

The Azusa Street Papers Overview – Committal Prayers of Faith that Move Mountains
Message 16, May 22nd, 2022

Today, we're not talking about the committal prayers that you hear at funerals, but they are committal prayers of faith to keep you in the service of the Lord, that keep you filled with the Holy Spirit and that move God.

ASUZA PAPERS says;

"We have heard the funeral of the Gospel preached, the power of nobody unto nothing, now we are preaching the power of God unto salvation."

In most churches, the first two statements of this quote are being preached today, which almost sounds like a dichotomy or play on words doesn't it, it's lifeless, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, we preach the power of God unto salvation.

In **Matthew 17:14-20** we read how Jesus' disciples are trying to cast out a devil but to no avail. It says; "14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is [a]n epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." 17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O [b]faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your [c]unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Jesus' response would seem a little harsh to His disciples if you're looking at it in the natural, but apparently not, as it was exactly what they needed to hear. But their unbelief did not stop Jesus to heal; He stepped in, rolled up His sleeves and took care of business with the demon. It seems unfair that Jesus would admonish His disciples for their unbelief, and lack of faith, calling them a faithless and perverse generation, when the answer to their question is found in **verse 21**; "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

You could hear the disciples asking then, why are you being so hard on us Jesus, if that's the answer as to why the demons did not leave? What Jesus was saying is that you can have mountain moving faith but without the commitment to fasting and prayer as a lifestyle, some demons can't be cast out. However, Jesus did admonish them for their unbelief and lack of faith. Regardless of how 'unfair' it might have seemed to them, Jesus had good reason to admonish them.

I believe it was critical for Jesus to admonish His disciples for their unbelief and lack of faith, and this shows the heart of the Father who spares no discipline where it's needed for His disciples to believe and have faith for a transaction from God to be made. On the flip side, you can pray and fast all you want, but if you lack faith and are walking in unbelief, the mountains are not going to move. And this is why Jesus admonished His disciples. God saw that the disciples were walking in fear, doubt and unbelief and that was the heart of the issue. Jesus could have easily asked them; have you not seen or heard anything I've done yet, or did you check out in the messages that I've preached? You still don't believe.

The prayers that move mountains and cast out powerful demons obviously require prayers of committal, that are full of faith and believe God for a transaction to be made between God and them.

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ASUZA PAPERS says; *“People have come to this place full of demons and God has cast them out, and they have gone out crying with loud voices. Then when all the demons were cast out, they got saved, sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost, clothed in their right minds and filled with glory and power.”*

Psalm 37:3-5 says; *“3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit[a] your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.”*

It sounds like King David was making a committal prayer and encourages us today to do the same. The prayers of committal require a transaction with God, which is a realistic expectation for Him to answer your prayers. The saints at Azusa Street were dedicated Christians, whose prayers of committal cast out evil spirits and saw transactions from God take place on a regular basis, answers to prayer that took place as a result of mountain moving faith that believed God to watch over His word to perform it, and complete His part of the transaction.

ASUZA PAPERS says;

“SIGNS SHALL FOLLOW.” Jesus said in Mark 16:17, 18, “These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.” He told them to, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” What did this mean? It meant to preach healing, preach casting out of devils, preach that these signs shall follow them that believe, preach all the doctrine of Jesus. If they had preached only a part of the Gospel, would the signs have followed? These signs shall follow them that believe—not them that doubt or believe a part but those that are simple enough and honest enough to believe every word of Jesus. We must believe it all, for if only a part is true, or if anything is changed in His commission of the Gospel to the world, it would not be a perfect Gospel. So a return to the full Gospel brings a return of the signs following them that believe.”

If pastors and preachers are not preaching everything that Jesus commanded, they’re preaching a partial gospel or a gospel in part.

Jesus gives the lesson of the withered fig tree in **Mark 11:20-24**; *“20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.” 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, **whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**”*

There is a big difference between praying repetitively and praying once – and then following up reminding God that you are waiting for His answer to your prayer. Repetitive prayers pray you out of faith, whereas reminding God that you are still waiting for His answer and the transaction to be made, is full of belief and faith for an answer. There is a big difference between the two.

The prayer of committal prays the prayer once and leaves it with God and while waiting for an answer, reminds God that you’re still waiting for His transaction to be made.

In **Luke 11:9-13**, Jesus says; *“9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for [a]bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a*

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scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

ASUZA PAPERS says;

"Sister Mary Perkins, who works in the Apostolic Faith office says, "When I first came from San Jose here last May, I heard of these meetings and came down to see. I had not been in the house an hour before I knew God's Spirit was here, and I commenced seeking the baptism with the Holy Ghost. And, glory to God, He came and completely deluged my soul and body, until I hardly knew whether I was in the body or out. And as the Holy Ghost came upon me, I saw Jesus sitting upon a cloud looking at me and at the congregation, and He said He was coming soon. My tongue commenced to move, and I spoke in an unknown tongue as the Spirit gave utterance. In prayer I often speak in a foreign tongue and at home or in meeting, I often am moved to speak in tongues. Bless God! Glory! -Mrs. Mary P. Perkins."

When a Christian prays to be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, they are not to give up reminding God that they haven't receive His answer until the transaction is made by God that He promised He would give them and that is, they are speaking in tongues. We are living in such and instamatic day and age where we are being programed to receive everything in life instantaneously, so any waiting for God to answer His promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in our lives is very difficult, and this is why it's so important to be committed to your prayer and remind God until you receive the answer. This is a committal prayer where in essence you're saying; 'I prayed a prayer on such and such a date and I'm waiting for the answer, You said You'd answer, but I haven't received it yet'. It's a reminder for Him to watch over His word to perform it. It's not being cocky, out of order or rebellious. No, it's saying to the Father, this is what Your word says and I'm still waiting for the answer to my prayers.

Acts 1:4-5 says; *"4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

The disciples were committed to wait in the upper room till they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which took seven days until they received it. Many Christians today who don't receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues right away, throw up their hands and say, see, it must not be God's will, and hence believe a lie of the devil, instead of being committed to wait to receive God's part of the transaction to be completed.

We continue to read in **Acts 2:1-4** the following; *"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all [a]with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them [b]divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

The prayer of committal walks by faith and not by sight, and trusts that God is going to watch over what He said He would do in His Bible to perform it, and by you reminding Him of what he has written in his word, it builds unwavering faith that pleases God.

Hebrews 11:6 says; *"6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

If you're diligently seeking God and waiting for the answer, stay there til He answers you, however long it takes. Faith has no timetable.

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ASUZA PAPERS says;

“Dear loved ones; it is not by might nor by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. “Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” These were Jesus’ departing words. May you tarry until you receive your personal Pentecost. Amen. -W.J. Seymour.”

1 John 5:14-15 talks about confidence and compassion in prayer; *“14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*

When you ask to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, you have the guarantee that God will hear you. We already know that it’s God’s will to baptize us with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking tongues, for this is what He promised us in Act 1:4-5. So, if we ask Jesus to baptize us with Holy Spirit, we have the confidence that He hears us and we know we have the petition that we have asked of Him. This is praying with committal that gives no room for unbelief or lack of faith and will always guarantee God to answer and watch over His word to perform it in our lives.

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