

Prayer Prevails Through Conflicts

Text: James 5:16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* ¹⁷ *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.* ¹⁸ *And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.-- The story of Elijah's prayer is in 1 Kings 17 and 18*

Introduction: The environment in which Elijah prayed was one of drunkenness, deceit, lies, murder, worship of false gods, and leaders that followed their own desires and regarded not God. But one man's obedience and bold conviction that Jehovah was the one true God brought great results through his fervent prayer!

1. Teach us to pray!

Luke 11:1 *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

Matthew 6:6 *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.* ⁷ *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.* ⁸ *Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.* ⁹ *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.* ¹⁰ *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.* ¹⁴ *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

2. Prayer in Conflict produces Persistence and unwavering Confidence

Luke 11:5 *And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? ⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. ⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.*

- **The Key is persistence –**

⁹ *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and*

to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Hebrews 10:35 *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.* ³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. ³⁷ For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. ³⁸ **Now the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. ³⁹ But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- **Don't faint!**

Luke 18:1 *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;* ² *Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:* ³ *And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.* ⁴ *And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;* ⁵ *Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.* ⁶ *And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.* ⁷ *And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?* ⁸ *I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

3. Do His Works through PRAYER

John 14:12 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.* ¹³ *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* ¹⁴ *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

Worship God through Tithes, Offerings, First-Fruits and Sacrifices:

Luke 6:38 *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*