

Stephens, GregSpeak the Word

12. Using Your Command Authority in Prayer

Copeland argues that command authority reshapes not just how you fight the devil but how you pray. He teaches that Jesus prayed command prayers and taught His disciples to do the same, so believers should speak to their problems and stand on God's promises rather than begging God to act.

Key takeaways

- The Lord's Prayer is a command prayer: "Your kingdom come" and "Your will be done" are commands, not timid requests.
- Don't pray like the heathen with endless begging and repetition. The Father already knows your needs before you ask.
- The Greek word 'aiteo' (translated 'ask') means an authoritative, covenant-backed request made with respect but full expectation of receiving.
- Speak to the 'mountain' — command the problem to line up with God's Word — instead of begging God to fix it for you.

- The answers to every prayer are already in the Bible. Start your prayer with the answer (a promise) rather than the problem.
- Prepare for prayer like an important meeting: find out what God has already promised, then present His Word back to Him and believe you receive.
- Don't major on the minors. Sanctification comes through Jesus' offering once for all — not by hair length, clothes, or man-made rules.
- Focus on righteousness, not sin: 'Awake to righteousness, and sin not.' Confess sin, receive forgiveness, and move on.
- In Christ we are more than conquerors — Jesus won the battle and handed us the victory.

Passages worth keeping

“Your kingdom come is a command. Your will be done is a command.”

Core claim that the Lord's Prayer is command prayer, not pleading.

“Why start with the problem when you pray? Why not start with the answer?”

Sums up his whole method — pray the promise, not the crisis.

How it connects

The chapter ties command prayer back to identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 2:6-10): as you behold Jesus in the Word you're transformed, and knowing who you are in Him is what makes authoritative prayer possible.

Scripture referenced

- **Matthew 6:7-13** -- Avoid vain repetition; the Lord's Prayer as command prayer
- **Mark 11:22-24** -- Speak to the mountain, believe you receive
- **Isaiah 55:11** -- God's Word will not return void
- **1 Corinthians 15:34** -- Awake to righteousness, and sin not
- **Hebrews 10:10** -- Sanctified through the offering of Jesus once for all
- **Romans 8:37** -- We are more than conquerors through Christ