

## Anchored

Pastor Ivan Satyavrata

- Ark Brought into the Temple

<sup>13</sup> "...the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, <sup>14</sup> and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14 NIV**

- Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

<sup>1</sup> ...fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it.

**2 Chronicles 7:1-2 NIV**

<sup>20</sup> May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night ...May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. <sup>21</sup> Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.

**2 Chronicles 6:20-21 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace... <sup>12</sup> the Lord appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> **if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.** <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

**2 Chronicles 7:11-15 NIV**

### 4 Things About Prayer that Moves the Heart of God

1. God's World is Under God's Control

<sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague..."

**2 Chronicles 7:13 NIV**

3-5 I should never have opened my mouth! I've talked too much, way too much. I'm ready to shut up and listen...I babbled on about things far beyond me, made small talk about wonders way over my head...

**Job 40:4-5; 42:3 MSG**

- God is God – he is not obligated to give you and me any explanation for how he runs his universe
  - God has Reasons and Rules
  - Our Best Bet is to Learn What Those Rules are and Start Living by Them!

## 2. God's People are the Key

- God says, "My People, who are called by my name...can make a difference!"

4-6 You have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to me. If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you'll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you're special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.'

**Exodus 19: 4-6 MSG**

- MY People...Called by MY name a special covenant relationship
  - This special relationship brings with it both privilege and responsibility
    - Priests – have special access to God's presence (privilege) represent people to God (responsibility – intercession)
    - Holy Nation – have special access to God's will and purpose (privilege)
    - Obedience that makes them different – to show-case God's nature to those outside the covenant (responsibility)
  - When the people of God fail in their responsibility the world suffers the consequences!

14 "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

**2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV**

## 3. God's Promise is Sure

- a. I Will Hear
  - i. God chooses not to hear some prayers
  - ii. If we do not fulfil his conditions he will not answer!
- b. I Will Forgive Their Sin
  - i. SIN of losing sight of our calling as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation – failure to reflect his nature by the way we live – failing to stand in the gap!

c. I Will Heal Their Land

- i. The world/people out there will benefit when we fulfil God's conditions for prayers to be heard – the sin is ours – the blessing is theirs!

4. God's Conditions are Clear

a. If they will ...**HUMBLE THEMSELVES**

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' <sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' <sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. **For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."**

**Luke 18:11-14 NIV**

<sup>5</sup> God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**1 Peter 5:5 NLT**

b. If they will...**PRAY** and **SEEK** my face

- i. When we seek the face of God, we are seeking his presence

c. If they will...**TURN** from their wicked ways

- i. Repentance – you must want to please me/submit to my will before you can expect me to hear you!

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

**Psalms 51:17 NLT**

*When darkness seems to hide his face; I rest on HIS unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale; My anchor holds within the veil  
On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand*

<sup>19</sup> We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

**Hebrews 6:19 NIV**

- In Jesus God has given us a Hope Anchor in place of the Doomsday Clock – the Hope is...
  - Anchored in the Past > Jesus' Coming
  - Anchored in the Future > Jesus' Return
  - Anchored in the Present > Jesus' Rule
- God says: Ask and you'll receive. There are some things God will not give us until we ask. We cannot suppose that God will do for us without prayer what He has promised to do for us only through prayer.