus Christ - that's a good place to fight the devil, and from that position I can fight him, so I am to look at things from that position and things sure look better from up here. When I look at the devil from down here he looks like a roaring lion going about seeking whom he may devour. But when I look at him from up here he's toothless. It all dependson your viewpoint. And what you have to do is you have to check it out with heaven and see what it looks like from heaven and then "thank you, Lord, that's what it looks like to me, too." When your viewpoint becomes God's viewpoint, you have victory. So that ABSOLUTE CONQUEST of the devil must be appropriated by faith in our daily lives.

All right let's read now in Matthew chapter 16, this is the occasion of the great confession by Peter. Verse 18 "And I say also unto thee thou art Peter and upon this rock

I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." "And I will give unto the keys of the kingdom of heaven -- now notice: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Now let's read the same thing again, somebody said, well he was just talking there to the first pope -- all right, turn now to Matthew chapter 18 the 18th verse, Jesus says the same thing again, not talking to Peter this time, in particular, talking to all of them, "Verily I say unto you whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Now when you read that in the KJV it sounds as though God takes his cue from me. And that whatever I bind on earth, God will second the motion and bind it in heaven, and that's not the way it reads at all. I think Williams translated it correctly, the correct translation is like this: "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall have already been bound in heaven. And whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall have already been loosed in heaven." That's it. I take my cue from heaven and I check it out first with heaven and if heaven has bound it then I have the power and the right in the name of Jesus to bind it. I check it out with heaven and if in heaven it's been loosed, then I have the right and the power to appropriate that loosing and release it in the world and I can loose it because it's been loosed in heaven. All right, I come up against a sin, I come up against a habit, I cannot read the Bible without believing that if Jesus Christ cannot give you victory over a sin, He cannot save you from hell. If there is one sin, one habit in your life that Jesus Christ cannot deliver you from, then something is wrong somewhere. He has the power to deliver us from



all sin. So if I have a habit that's binding me, I have a sin that's chaining me, I check it out with heaven - has that sin been loosed from God's viewpoint? Yes sir, it sure has, I say amen to what's been said in heaven and I have the authority and the power to loose it here on earth. I come up against the devil, he's just giving me all kinds of fits, he has this lost man bound and blind, I need to deal with him, I need to loose that blinding, I need to loose that binding, and I need to bind Satan from that. I check it out with heaven, has Satan been bound in heaven? Well, Jesus said I could not cast out demons unless first of all, I had bound Satan, and Jesus sure did cast out demons, so he sure must have bound Satan. The Bible tells me that Satan is an absolutely defeated enemy, heaven says he is bound in my eyes, in heaven's viewpoint, therefore what is already bound in heaven I have the right and the power to bind on earth. My conquest over Satan is just as absolute when I appropriate it as is God's.

Now the third thing you've got to understand in praying for the lost- in the condition of the lost- is the commission of the saint-- what rights do we have?

Let me briefly share with you two rights that we have as Christians. In praying for the lost, you must first of all understand the condition of the lost, the conquest of the devil and the commission of the believer - what they have the right to do? What are ~~XXXXX~~ their ~~XXXXXX~~ birthrights? One we've already talked about, #1 they have the right, in the Name of Jesus, to tear down the strongholds of the devil. They have the right to appropriate Christ's victory over the devil. James 4:7 "Submit yourself therefore to God, resist the devil and he shall flee from thee." We have the right to destroy the strongholds of Satan. Intercessory prayer does that. Because that is a spiritual weapons that is fighting not flesh and blood

grounds, but it is fighting on spiritual grounds.

All right the second commission that I have is that

I CAN CLAIM THE WORK OF CALVARY. Now this is essential in praying for the lost, to understand this. Listen to I John 2:2, "And he is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but also for the sins of -- what? -- the whole world. The whole world. Present tense He IS the propitiation, right now. I thought when Jesus died he was just the covering for MY sins. No - He is, right now, the covering, the ~~XXXXXX~~ the sacrifice, the mercy seat, for what? the sins of the whole world, even those who are lost. Absolute, but it's not been appropriated by the lost. John chapter 3 verse 18 says, "A man doesn't go to hell because he drinks, because he murders, because he lies," He that believeth on him is not condemned but he that believeth not is WHAT? -- condemned already because he gets drunk, no-- because he hath not BELIEVED. Jesus said when the spirit is come he will convict the world of sin, what? of sin because they what? Believed not on Me.

