

Lessons From Prison Pt. 5

September 3, 2020

The Prayers Of The Saints Have Great Power With God

Philippians 1:19 ESV

19 for I know that through your prayers and the help (*epichorēgia* - supply, a supplying) **of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,**

- Paul knew he was being carried by the power of the prayers of the Philippian church.

The Power Of Prayer

“What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use — men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men, men of prayer.” —E.M. Bounds

James 5:14-18 ESV

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

- If the prayers of Elijah, who was a man just like us, could pray and change the course of nature and nations, our prayers will do no less.
- Our prayers do not have great power because of who prays them nor for the eloquence of the words, but because of the great God Who loves us so much, that He hears and answers them.
- The power of answered prayer is the power of His love for His children.

Hebrews 7:25 ESV

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- *able (dynamai) to have power, able, strength, resources*

Prayer Fills In The Breach Supplying What Is Lacking And Needed

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.”

—John Wesley

Ezekiel 22:23-31 ESV

23 And the word of the LORD came to me:

24 "Son of man, say to her, You are a land that is not cleansed or rained upon in the day of indignation.

25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst.

26 Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things. They have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have disregarded my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.

28 And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken.

29 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice.

30 And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

31 Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them. I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath. I have returned their way upon their heads, declares the Lord GOD."

1 Timothy 2:1-4 ESV

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 ESV

6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

1 John 2:1-2 ESV

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 7:25 ESV

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- to the uttermost (pantelēs) full-ended, all complete, perfectly, utterly

- *Jesus' prayers for you are supplying everything you lack; and so do our prayers for others.*

Prayer Is To Be Continual

"Prayer is a trade to be learned. We must be apprentices and serve our time at it. Painstaking care, much thought, practice and labour are required to be a skillful tradesman in praying. Practice in this, as well as in all other trades, makes perfect."
—E.M. Bounds

Hebrews 7:25 ESV

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- *You are never more like Jesus, then when you are before the throne of God, advocating, interceding and pleading for the lives and eternities of others.*

Ephesians 6:18 ESV

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

- ***"TO THAT END..."** The spiritual discipline and skill of praying at all times is the end goal.*
- ***"...KEEP ALERT WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE..."** Never let your prayers for the saints wane.*

Luke 18:1-8 ESV

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.

3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man,

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says.

7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"