

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 21, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Power of Apostolic Prayers Part 2

Apostolic Prayers are Positive

The apostolic prayers are positive prayers asking God for the impartation of positive things instead of the removal of negative things.

For example, Paul prayed for love to abound instead of asking for the removal of hatred (Philippians 1:9).

He prayed for the impartation of unity instead of praying against division (Romans 15:5).

He asked for peace to increase instead of fear to be removed (Romans 15:13).

He did not pray against sin but asked for an increase of holiness, purity, and love (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13).

Even Paul's requests to be delivered from evil men are positive in focusing on the deliverance of God's people rather than on exposing or bringing down the evil men persecuting them (2 Thessalonians 3:2).

One reason God established "positive prayers" as the norm in the New Testament is to enhance unity and love in the church.

Some pray "negative prayers" that focus on sin in the church or its leadership; often such prayers feel judgmental and angry.

Others in the prayer meeting do not agree with the view or tone that was expressed in the negative prayer, so the prayer results in creating an unnecessary division among some of the people at that prayer meeting.

The Lord knew that praying for the impartation of positive virtues, instead of focusing on removing negative characteristics, would unify intercessors and heal some of the negative emotions against the church in the very people praying for the Church.

Apostolic Prayers are Usually for the Church

The vast majority of the apostolic prayers are focused on strengthening of the church, not on the lost or the transformation of society.

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This does not mean that God is ambivalent about the lost or society or that we are not to pray for these things. The only prayer in the New Testament that is focused on the salvation of the lost is Romans 10:1 where Paul prayed for Israel that they might be saved.

Why are the vast majority of the apostolic prayers for the strengthening the church? Because God's primary plan to reach the lost or to impact a city is by anointing His church with power and love.

When we pray for the whole church in a city to be revived in love and power, the answer to these prayers will have an immense impact on the lost. Many unbelievers will inevitably come to Jesus and society will be changed as the church in that city walks in the power of the Spirit.

(To be continued.)