

AUTHORITATIVE, ERRORLESS PRAYER

{Farewell Address of Our Lord} Thanks to Sherwood Smith, my good friend.

John 14, 15, 16

{Judas is betraying, the apostles are sad, and Jesus is troubled in spirit (John 16:1, 6, 22, 32, 33)}

I. THIS SECTION OF SCRIPTURE DEALS WITH COMFORTING THE APOSTLES.

A. There are six sources of comfort for the apostles:

1. Assurance of Jesus' identity or deity (14:9).
2. The coming of the Holy Spirit to provide inspiration and revelation. (14:16-17, 26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:16). The apostles had the mind of Christ, we do not.
3. Awesome work was promised to the apostles (14:12).
4. They would be involved in establishing the Kingdom of God in all the earth. (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:10).
5. They had assurance of victory (16:33).
6. Jesus will come again (14:3, 18).
7. They could pray authoritative, errorless prayers.

II. A DISCUSSION OF AUTHORITATIVE, ERRORLESS PRAYER.

A. A number of spiritual benefits came from this:

1. Their prayer would help them build the Kingdom (14:13).
2. Their prayer would have no parameter (14:14; 15:7).
3. Jesus will no longer be doing the praying for them (16:23, 26).
4. They would be led into all the truth.
5. They will be taught by the Holy Spirit errorlessly (14:26; 16:13).
6. They would not have to pray, "Thy will be done." Their prayers would BE the will of God (Matt. 18:19-20).

III. THIS IS NOT A UNIVERSAL PROMISE.

A. Several reasons we must be cautious here:

1. We are not inspired in our requests.
2. We cannot claim authority we do not have (Acts 19:15).
3. This promise is limited (15:16). Only 12 apostles were chosen, appointed and ordained.
4. We must all study to show ourselves approved.

IV. PRAYER IS HOWEVER, UNIVERSAL IN NATURE.

A. Universal prayer is to be enjoined by all:

1. Pray to one mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).
2. We are saved by His intercessory life (Rom. 5:10; 8:34). We are saved through His life.
3. God does keep His word.
4. Prayer does chance things; it is not to be diminished.
5. The function of true prayer is to bring us dead center with the will of God (1 John 5:14-15).