



We Need to Pray *Series*

(Phil. 4:4-7)

Why We Need to Pray *(Part 2)*

(Eze. 22:23-31)

- I. Adam was God's representative on the earth. *(Gen. 2:15)*
 - A. Adam was to "keep it" (*shā-mar*) - to guard, protect, preserve, etc.¹
 - a. This word shamar is used as a watchman or guardian in certain passages of scriptures. *(Psa. 127:1 - Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.)*
 - B. A representative is someone who re-present the will of another; to be a substitute or agent for another, or to be an example or type of a group.
- II. Man was created for this purpose—he was made in the image and likeness of God. *(Gen. 1:26)*
 - A. Image (*selem*) - a phantom, i.e. (figurative) an illusion, resemblance, hence a representative.²
 - a. An illusion is something that you think you see, but upon closer observation, you discover that it's not.
 - B. Likeness (*dumût*) comes from the root work (*dāmâ*) which means to compare, by implication to resemble.
 - a. Adam was similar to or comparable to God.
 - b. In Psa. 8:5 - It is stated that man was made just a little lower than God (*Elōhîm*), not angels. Man was not made in the likeness of angels, but of God.
 - c. Also in in this passage, it is stated that man was crowned (*ātar*) which means to encircle or compass

¹ Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

² Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary



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(Psa. 5:12, 103), with glory (*kābôd*) which means heavy, weighty.

1. This definition is connected to authority. We use this term today in phrases like, “He carries a lot of weight around here”. Adam carried a lot of weight on earth—he represented God to all of creation!!!
- d. Glory (*doxa*) as is used in the New Testament (*1 Cor. 11:7*) means recognition or that which causes something or someone to be recognized for what it is.
- e. When creation observed Adam, they were supposed to see God’s image or God’s likeness, or God in him.
 1. This was so that man could properly represent God and creation could understand that they were to respond in deference to man.
- C. God gave mankind the ability to create eternal spirits. None of God’s other creation has this ability.
- III. When Adam fell, mankind lost the Glory of God and creation no longer recognized the image and likeness of God. (*Rom. 3:23*)
 - A. For the image of God to be totally restored, we must be changed back from glory to glory. (*2 Cor. 3:18*)
- IV. God wanted a family that could personally relate to Him. He wanted the earth full of His children! (*Gen. 1:28*)
 - A. He wanted children that would choose to reverence Him, love Him, and follow Him—they would do this based upon who He was.
- V. Adam authority on earth was so complete that he could give the earth away, the same way that God gave it to him.

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- A. So complete was God's decision to work through man on earth, that it would cost Him His only Son of Heaven to regain what Adam lost.
- B. With this action, God was forever connected to joint authority with man on the earth. *(Daniel 7:18, 7:27; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 5:10, 20:6, 22:5)*
- VI. Though God is sovereign and all powerful, He limited Himself to work with and through man on earth.
 - A. Isn't this why the earth is in such a horrible condition.
 - B. Man was given the authority to make earth like heaven, a paradise; but man made it like hell, a place of suffering.
- VII. In scripture, the Lord encourages us to pray. *(Luke 18:1)*
 - A. Doesn't God encourage us to pray that His kingdom come and His will be done. Didn't He tell us to pray for daily bread? *(Mat. 6:10-11)*
 - B. Didn't he tell us to pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers? *(Mat. 9:38)*
 - C. Aren't these things that the Lord wants to happen? Why then do we need to pray?
- VIII. Elijah Prays Fervently - *(1 Kings 18)*
 - A. God said that He would send rain upon the earth. *(1)*
 - B. Elijah prays to God. *(41-46)*
 - C. Why did Elijah have to pray?
 - D. Why did he pray seven times?
 - E. It was Elijah's prayers that stopped the rain and started it again. *(Jam. 5:17-18)*