This is an excerpt from a teaching entitled: The Counsel of the Lord by Apostle Robert Henderson – Author of the book Operating in the Courts of Heaven.

The Courts of Heaven and the Counsel of the Lord are two different dimensions. They are similar. In the Courts of Heaven you always have an adversary that you are dealing with and you are seeking to remove his legal right to resist God’s will in the earth. In the Counsel of the Lord we are simply making decisions with God concerning God’s will in the earth. There is no adversary there.

The protocol we use in the Court of Heaven is different from the protocol we use in the Counsel of the Lord. We are going to look at a Biblical picture of the Counsel of the Lord.

There are three dimensions of prayer. The first dimension of prayer is found in Luke 11 and 18 where we approach God as Father. In Luke 11:2 Jesus says, “*I have no food to offer him When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven”.* In Luke 11:5-6 Jesus says*, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and”.* This is the second dimension of prayer where we approach God as friend.

When we approach God as Father it is about getting our own needs met. When we approach God as friend we are in the position of intercession.

In Luke 18:1-8 we have the parable of the unjust judge. The judge finally gave her what she wanted because she kept nagging him. Jesus said that God will quickly avenge His own elect when they cry out to Him. This third dimension of prayer is where we go into the judicial system of heaven and approach God as judge. When we come before God as judge we are dealing with an adversary.

The majority of our prayer time will be spent fellowshipping, making petitions and requesting of the Father. We only approach Him as judge when something is resisting us or we are not getting answers to our prayers or we are dealing with something on an apostolic level over a city, state or a nation.

We are going to talk about the Counsel of the Lord. This is the second dimension of approaching God as friend.

*Luke 11:5-8 New King James Version (NKJV)*

*A Friend Comes at Midnight*

***5****And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves;****6****for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;****7****and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’?****8****I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.*

Jesus is talking about prayer here. He is using the same logic that He later used in Luke 18 when He spoke about the unjust judge. He is not saying that God is an unjust judge that has to be convinced. He is saying that if a widow could get a verdict from an unjust judge, how much more can we His children, come before the righteous Judge, the Judge of all the earth, and see Him render verdicts on our behalf and in our favor. Here in Luke 11:5-8 He is not saying that God is a friend you are going to get out of bed. His point is that if this man could through persistence get his friend out of bed and move his friend to give him what was necessary then how much can we come before God who is our friend and see Him move for those who we are interceding for.

What does it mean to be a friend of God?

1. It means our descendants are blessed, chosen and receive an inheritance. Being a friend of God is a significant thing.

2 Chronicles 20:7

***7****Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?*

God is saying Israel got blessed because Abraham was His friend. The principle is that your children are going to be blessed if you are a friend of God. It is saying that because Abraham was God’s friend a whole nation of his descendants were blessed. They received their inheritance. God was going to keep His covenant with Abraham. If we are a friend of God then God promises a blessing on our descendants. On our children, our grand-children, our great grand-children, He promises that blessing on them. It is a good thing to be a friend of God.

You may say we are all a friend of God. Jesus said to the disciples: *“ I no longer call you servants, I call you friends.”* (John 15:15) God wants everybody to be His friend but everybody is not His friend. If you are a friend of God it is because you have a history with Him that He honors. You have a life of righteousness with Him that He honors. That does not mean you have to be perfect. We are not perfect.

There is rank in the spirit realm. There are people who maybe because of calling, because of history, because of obedience, they have obtained a place in God. These people usually have a great humility in their lives. God’s favor is on them and He protects them and He guards them. He becomes the friend of their friends and maybe even the enemy of their enemies.

Pray: Lord let me walk in such a way that is pleasing to You. Let me walk in such a way that is worthy of the calling I have received. I want to be a friend of God. Thank you Father.

1. We know secrets that others do not know. This is John 15:15 –

**15***No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

Here is what He is saying, he says if you are my friend I am going to tell you secrets no one else knows. Now from those secrets you will be able to pray. This is one of the key issues of a friend in regards to prayer. We pray from the secrets that have been revealed to us. Abraham was a friend of God. God revealed to Abraham His plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 18:17 God says:

***17****And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing*,”

The Lord makes the decision to tell Abraham that He is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. From that secret that Abraham is the only one on the face of earth knows, what does Abraham do? Abraham goes into the Counsel of the Lord and from the secret that has been revealed to him, he seeks to give God the right to be merciful rather than to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

God reveals [some] things to us not that we can prophesy them but that we can pray about them. God is looking for some friends who He can tell things that maybe nobody else knows. So that, from the revelation that He is giving, there can be prayer, as a friend, that will allow God to change course. Abraham understood that.

1. To be a friend of God means that you are standing in a place of intercession for others. Luke 11:5-8

***5****And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves;****6****for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;****7****and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’?****8****I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs*

He says there is a friend who comes to him on his journey. Notice there is a friend standing between two friends. He is in the middle. That is always a picture of intercession. When we approach God as friend we are approaching Him for the needs of others. Every place you see people functioning as a friend of God it is always on behalf of somebody else.

