

Prayer, the Key to Open Heaven's Door

(Part 2)

YAHSHUA cried again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit; and at once the curtain of the sanctuary of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:50-51). Before the death of the Son of God no one, with the exception of the High Priest and once a year, could enter the Holy of Holies of the temple. The sanctuary of the temple was designated for the presence of the holiness of God alone. The High priest performed the duty of burning incense to atone his and the sins of the people by sprinkling the blood of a sacrificial animal on the mercy seat of the ark (Lev. 16:2). The Holy of Holies was separated by a veil to provide a barrier between God and man; between His holiness and the sinfulness of man. The tear of the veil or curtain is of great significance for all who profess to be a believer in YAHSHUA, for it provided access to all men to enter the presence of God, as the writer of Hebrews said, We have full confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies [by the power and virtue] in the blood of YAHSHUA...Let us all come forward and draw near with true hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by faith, having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water (Heb. 10:19-20, 22). When we pray, the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groaning too deep for utterance (Rom. 8:26). When we enter the presence of God, we do so with the help of the Holy Spirit. We enter heaven in the name of YAHSHUA by the power of His blood. We must be reminded every time we enter the presence of God, that that privilege cost His son's life. When we pray in His name we are acknowledging His sacrifice for us and that it is only by His name that we can come to the presence of God. When we pray in YAHSHUA'S name, we are presenting all that He is. YAHSHUA said that the Father will grant whatever we ask in YAHSHUA'S name (John 15:16b; 16:23 b). But the believer must dwell in YAHSHUA and His words must remain and continue to live in his hearts for whatever he/she asks to be done or given them (John 15:7).

However, not every prayer opens the gates of heaven. It is not because the Lord is not concerned for the needs of His people but because of sins in one's life. He said, Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, not His

ear dull with deafness that it cannot hear, but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isaiah 59:1-2). The Psalmist confirms this truth in Psalm 66:18: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me; but certainly God has heard me; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer; blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer nor removed His mercy and loving-kindness from being with me.

Iniquity, according to Webster's dictionary is grievous violation of justice, wickedness. It is lawlessness residing in the heart and mind of man, which has become part of their life. They justify their evil actions without repentance to experience forgiveness.

The Word of God clear says that sins of iniquity are the works of the flesh in its indifference and disrespect to God, to His laws and in rejection of His holiness. In Galatians 5: 19-21 Paul describes the works of iniquity this way: Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fighting, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, **that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God** (Gal 5:19-21) . Let fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness not be once named among you, as becomes saints, neither baseness, foolish talking, jesting, which are not becoming, but rather giving of thanks. **For you know this, that no fornicator, or unclean person, or covetous one (who is an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God** (Eph 5:3-5).

Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? **And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity** (Mat 7:21-23).

Iniquity then is a wall that separates man from God and from all His spiritual blessings, including the privilege to enter the presence of God, unless that wall is broken, the prayer of a wicked man will not open heaven. The sin of iniquity

resides also in the person who will not forgive. YAHSHUA had these warnings to give us in that matter: But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother or harbors malice against him shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the court...So if when you are offering your gift at the altar you there remember that your brother has any [grievance] against you, leave your gift at the altar and go. First make peace with your brother and then come back and present your gift (Matt. 5:22a, 23-24).

Our God desires that we call on His name for salvation; He desires that we admit our sinful nature and repent of them. YAHSHUA was bruised for our sins of iniquities. He tore the temple veil and opened heaven for all to come to the Father in prayer of repentance first and then as His children. Sins of iniquity should not be part of a redeemed life, which experienced the spiritual cleansing from YAHSHUA'S blood. If we continue in our sins, if we deliberately and willingly continue to sin after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, (says the letter to the Hebrews), there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for [our] sins, but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God]. (Heb. 10:26-27). The sin of iniquity is a way we show opposition against God.

The prayers of God's people or of His saints are very special to Him. When His saints pray according to His will and in agreement with His word, their prayers enter the presence of God as a sweet aroma. Revelation 5:8 says, and when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders prostrated themselves before the Lamb. Each was holding a harp and they had golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. A life spent in the presence of God is a life that has experienced God. If we could only have a glimpse of what happens in heaven when we pray, we would spend more time opening heaven and have it come down to us. When we pray heavens rejoice and God is moved to bless us. Let's enter His presence with thanksgiving and praises; giving Him glory, and honor due Him!