
❖SERMON NOTES❖

Sunday, February 18, 2018

“THE POWER OF PRAYER”

(Acts 12:1-16)

Prayer is a great mystery to most people. Does it really work? Does it make a difference? Why does a faithful prayer life come with such difficulty for us? Today we'll walk through a Bible story about prayer that weaves through our pressings questions.

“The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit” (James 5:16-18, CSB).

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him” (1 John 5:14-15, ESV).

1. The _____ call us to prayer (v. 1).

2. The _____ works through prayer (v. 2).

3. The _____ must believe in prayer (v. 5).

4. The _____ respond to prayer (v. 7).

5. The Lord surprises _____ with His answers to prayer (v. 12-17).

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“The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit” (James 5:16-18, CSB).

“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible” (Matthew 17:20, NLT).

“The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5, CSB).

“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” (Ephesians 6:18, ESV).

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him” (1 John 5:14-15, ESV).

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9, ESV).

1. The circumstances of life call us to prayer (v. 1).

2. The sovereignty of God works through prayer (v. 2).

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9, ESV).

3. The people of God must believe in prayer (v. 5).

4. The supernatural resources of God respond to prayer (v. 7).

5. The Lord surprises even the faithful with His answers to prayer (v. 12-17).