

Prayer under the dispensation of grace. Lesson 1

By: Dov Avnon

Can we say that prayer is a dispensational issue? Can we say that under the dispensation of grace, prayer life is only on the spiritual level and that God does not want us to pray for material things?

Those are few of the questions that divide grace believers for some years. Personally I think that we have here to do with a carnal wisdom packed with bible verses or with wrongly dividing the words of truth as it was that material issue has only to do with Israel and the earthly kingdom.

I do believe that we must learn about prayer in the dispensation of grace from the apostle Paul in his letters. I do believe that God wants us to pray with much spiritual understanding.

**7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matt. 6**

People calling those verses LORDS PRAYER. If you read those verses and you know that we are living under the dispensation of grace and not under the earthly kingdom. You will understand how important it is to be wise and with spiritual understanding when you study about prayer in the dispensation of grace.

Yes God wants us not to pray as the heathen. Using Matt 6:7-13 in this dispensation of grace will be a heathen prayer. It means you pray without understanding. God's spirit which in you makes no fruit.

So let's see step by step what is Christ teaching us through Paul about prayer

ROMANS 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing **I make mention of you always in my prayers;**

10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; 12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

You see there is a clear purpose in this prayer. Of course you are free to pray to whatever you want. Of course you are free to pray for any unbeliever that you want or for money, work or for the latest model car. But if you count yourself as a spiritual grown saved person, you will always take God's word as the light for your prayer life under grace.

The real comfort we suppose to have from our brothers and sisters – we have mutual faith with believers and not with the unbeliever.

So remember do not pray as the **heathen**. And today we have much of fantasy and imagination among God's Children that cause many to pray like heathen

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**know not what we should pray for as we ought**

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26

If you look around you you will see that every one pray. Saved or not seved people are praying. Jews muslim Christian are praying. So the issue is not if people are praying or not but WHAT are the praying. Some time you will hear people asking “pray for me” “someone at my family is heal” pray for him etc. I ask some time people “pray for what ?” so you see we have a basic need as people to talk to God to share with Him everything and yet this does not mean that **we are praying as we ought !**

**26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities** – The spirit of God which live in us is the power behind our prayer life. You see we as sinner like to talk to God like heathen. We are talking and talking with less space to listen. The spirit of God must be inspired by the word of God in order that we will pray as we should.

I understand that people get insult when you point them that their prayer is not in one line with God’s word under the dispensation of Grace. It is the same when we say to someone that his water baptism is not in one line with the teaching for this dispensation of grace.

This why Paul say:

**18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Eph. 4:18**

**16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Col 3:16**

Just read those verses few times and you will see that it is God's word for this dispensation of grace that must fill our prayer life. Prayer is very important but it is going together with:

**be filled with the Spirit**

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom**

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Pray for Israel

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ROMANS 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good. Psalm 122:6

In our third Bible study about prayer we going to talk about Israel. Some argue that they can pray about anything that they want other told me that they will not let Paul tell them what to pray or how.

People are very sensitive when it is about prayer , because it is God's word that showing us whether someone pray wisely in the spirit or just use his imagination or fantasy.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Heb 4:12

If you read ROMANS 10:1 again and again you will see that Paul is not just praying for Israel political situation or for the peace in the middle east as many today are doing. He say "... that they might be saved..." There are many organizations in our days that believe that a Jew in some way have different way to be saved then the not Jew. Other say that if a jew will do his best at is own religion things will be ok. But this of course is not true. Jew or Gentile have only one name in which all of us can be saved.

**12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10.**

So you see this mean to pray with the spirit and in wisdom. Why does Paul have to pray for Israel if thay anyhow will be saved.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: Rom 11:26.

Just read Romans chapter 9-11 few time and you will see few important things like – not all Israel are Israel because the name Israel means WITH GOD. Yes all those from Israel who will survive the great tribulation will be saved but Paul is writing about Israel in the dispensation of grace. Paul is praying for them because he know:

**2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Rom. 10**

So let's remember this anyone who - **establish their own righteousness** – need a prayer to be saved.

So once again we just see how important it is to pray and at the same time to have spiritual understanding that we are living in the dispensation of grace.

ROMANS 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

ROMANS 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in [your] prayers to God for me;

4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

4:4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Kol 4

Prayer under the dispensation of grace. Lesson 4

Pray without ceasing

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**Pray without ceasing.**

**1 THESSALONIANS Chapter 5:16-22**

As I already say before, if you want to know how to pray in the dispensation of grace, you should go first to Paul's letters. Paul's instruction to "Pray without ceasing." is simple that we should not stop praying. This verse in itself does not contradict any other verses that Paul receives from the Lord about prayer. So keep praying do not stop but at the same time do not be like a heathen praying without any knowledge or spiritual enlightenment. If you read carefully 1 Thess 5:16-22, you will see that "Pray without ceasing." is part of a series of instructions. So let's see verse by verse what Christ our Lord is telling us here through Paul our apostle.

16 Rejoice evermore.- show great happiness, this verse telling us to show a different attitude than in the verse before **15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.**

In Paul's days like in our days a believer might go through many persecutions or unpleasant moments – in such a situation our old nature will tell us to do: **evil for evil** this is why we receive the instruction: Rejoice evermore – (more about this we can read also in Philippians 4:4-7)

17 Pray without ceasing. – After we understand that prayer is going together with "Rejoice evermore" we will understand how important it is to pray in the light of the things that Christ already gives us in His grace. You see you will find many who are praying to have that JOY, while our prayer life should be because we already "**Rejoice evermore**" prayer as such will not bring you any joy back it is what are you praying that is doing the work.