When Jesus died on the cross, John said "Behold the Lamb of God that -- does what? take away the SIN of the world. No lost man ever goes to hell because he drinks, because he lusts, because he murders, because he steals, he goes to hell because he does not submit himself to Jesus Christ, he does not believe in the saving faith of Jesus Christ. He does not appropriate therefore when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for every man. That cup that He prayed over in the Garden of Geth. had the sins of all the people, not just the sins of the elect, hey, you don't believe in a limited atonement, do you? It's universal. He takes away the sins of the WORLD. Therefore when Jesus Christ died on the cross, He potentially bought

every man. They just haven't appropriated it. That means I have the right to claim in Jesus' Name what is really His. I have the right, I have the right, because he really owns that lost person. He really purchased him with His blood and to pray in the Name of Jesus simply means to claim the things which Jesus by His blood has purchased.

I have those two rights - I have the right to take on warfare against the devil and to destroy his fortresses and I have the right to claim in Jesus' Name all things that His blood has bought.

Now I have a quote here from S. D. Gordon who wrote a tremendous book "Quiet Talks On Prayer". Listen to what S. D. Gordon says: "Without any doubt we may assure the conversion of those laid on his hearts by such praying, for the prayer in Jesus Name drives the enemy off the battlefield of man's will and leaves him free to choose right." Intercession is not forcing a man's will it is freeing his will.

Somebody says, but I don't understand, how can I pray for the lost. God will not save a man against his will, what about man's will in this matter? I don't know that's God's problem. That's God's problem, not mine. All God asked me to do is to intercede, to stand in the gap, to make up the hedge. Let God be God, that's God's business, that is strictly between that lost man and God. His will and God's sovereignty that is between those two, all God asked me to do is not put my nose into their business and just pray, go about my business, that's all I'm concerned about. I'll let God handle that, I don't know how He'll work it out, but He will, He always has, He always will. You can trust Him. You can depend upon

God to do what only He can do.

So in intercession you're not forcing a man's will, you're FREEING his will.

All right now that is point #1. Intercessory prayer must first of all be prayed in the direction of the sinner. The other two will be much briefer.

#2-- Intercessory praying must be IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SAINT.

Matthew 9:38 Jesus says, "Truly the harvest is white pray ye therefore that the lord of the harvest will thrust labourers into his field." What am I to pray for? I'm not only to pray for that lost man in the way in which we've been dealing with, but I'm also to pray that God will thrust somebody into that position, into that place, move next door to him, work with him on the job, sit next to him in school, ~~xxxxx~~ there'll be a witness, there'll be someone there ~~xxxx~~ to share.

Paul says in Col. 4:2, "Pray for us that a door of utterance may be given unto us." You see, this is God's message. The way to witness and the way to win is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit ~~xxxxxx~~ always works on both ends.

You remember when Phillip ~~was~~ was caught up by the Holy Spirit and sent into the desert? Just by coincidence that ~~xxxxx~~ Ethiopian ~~xxxxxx~~ eunuch passed by and the Holy Spirit said "go catch a ride with him." You have to be fast when the Spirit of God says move because Phillip had to run to catch him. If Phillip had thought and said, well now he's a black man and he's a stranger and besides he's reading, I don't want to disturb him. If he'd hesitated, if he'd questioned, he would have missed it, he had to run as it was to catch him. You've got to

IP 6, p 21

be in a hurry when God says "go", He means go now. When God called Abraham, the Bible says that Abraham was going while God was calling.----- over in the book of Hebrews. All right, Phillip went, got on that chariot, what a coincidence, he's reading Isaiah 53, been down to Jerusalem to worship and didn't find ~~℥~~ anything there by ~~xxix~~ rigamaro and formal ceremony, came away empty and hungry and thirsty, somehow got hold of a scroll ~~℥℥~~ of Isaiah and he's reading about Jesus. Now the Lord, the Spirit, had been preparing that eunuch for no telling how long, all the way from Ethiopia, an Ethiopian going to a Jewish religious festival, unbelievable. God had been preparing him, he's ready, time is right, ~~xxxx~~ reading at the right spot on that Scripture, what a text, what a soul winning text, now all the Holy Spirit needs to find is a witness who will be willing to be jerked up out of the heat of revival and brought to a desert place, you see, God works on both ends. I want you to know there are a lot of Ethiopians out there who are hungry and the only reason they aren't being saved is because the Holy Spirit can't find somebody willing to go. He works on both ends. First of all he prepares the lost man, then he prepares the saved man. The same way in Acts chapter 21, Cornelius had been worshipping God, he had a hungry heart, he had a thirsty heart, God had prepared him, now he had to find a fellow to do the job of witnessing. And the Holy Spirit wanted to use Peter, but first of all he had to prepare Peter. And you know the story of the vision, God cleaned him up and got rid of his hangups and his prejudices and then the Holy Spirit brought Peter and Cornelius together. That's the way God always works, that's the way God always works. Listen, is there a ~~℥~~ man that you're

