

One Prayer

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Introduction: The power of a living faith is found in prayer.

- A. The hand of the Lord is powerful and available to men. (**Jer 32:17**)
 - 1. “To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?” (**Jn 12:38; Isa 53:1**)
 - 2. It is through Jesus Christ the Messiah that God’s power is found.
 - 3. It is through the blood of Christ that our sin is removed so that God’s hand is now available. (**Isa 59:1-2**)
- B. Man’s response must be a life that is directed by a living faith. (**Heb 11:6**)
 - 1. What does it mean to “diligently seek God?”
 - 2. Our seeking of God must never be described only as a past action. (**Jer 29:13; Amos 5:4-6**)
- C. Where do we fit in Jesus’ parable about prayer? (**Lk 18:1-8**)
 - 1. What if the answer to the question in verse 8 was no? Does this mean there would be no one confessing Christ?
 - 2. We can allow the immediate demands of this life to crowd out real prayer.

I. The power of one prayer

- A. God tells us of the power of one prayer. (**Jas 5:16-17**)
 - 1. King Ahab learned the hard way of the impact of a single prayer.
 - 2. You must never underestimate what a single request to God can do.
 - 3. Consider three Old Testament examples of this.
- B. The battle between the prophets of Baal and Elijah. (**1 Kings 18:36-39**)
 - 1. Contrast what the prophets of Baal did versus Elijah.
 - 2. It was a simple question of who had the “hand of the Lord.”
- C. The request of a young Solomon for wisdom. (**1 Kings 3:5-9**)
 - 1. What was Solomon like before this? God’s hand powerfully acted upon this young man. (**1 Kings 3:10-14**)
 - 2. Where are you and I likely to see the results of the “hand of the Lord?” It will be seen in changed lives!
- D. The mighty Assyrian army and king Hezekiah. (**2 Kings 19:14-19**)
 - 1. Never say like the world: “All you have is a prayer.”
 - 2. King Sennacherib no doubt learned about the power of one prayer. (**2 Kings 19:35-37**)

II. In truth it is never just one prayer

- A. There is something all of these men had in common.
 - 1. They were children of a living God. Prayer was as much a part of their lives as breathing air is to our physical lives.
 - 2. Solomon spoke of foreigners knowing of the hand of the Lord and coming to know Him. (**1 Kings 8:41-43**)
- B. Prayer can do nothing for a man who does not possess a living faith.
 - 1. There were some Jews who thought it was just knowing the right words. (**Acts 19:13-16**)
 - 2. How many here think this way about prayer? Listen to your words. Think!

- C. If we could only see this point we could have the power of god in our lives. (**Eph 3:20**)
 - 1. He is able to do:
 - a. above **all that we ask or think**
 - b. **abundantly** above all that we ask or think
 - c. **exceedingly** abundantly above all that we ask or think
 - 2. When we realize this is God speaking then this is hard to grasp.
- D. Do we have the power or merely an outward form?
 - 1. We can have the form without power. (**2 Tim 3:5**)
 - 2. Or we can allow God's power to be used through us. (**1 Thess 2:13**)
 - 3. What does access to God mean to you? Do not tell me. How do you pray?
(**1 Jn 5:14-15**)

III. We ought to always pray and not to lose heart.

- A. It is possible to "faint", "lack courage" concerning our effort in prayer.
 - 1. What would a person think when they lose heart?
 - 2. We need to test and prod ourselves to be "vigilant" and "steadfast" in prayer.
(**Rom 12:12; Col 4:2**)
- B. Jesus' example stimulated his apostles to ask to be taught about prayer. (**Lk 11:1**)
 - 1. Jesus prayed at His baptism in the beginning of His ministry. (**Lk 3:21**)
 - 2. Jesus at times prayed all night. (**Lk 6:12**)
 - 3. Jesus prayed three times in the course of one hour. (**Mt 26:36-44**)
- C. For many this kind of praying in unknown, why?
 - 1. Because they fail to distinguish between public prayer and private prayer.
 - 2. We should look at our motives and manners in a public prayer. (**Mt 6:5-7**)
 - 3. Many Christians repeat in their private prayer the same kind of prayer they hear in public. Why is this lacking?
 - 4. There are things we mention in private prayer that would be inappropriate in public prayer?

IV. We need to have a clearer view of the God that we pray to

- A. He is a God with a mighty hand but also a very gentle one.
 - 1. The coming of the Messiah was a display of God's mighty arm. (**Isa 52:10; 53:1**)
 - 2. That same hand will be used to nourish and protect us. (**Isa 40:10-11; 42:1-3**)
 - 3. Who do you feel comfortable in opening your heart to? Until you know God like this, your prayers will have little meaning.
- B. What do you think God will do with your prayer? (**Mt 7:7-11**)
 - 1. Are there things you have ceased asking God about? (**Jas 4:2-3**)
 - 2. Do you know the impact that one prayer can have on your life and those precious to you?
 - 3. We need more intercession in the church. (**2 Cor 1:11; Col 4:2-4**)
 - 4. Hezekiah also asked for help in prayer. (**2 Kings 19:3-4**)

Conclusion: "To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" (**Isa 53:1**)

- A. How will you fight the battle? (**2 Chron 32:8**)
- B. There can be no help from God without your repentance.
- C. Listen to the words of Moses. (**Deut 4:7-8**)