Abraham functioned as a friend on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Moses functioned as a friend of God on behalf of the children of Israel.

They were asking God not for themselves but on behalf of someone else. They were in the middle. They were the friend that could intercede until someone else’s needs were met.

Notice the scripture says the friend who comes to him on his journey. What we do we pray for people as the friend of God to see them come into the destiny that God ordained for them. He is on a journey. He is trying to reach a destination. God will give us assignments to pray for people who need to reach their destiny in God. We will stand in the middle and say to God our friend, “Lord would you please release what is necessary. I do not have it. I do not have anything to set before them. The greatest thing I can do is to appeal to you as my friend on behalf of this friend. I ask you Lord to release what they need and help them to come into the destiny that God ordained for them.”

Being a friend of God is a position of intercession on behalf of others. God is looking for some people that are His friends that can pray others into their destiny.

[Pray for your children – Pray that they will come into their destiny.]

1. God is looking for some people that He can invite into His Counsel. People that He can invite into the Counsel of the Lord. How do you know this? Because Abraham as the friend of God was invited into the Counsel of the Lord. When Abraham was pleading for Sodom and Gomorrah he was not in the Courts of Heaven. Why? Because there was no adversary there. He was just in counsel with God so that he and God together could make decisions concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. They made decisions together and came to the agreement that if there were 10 righteous in Sodom God would spare it.

God is looking for some people that He can invite into the Counsel of the Lord and they together can make decisions even about nations. The Counsel of the Lord often deals with nations.

It is as if the Lord said to Abraham, “For you Abraham I will spare Sodom if there are 10 righteous. I would not do it just for anybody but for you who are my friend, I will do it.” Once you are invited into the Counsel as his friend you have tremendous influence. He will do things for friends that He would not do for other people.

In Jeremiah 23:18 we see the term the council of the LORD:

***18****For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord,
And has perceived and heard His word?
Who has marked His word and heard it?*

Jeremiah is asking who has stood in the counsel of the LORD? The word counsel is the Hebrew word “etsah” which means to counsel, to give advice. He asking who can give advice to God? God can invite individuals but He also wants to invite the corporate body.

Apostle Henderson shared a report from a trip he made to Germany. He stayed at the house of a 79 year old man and his wife who were fathers of the ecclesia in Germany. He is a legitimate spiritual father to Germany. The man shared how several years ago God had told him to begin to bring the father’s of Germany together. He brought together those who had nationwide ministries. They were not meeting for their ministries they were meeting for the destiny of Germany. They were there to be the fathers of Germany to ensure that what was written in the books of heaven about Germany would be fulfilled. Those leaders that had other agendas began to fall out. They would meet every two months of two days. They ended up with 30 ministries that consistently came together every two months for two days.

Once that was established they not only loved God but they fell in love with each other. They were not longer trying to impress each other with how important their ministries were. They were there for the destiny of Germany. When they came together all they would do is that they would worship and they would pray no one preached. For two days this is what they would do. This bond was created whereby they became a corporate man. Then suddenly they were invited into the Counsel of the Lord. When they went into the Counsel of the Lord, they told the Lord that they wanted Agela Merkel to be the Chancellor of Germany. Three days later she was elected.

After telling him this, the man looked at Apostle Robert Henderson and said “God wants you to do that in America”. Apostle Henderson said that God has given him a place in His Counsel for America. He has allowed him to pull people together that maybe nobody knows but heaven knows them. They have been able to come into a realm of unity. [As a corporate man] they have been able to step into the Courts of Heaven and see decisions made about America.

God gives us the privilege to be a part of the decision making concerning nations. He is looking for some people to bring into those places. Who has stood in the counsel of the Lord? Why is he asking the question? We need to say “Lord I am willing to go there. I am willing to be a part and take my place.”

Let us look at some places where we see the Counsel of the Lord:

1. God made decisions about man-kind from this counsel.

Genesis 1:26

***26****Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26a)*] the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

God made the decision about a human race existing in the planet from counsel. He said “Let us..”

God may involve human beings in the counsel. He involves other entities in heaven in the counsel.

1. Abraham stood in His counsel. Genesis 18: 23-26

***23****And Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?****24****Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?****25****Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

***26****So the Lord said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”*

It Abraham came near. He was standing before the Lord. He was standing in the Counsel of the Lord. Abraham as a friend of God understood the heart of God. Abraham knew what he needed to do in the Counsel of the Lord. He was reasoning with God. God is looking for someone to take that place. Abraham asks God if He would destroy the righteous with the wicked. Because he is the friend of God, God is not upset about the questions. Then [respectfully] Abraham says “I will speak but once more”. He had a fear of God.

[Pray Lord please help us to have the fear of God.]

When you come into the Counsel of the Lord there is this awesome sense of His presence. It is a place to practice proper protocol.

[Pray God teach us by the Spirit the protocol of the Counsel of the Lord.]

