

Matthew 18:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Analysis

Jesus promises that two believers agreeing in prayer will receive answers from 'my Father which is in heaven.' This isn't blank-check prayer but corporate prayer aligned with God's will. The context of church discipline shows this particularly applies to restoration and kingdom purposes. Reformed theology emphasizes prayer's efficacy when offered in faith according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15). The 'two or three' number establishes witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15) and demonstrates that Christ's presence empowers corporate prayer.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition required two or three witnesses to establish truth (Deuteronomy 19:15). Jesus applies this to prayer—corporate prayer carries special authority. The 'agreeing' (Greek 'symphōneō'—harmonize, from which 'symphony' derives) emphasizes unity of purpose. Early church practice emphasized corporate prayer (Acts 1:14, 2:42, 4:24).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does praying with other believers strengthen faith and effectiveness?
2. What hinders genuine agreement in corporate prayer?
3. How can you cultivate unity in prayer with fellow Christians?

Interlinear Text

Πάλιν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐὰν δύο ὑμῶν συμφωνήσωσιν
Again I say unto you That if two of you shall agree

G3825 G3004 G5213 G3754 G1437 G1417 G5216 G4856

ἐπὶ τοῦ γῆς περὶ παντὸς πράγματος οὗ ἐὰν
on which earth as touching any thing G3739 if

G1909 G3588 G1093 G4012 G3956 G4229 G1437

αἰτήσωνται γενήσεται αὐτοῖς παρὰ τοῦ πατρός μου
they shall ask it shall be done for them of which Father my

G154 G1096 G846 G3844 G3588 G3962 G3450

τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς
which is in heaven

G3588 G1722 G3772

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 7:7 (Parallel theme): Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Mark 11:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Philippians 1:19 (Parallel theme): For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

John 16:23 (Parallel theme): And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Matthew 21:22 (Parallel theme): And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

John 15:7 (Parallel theme): If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1 John 3:22 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Acts 12:5 (Parallel theme): Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Acts 1:14 (Parallel theme): These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.