IP 6, p 22

praying for, he's lost, and he has a saved wife? Do you know what you ought to pray for? You ought to pray that that wife will have personal revival, because the Bible says in I Peter chapter 2 that you can win a lost husband to the Lord without ever saying a word to him, as he beholds the pure ~~behaviour~~ behaviour of the wife. Pray in that direction - pray that the wife will have revival and become the kind of wife God wants her to be and that husband will see what Jesus has done in her life, so pray in the direction of the saint, praise that God would raise up somebody to witness to them, pray that God would somehow <sup>maneuver</sup> ~~move~~ the people around, that He would take some of the seed of His people and drop it into ~~XXX~~ a ~~slot~~ <sup>maneuver</sup> slot right next door to that lost man so that there'll ~~be~~ be someone there to witness to him. Pray in the direction of the saints, and then third,

PRAY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SAVIOUR.

We read a moment ago in II ~~Timothy~~ Timothy where Paul says "Per adventure, God would grant repentance." God has to grant repentance. I'll never forget I was speaking in Colorado, there was a couple in the choir and I have rarely seen a woman that was as bound and blinded by the devil as she was. And I had just begun to come into some of these things ~~XXXIX~~ out of the Word of God, and really hadn't tried it too much, you know the first time you begin to pray like this, you begin to talk to the devil, you want to cover up your mouth, and I had such a burden for this lady and so during the invitation and all the week long, she had been absolutely indifferent, cool, and hard, you could see the film over her eyes, and during the invitation, I just prayed and I did everything I know to do, and I stood against Satan, and then I prayed,

"Lord, Heavenly Father in Jesus' Name would you grant that dear lady repentance, grant her repentance." And I finished praying and I noticed out of the corner of my eye, here she comes, her husband following her and they kneel at the altar and there's victory. God has to grant repentance. Jesus said no man cometh unto me except My Father which hath sent Me draw him, and so I prayed Father will you draw people to yourself. Jesus said, "I stand at the door and knock and I say -- Jesus would you go and visit and so and so, you said in John ~~XXXXX~~ 15:14, "If I shall ask anything in your name you'll do it, and so Father in Jesus Name I just ask that Jesus would go and knock at the door of this person's heart. I pray in the direction of the Saviour and ask God to move in, to bring ~~xxxx~~ repentance, to bring conviction, to His drawing work, to Jesus that He might go and stand at the door of that person's heart and knock.

~~XX~~ You say, "Pastor, does it work?" Does it work? I hope to tell you it works. I wish we had time this morning to share with you so many testimonies of people that I've never even seen, people that our intercessors have never even seen. Unable to witness to, ~~xxxxx~~ and yet as we have prayed for the lost, as we have stood in the gap, as we have made up the hedge, as we have attacked ~~X~~ Satan in Jesus' Name and torn down his strongholds, as we have claimed that person in Jesus' Name, we've seen people saved. Unbelievable how they were saved.

One fellow came to our church, had been coming to our church for several week, he'd been talked to, been witnessed to, never any response. Then he was put on our prayer list and people began to pray for him. About two weeks later, a woman said to him, there's something different about you -- he was visiting their house, and they noticed once in a while he said "Praise the Lord", and they'd go on talking, just ignore him because he's lost, you know, and

they'd go on talking about some spiritual things and he'd say, "Praise the Lord." And they began to wonder, and so the daughter of the family went to him a little bit later and said, "have you ever been saved?" -- she knew he hadn't, couldn't understand, praising the Lord -- "Yea." When? About two weeks ago. "Why didn't you tell anybody?" "Didn't know I was supposed to." Do you know how it happened? Came to church one Sunday morning, Jimell Badry, our music director stood and sang, "Anybody Here Want to Live Forever, Say I Do -- anybody here want to walk on streets of gold, say I do, anybody here sick and tired of living like you do, And he went home and the Holy Spirit just dropped it in the slot, "anybody here sick and tired of living like you do , anybody here sick and tired of living like you do? And he asked Jesus to come into his life. It wasn't my sermon that did it. I can't wear his scalp on my belt, the Holy Spirit, in response to true intercession.