

crafted prayer

Needless to say, the boy was healed, the mission was saved, and David is now being resourced by his erstwhile opponent!

The change in David has been remarkable. Through these circumstances, God has fashioned a man of courage, conviction, humility, and power.

"God allows in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power."

He has moved into a level of supernatural gifting that has resulted in an evangelistic breakthrough for the work. Although still living at the whim of this despotic character (who has not changed!), David is tolerated and even encouraged in his ministry to that people group.

All of the things I felt prompted to pray for in this circumstance have happened. Out of oppression and adversity, God has produced a work that cannot be denied or stopped!

When I shared my initial perceptions and my crafted prayers with David, it was more powerful to him than an actual prophetic word. If I had told him sooner, he would have become fearful and distressed; he simply would not have endured the struggle. His fear, especially for his family, would have dominated his faith.

There are precedents in Scripture for this type of situation. Consider Acts 20:22–23:

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"And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me."

On one hand, the Lord revealed and confirmed to Paul the dangers awaiting him. On the other, he has no clue about what the end result would be.

Interestingly enough, no one felt compelled to exercise authority over the situation. Paul, however, knows the will of God for his time in Jerusalem and presumably can craft prayers that will align himself with God's greater purpose. He definitely knew that the peace of God, which passes all understanding, would prevent anxiety and guard his heart (Philippians 4:6–7).

"... key ministries do not rescue God's people from legitimate struggle."

heavenly dialogue

The other scriptural insight that is compatible with this type of situation is found in Luke 22:31–32:

"And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith

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should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’”

Jesus could have simply taken authority over the enemy and prevented the situation from actually happening. However, He recognized that it was important for Simon Peter to struggle through to a deeper place of faith and relationship. Simon had to discover something profound about himself and also the love of God for him.

God wants us to know what He is praying. Jesus went to Simon Peter and explained that Satan wanted to sift the disciple like wheat. “But I have prayed for you,” Jesus said. In what might have been the most significant moment of Peter’s life, Jesus told him what He was praying for: “That your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” Peter got to live, be significant, and know that this attack of the enemy wasn’t going to stop him. In fact, it was going to make him strong enough to be a help to his brothers. Satan wanted to beat him, but, in Heaven, there was a different plan and conversation unfolding.

The Western Church, in my belief, has a flawed understanding of the Trinity. We picture a large figure of authority (the Father), a medium figure of grace (Jesus) and a bird (the Holy Spirit)! Inadvertently, we

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downgrade the Holy Spirit’s power in our life – what can a bird do, after all?

I greatly prefer the Eastern Church’s view of the Trinity: three equals, sitting at a round table, talking. If Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father, interceding, and the Holy Spirit is there, praying according to the will of God, then there must be a conversation amongst the Three going on. Don’t you wonder what they are saying about you in any given situation? What’s the conversation in Heaven over your life right now? By exploring and seeking out this heavenly dialogue, we can learn what God’s will is for a situation and, by extension, what we should be praying.

By seeking the conversation in Heaven for ourselves, we embark on a great spiritual adventure, where we are conformed to the will of God. It’s a fascinating way to live, because it allows us to rise above our circumstances and pray in line with a God who adores us, and wants us to be supremely confident in doing His will. He wants us to find joy in our situation, and to understand that there’s nothing out there that can beat us, because of who He is in us. By listening in to the conversation in Heaven, we learn that a single situation can have massive repercussions on a number of people. Isaiah listened

“There will be no peace as long as God remains unseated at the conference table.”
Unknown

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