



Effective Prayer

Facing Turbulent Times With Hope

The Fire Has Fallen

- 18:1 The word of the Lord came to Elijah.
- Go show yourself and I will send rain.
- Where does vs.19 come from?
- 18:29 - The prophets of Baal had failed
- 30 - Elijah calls the people and prepares the alter
- Elijah prays a simple prayer of 62 words
- And the fire OF THE LORD fell
- The people responded
- The false prophets were killed

Seeking The Promises Of God

- Ahab was told to go eat and Elijah went back up to Pray
- All of this had been done on the Promise from God that He was going to send rain. 18:1
- Elijah was acting on the promise of God for rain. 18:2,41,42
- His position was one of deep absorption in God.



5 Aspects Of Prayer

1. Separation – Elijah withdrew from the crowd, only servant
2. Humility – He assumed a position of humility. We must put aside a shallow familiarity with God - 42b
3. Confidence – So sure the promise would be quickly fulfilled - 43a – Elijah could have been surprised
4. Persistence – The prophets trust was not hampered by this period of waiting – 43b Resist the urge to give up
5. Expectance – Persevering in a positive attitude is necessary. As soon as the small cloud appeared he told Ahab to leave immediately, so he wouldn't be stopped by it. 44-45

The Nature Of Prayer

- How often does God immediately answer your prayer?
- George Mueller was man of prayer.
- His refusal to take money from a woman he had been praying would give a gift to the orphanage, puzzled his wife
- "I don't know how to tell you this, but I am frightened by the power of prayer!" George took God seriously. Do we?
- We say prayer changes things. In prayer we apply our wills to move God to alter the course of events. By his own design, He has ordained that He will act to do certain things only in response to believing prayer.
- Some have prayed for something for years. Why the delay?

The Principles Of Prayer

- Mat.7:7-11 – 3 verbs in the present tense. Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on Knocking
- Lk.11:5-8 – A very eastern principle. To lose face because of no bread. Gk. word means shameless begging
- Lk.18:1-8 – If a hard, ungodly judge is moved to action by a persistent widow, how much more will our righteous, compassionate God respond to the prayers of His saints
- Matt.15:21-28 – the gentile woman.
- Lk.18:8 – When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? God is always teaching and maturing us

The Principles Of Prayer

- God's ultimate purpose is our conformation to the image of His Son.
- God's desire is for us to experience the joy of His presence
- Our prayers may not be answered for a variety reasons
 - ✓ We may not be praying in faith
 - ✓ We may not be asking for something Jesus would ask for
 - ✓ We may not be ready to receive what we are asking for
 - ✓ God may answer in a way we do not expect

The Principles Of Prayer

- Elijah persisted in prayer – 1 Kings 18:44
- Are you persisting in prayer?
- Our God knows, our God cares
- Does he answer persistent prayer?
- He does
- If a faithful parent knows how to give good gifts, how much more our will our all wise God.
- Persist in Prayer