**2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Romans 5**

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

You see prayer is not just emotional act where in we are talking to God about whatever we want like a **heathen** which mean without knowledge in God's will. Prayer is very important spiritual tool like the written word of God. In prayer we first give thank to the Lord. We acknowledge what He did for us. **the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.** Is not just each one of us as an individuals with our own dreams and desires. It is about US as a body of believers as a Church "the body of Christ". Gods will or plan deal with Gods purpose for this body.

19 Quench not the Spirit. – Do not take out the Spirit. – you see ! Paul is telling us not to stop praying but at the same time do not take out the Spirit from your prayer life. This mean that Prayer should always be in accordance with the written word of God for this dispensation of Grace because this is the way how it is working.

I know that many are against any dispensational bible teaching because they feel like we put God in a box but this not true. Many equipments that you bought in your life have user manual and so also our prayer life.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.  
Romans 8

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth – just remember that this help wil not come just like this unless you first know and understand the will of God for you under this dispensation of grace.

Prayer under the dispensation of grace. Lesson 5

Despise not prophesyings.

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**20 Despise not prophesyings.**

**21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**

**22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

**23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 THESSALONIANS Chapter 5**

When Paul is giving us the instruction how to pray under this dispensation of grace, he is saying: **20 Despise not prophesyings.**

There is today much confusion around the subject prophesy especially in the so called charismatic theology. In our next study will talk about woman prophesying and how wrong it is to teach it under this dispensation of grace.

Does it mean that because we are living under the dispensation of grace, we do not have anything with prophesyings? NO!

It is most important to understand that when Paul is saying **Despise not prophesying**, He is not telling us about the old testament prophesy or the word that Christ was talking to the nation Israel regarding the earthly kingdom. When Paul is saying: **Despise not prophesyings**. It is all about the dispensation of grace.

What is prophesy? To reveal by divine inspiration!

The preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery was spread to the Churches through prophets.

**by the scriptures of the prophets** - 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: Romans 16:26

**secondarily prophets** - 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Cor. 12:28

**speakech unto men** 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 1 Cor 14:3

**built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets** - 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; Eph. 2:20

**apostles and prophets by the Spirit;** - 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Eph 3:5

**and some, prophets** - 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Eph 4:11

From reading those verses, we are understanding now that the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery was first revealed to Paul our apostle and made known to the churches through prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

So again when Paul is writing us about **20 Despise not prophesying 1 thess 5:20** – He is simple telling us not stop praying and to do it according to the revelation that Christ gave him = **prophesying**

That which is perfect is come

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 1 Cor 13

Do we still have the gift of prophesy today ? after Christ gave to Paul the last revelation concerning the dispensation of Grace.? NO! We only have the written word of God.

I know that many have problem with - **that which is perfect is come** – most people think that it is about the coming of Christ back to earth. While Paul is teaching here about the fulfilling of the word of God.

**25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Col 1:25**

So again - Pray without ceasing - Despise not prophesying – and do not forget that in Paul letters we have the complete revelation from God. The only thing that we must do in order to understand it and enjoy from it is to rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15

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making mention of you in our prayers;

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If you look around, you probably hear people asking to pray for them. "please pray for my family someone is at the hospital" "please pray for me I am going through hard time" or many other requests about many other daily needs. The question is pray for what ?

I received recently a phone call from a brother in the Lord whom wife had to go to hospital. "Dov I need your prayers" because I knew that this brother do not believe that we are under the dispensation of grace. His request was mainly that God will heal his wife. My answer to this brother was, " I will mention your wife in my prayers" I will pray that both of you will get strong in God's grace" and of course I wish any one much health in this life. However I do not teach that healing from sickness is still part of the dispensation of Grace as it was in the beginning .

**28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Cor 12:28**

Before we are starting to put our daily needs (and there are many of them) as the main goal of our prayer life. Let's read about the real meaning of mentioning others in prayers.

Just remember that the so called present Christianity is on the one side full of all kind of prayers meetings while on the other side they do not accept that Christ gave the apostle Paul the dispensation of grace. This is the main reason why many of those prayers meeting are not in accordance with Gods will for this dispensation of grace.

Making mention

**1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4**

Giving thanks - making mention – Remembering – Knowing

Am I free to mention everything which is on my heart to God ? The answer is yes ! We are free in this life to choose between prayer according to Gods plan or a prayer like heathen based on our fantasy, imagination or feelings.

Just read 1 Thess. 1:2-4 again. What is all about? To give thanks! About what “Our daily bread”? no he give thanks “for you all”. Prayer is just an act, so it is not about if you pray but What are you praying. Mentioning other saints in prayer is very important. It is a way to remind us each day that we are part of a great body. Remembering is also important part in our prayer life under grace. **“work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope”**. You see the stand fast of other saints in the gospel of grace will comfort us too.

**:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; :10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. Romans 1:10**

Dear reader remember that in all time we are free to pray to Gods has a **heathen** with out any spiritual knowledge and understanding or to pray to God according to His will under this dispensation of grace.