

Prayer Training 2

The Power of prayer

‘Anything God can do, prayer can do, because God is the One who answers our prayers’

The Bible is full of examples of the power of prayer working in different situations.

The Lord stopped the rain for years

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops." (James 5:16-18)

Elijah prayed and it rained again after 3.5 year of drought

Then it came to pass the seventh time, [he prayed] that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" (1 Kings 18:44)

Moses interceded in prayer and changed God's mind about destroying the Israelites

"So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people" (Exodus 32:14)

Joshua prayed and the sun stood still

*Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "**Sun, stand still** over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." ¹³ So **the sun stood still**, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge upon their enemies. (Joshua 10:12-13 NKJV)*

Note that this was done to honor a covenant or contract made with the Gibeonites who tricked the Israelites into believing that they were not neighbors, but lived far away from them.

What to do when you don't know what to do?

Jehoshaphat humbly prayed, fasted and waited on the Lord. Then the Lord destroyed Israel's enemies as the army was led by these singing praises to God (Read 2 Chronicles 20)

³ *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁵ And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for **the battle is not yours, but God's.**' ²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." ²² Now **when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people** of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (2 Chronicles 20:3, 5, 21-22)*

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Elijah prayed fire fell from heaven on the sacrifice

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.³⁹ Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" (1 Kings 18:38-39)

The power of prayer has overcome enemies

The LORD has heard my supplication; The LORD will receive my prayer.¹⁰ Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly. (Psalm 6:9-10 NKJV)

Conquered death

*Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—**empty vessels**; do not gather just a few.⁴ And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."* (2 Kings 4:3-36 NKJV)

Brought healing

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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14-15 NKJV)

Defeated demons

So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." (Mark 9:29 NKJV)

Grants wisdom

*If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it **will be given to him**.* (James 1:5 NKJV)

Prayer is the way we win the battle for our minds

*"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, **they have divine power** to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

How do you connect with this great power?

We pray to God who has unlimited power to answer our prayers if they agree with his will

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"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15)

God answers prayers that are in agreement with His will. His answers are not always yes, but **are always in our best interest.** When our request aligns with His will, we will learn His ways and will. When we pray passionately and purposefully, according to God's will, then God responds with His power! There are no "magic formulas." We don't have to use certain words or phrases to get God to answer our prayers. Jesus rebukes those who pray using pretentious repetitions,

"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8)

Prayer is communicating with God. All you have to do is ask God for His help.

*"Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven." (Psalm 107:28-30) **There is power in prayer!***

For what kind of things should we pray?

God's help through the power of prayer is available for all kinds of requests and issues.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, **present your requests to God.** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)*

Jesus taught His disciples to pray:

*"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ **Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.** ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." (Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV)*

This is only an example of how to pray and the things we should pray including - worship, trust in God, requests, confession and divine protection. Speak to the Lord using your own words.

Prayers in faith will be answered

*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask **when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.** (Mark 11:24)*

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Beware, unbelief is a very powerful force against answered prayers

*Now He did not do many mighty works there **because of their unbelief.*** (Matthew 13:58)

The Lord answers our prayers and not our needs, but we must ask Him first

*...you do not have **because you do not ask.*** (James 4:2b)

You do not need to pray long repetitive prayers

*And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions** as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.* (Matthew 6:7)

Intercession and rewards

When Job prayed for his friends the Lord restored to him double!

*And the LORD restored Job's losses when **he prayed for his friends.** Indeed the LORD gave Job **twice as much** as he had before.* (Job 42:10)

God answers prayers of faith, and moves in response to our prayers.

Jesus said, *"...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible for you**"* (Matthew 17:20)

The power of prayer should never be underestimated because it draws on the glory and might of the infinitely powerful God of the universe!

*"All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. **He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven** and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'"* (Daniel 4:35)

Modern men of prayer: John G Lake - saw 500,000 saved in South Africa and 100,000 healed in Spokane WA. George Muller - cared for 1000s of orphans with answered prayer. Ress Howells – led WWII intercession that changed history of the war.

There is no substitute for prayer!

Q. Who would like to share answers to their prayer?

Challenge to pray

*And he [Moses] said, "Please, **show me Your glory.**"* (Exodus 33:18)

Prayer: Lord I pray that You will show me Your glory every day!

Warning: This will change your life! Write it down and share your witness of answered prayers with others to build their faith and trust in God.