1. Micaiah stood in the Counsel of the Lord. 1 Kings 22:19-23.

***19****Then Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.****20****And the Lord said, ‘Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.****21****Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, ‘I will persuade him.’****22****The Lord said to him, ‘In what way?’ So he said, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And the Lord said, ‘You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.’****23****Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you.”*

Here God is about to take the leader of Israel out. That is Ahab. The decision concerning Ahab happens in the Counsel of the Lord. Ahab is a wicked king and God wants to take him out. Jehoshaphat has joined with Ahab to go to war against Ramoth Gilead. All Ahab’s prophets are telling Ahab what a great king he is. They told him that the Lord would deliver Ramoth Gilead into his hands. Jehoshaphat was not convinced. He asked for a prophet of the Lord and they sent for Micaiah. The verses above describe what Micaiah saw in the Counsel of the Lord. Here we see God taking counsel from His created beings. We do not know the place that God will grant us. Here God took counsel.

God wants to invite us to participate in the decisions that are made in heaven about who would be the leader of a nation and how they would be established. There are some people leading nations that are not supposed to be leading nations. The ecclesia of the nation has not stepped into the Counsel of the Lord and with God make decisions concerning the nation.

1. Isaiah stood in the Counsel of the Lord.

Isaiah 6:7-9

***7****And he touched my mouth with it, and said:*

*“Behold, this has touched your lips;
Your iniquity is taken away,
And your sin purged.”*

***8****Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:*

*“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”*

*Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”*

***9****And He said, “Go, and tell this people:*

*‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.*

Isaiah is in the presence of the Lord. It was the year that King Uzziah died. The death of strategic people, signal a significant shift in the spirit realm of the earth. It is happening right now. When Uzziah died something shifted and Isaiah stepped into a new dimension of the spirit. He moved into a heavenly realm that he clearly had not been in before. Some of the deaths that are occurring now are [evidence of] things shifting in the spirit realm.

For years it has been prophesied that when Billy Graham died there would be a vast shift. [Billy Graham died on February 21, 2018]. There are tremendous shifts taking place. There is about to be a release of wealth in the earth.

When Moses died God told Joshua – Go take the land.

When Elijah was taken away the mantle fell on Elisha.

Significant things happen when people die. God is moving old things out so that something new can come in.

In Isaiah 6:7-9 we see the Lord saying – Who will go for us? The word “us” means there was a counsel. Then Isaiah says – Here am I, send me. He inserts himself into the Counsel of the Lord. The decision made in this counsel was who would be the messenger and what would be the message that he would carry.

God is releasing new messages today but the decisions concerning the messenger and the message are being made in the Counsel of the Lord.

1. Moses stood in the Counsel of the Lord.

 Numbers 14:11-20

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***11****Then the Lord said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?****12****I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”*

***13****And Moses said to the Lord: “Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them,****14****and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Lord, are among these people; that You, Lord, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.****15****Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying,****16****‘Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.’****17****And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying,****18****‘The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.’[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+14%3A11-20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-4127a)*]****19****Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”*

***20****Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word;*

Here God is telling Moses that He is going to wipe out the children of Israel. Moses says you cannot do that. Moses begins to counsel and contend with the Lord about a decision that it seems God had already made. This allowed God’s mind to be changed. Every time we see God’s people in the Counsel they are securing mercies from God.

1. Jesus, Peter, John and James are in the Counsel of the Lord.

Luke 9:29-36

***29****As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.****30****And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,****31****who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.****32****But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.****33****Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.*

***34****While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud.****35****And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son.[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A29-36&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25337a)*] Hear Him!”****36****When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.*

Jesus takes them on to the mountain and Moses and Elijah appear. They are in the Counsel of the Lord discussing the death that Jesus will experience in Jerusalem. They hear the voice of God coming from the cloud. Peter, James and John are watching. Why does Jesus have them there? Because He wants them to become familiar with the Counsel of the Lord. He wants them to learn how to function in the Counsel. Peter breaks protocol. He wants to build tabernacles because he does not know what to do or say. Moses and Elijah are part of the cloud of witnesses. When the cloud leaves they are gone.

God wants to invite us into His Counsel.

*PRAYER TIME*

*Lord Jesus teach me the fear of the Lord. Teach me how to still my heart to posture myself before you Lord. That you can prepare me as one that can step into the Counsel of the Lord. Lord I want to be made ready. If there is anything in me that would hinder this as an individual or as a corporate people, Lord I give you the right and the permission to remove that from my life that I might be trusted as your friend to step into your Counsel.*

*Lord I want to be your friend. Lord let me be your friend. Let everything and anything that needs to be removed from me Lord as I move into friendship with you will you let that be done now. Lord I invite that process into my life that I could be one that could be granted entrance into your Counsel.*

*Lord I recognize that this is not a place that I just go. It is a place where I must be invited. I ask you Lord to do everything in me that needs to be done that I might come into that place. Thank you for this Lord.*