

Speaker: Pastor Ray Choi
Date: September 20, 2009
Title: Vision for the Church: Power of God through Prayer
Passage: Various

Recommended Reading: *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels

Understanding the Power of God

The Israelites engaged in idol worship and brought God's judgment upon themselves. God calls Jeremiah to rebuke and to ask Israel to repent from their sins. Jeremiah understood that God had the power to save Israel from their enemies or to bring judgment upon the people because of their sins.

Jeremiah 32:17 ¹⁷ "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

The Greatness of God found in Jeremiah's prayer

- It is by God's **GREAT power and outstretched arm** (v17) that everything is created in heaven and on earth. God's power has no limits and nothing is too hard or difficult for Him.
- Our God is **GREAT and powerful** (v18) who brings judgment on those who sin against Him and love those who love Him.
- It is by God's sovereign grace that everything has come to be. **GREAT are your purposes and mighty are your deeds** (v19).
- God delivered the nation of Israel from Egypt with a **mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with GREAT terror** (v21). God's power can be expressed through love or judgment.

We serve a great and powerful God. But oftentimes we pray with hesitancy and without power. We need to pray with expectation that our God will hear our cries. God knows our future plans as individuals and as a church. God hears our cries when we call on God with all of our heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Understanding Who We Are

We are God's **Children** and we are God's **Adoptive Sons**. As a result we have an inheritance found in heaven and we have the Spirit of the Living God living inside of each of us.

Ephesians 1:17-19 ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength.

Prayer for God's Power in Our Church

- What kind of a church do we want to be?
- Where do we want to go?
- What are we passionate about as a church?
- What type of risks are we willing to make as a church?
- Where do I fit in?