

Power of Prayer!



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The apostle says Romans 1:8 “*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.*”

The words *pray*, *prayer*, and *praying* show up more than 500 times in the Bible. Prayer is a vital link to God for the needs of the moment. The apostle went on 10 “*Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.*”

His prayer has both *thanks* and *praise* to God in it; he is interceding for others; and he is asking for, but not demanding, things from God. The apostle’s attitude is according to God’s will and in the name of Jesus—he is just asking for a safe journey.

We should always think about the *souls* of others and to *pray* that their destination be the *right* one—as they accept and live God’s Truth.

Matthew 9:37 “*Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his har-*

vest.” We should always be laboring for the Master until He returns—which would mean taking advantage of every opportunity to *show* and *share* God’s Truth to an unbelieving world.

Jesus told a parable Luke 19:13 “*And (a nobleman) called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.*” He meant, use the money in a proper manner so it would yield a harvest when he returned.

Prayer can change things, so we should not allow the devil to talk us out of the *change* we need or *victory* we have prayed for. As serious as conditions for the apostle were at that time, he knew that his prayer to God would be answered.

2 Corinthians 1:8 “*For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.*”

The apostle went through many serious trials and tests, but the Lord delivered him from them all as the apostle *trusted* Him in faith to *do* that. He was confident that sincere prayer would *change* things. 2 Corinthians 1:11 “*(God) will rescue us because you are helping by praying for us. As a result, many will give thanks to God because so many people’s prayers for our safety have been answered.*”

God answers *prayers* when they line up with His *will*. The answer is not always in our time frame or exactly what we prayed for, but we still need to be unwavering in our faith.

We do not always see the big picture, but we know that God is working out His plan for our life—we are just responsible to keep trusting Him when times are good and when not so good.

Prayers do not always line up with God’s will—so the apostle says James 4:3 “*Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*” Asking for selfish reasons does not bring the answer we want.

Isaiah 59:1 “*Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*”

Allowing sinful thoughts, wrong attitudes, or unscriptural activities be part of our life will hide the face of God from us. We must pray for spiritual *light* to be shown the *cause* of unanswered prayer. God wants us to live the Christian life seriously—He is concerned about our *character*; about our *thoughts* and *desires*; about how we *treat* people; and if we are *shining a light* of His Truth.

If we get off track, God gives us the privilege of *repentance*, so we can get *back* on the narrow road that leads to His kingdom. Psalm 32:5 “*I acknowledged my sin unto thee and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*”

James 4:8 “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*”

It is important to live a *sincere* Christian life right from the beginning of giving our life to God. *Saying* one thing and *doing* another will not cut it in the long term—and it would hinder our prayers from being answered in the present time.

Living a life of a believer means sounding the *trumpet of Truth* to the world. There is much *talk of faith* but not much *real-time faith* in God today.

Faith *must* be sincere Colossians 1:10 “*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,*

being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10 *“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”*

When dining out at a public restaurant, we should not hesitate to say a blessing before eating the meal. If only 1, 2, or 20 are present, it is a blessed opportunity to say a table grace for everyone—and not being concerned if others are looking or hearing. We do not use a microphone, but the *visual* aspect of praying before eating is sounding the *trumpet of Truth* to others.

We should never be ashamed to acknowledge our appreciation of God’s love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, and power. Matthew 10:32 *“If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven.”* It is to Jesus alone to whom we give account when we leave this earth.

We should want to live our life in a way that is always pleasing to God—because He has given us His Son who has all *power* in heaven and in earth—and it is He who has the authority to judge everyone—therefore we should worship Him *now* with the time we have on earth.

JESUS Philippians 2:6 *“Being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”* Jesus, as God in Person, came to give us the free gift and eternal plan of salvation—we are to read, heed, and follow that plan.

Even though Jesus *was* God, He γ *“Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

A *king* on a *cross of crucifixion* is beyond comprehension, but that is what He willingly did, so that the plan of salvation would be complete

and made available to everyone. Since Jesus *did* that for us— θ *“God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name.”*

Many read the Psalms every day for encouragement and inspiration—and *prayer* is a main subject in that Book. Psalm 4:1 *“Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.”* Psalm 5:3 *“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up.”*

A book published, not long ago, was titled: The Prayer of Jabez. It was popular and read by many because it *helped* them and *reminded* them that there is *Power in Prayer*. 1 Chronicles 4:10 *“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast [extend my lands], and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”*

What many do not know about the prayer of Jabez is what the Bible says in the verse *before* the prayer. 1 Chronicles 4:9 *“And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.”*

Jabez was more *honorable* than his brothers because he was more *obedient* to his God than his brothers. Jabez was trustworthy, and God blessed him for being faithful. Many desire God’s *blessings* in their life, but their life does not always line up with God’s Word. James 4:3 *“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”*

Trials and tests of faith that we encounter from time to time, will do *one* of *two* things—either drive us *to God* or *away from Him*. It is a decision on *our* part to either learn *from* it or be

hardened by it. God wants us to learn spiritual lessons of faith and trust whenever going through tough tests.

1 Peter 1:7 *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”*

In temptation, our faith is *tried and tested*—but if we hold steadfast in *trusting* God to bring us through with our faith still in Him, it will prove to be far more valuable than any gold or treasure on earth.

All the precious metals or jewels that are accumulated by many will someday be left behind by the one who accumulated them. 1 Timothy 6:7 *“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”*

There is *Power in Prayer*, and a sincere prayer can bring change. This is because God does the changing and He Himself *cannot* change. The apostle told the believers: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 *“Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

God *cannot* change so prayer *can* change things. It is all about *faith* and *trust*; and all because Jesus *paid* the price for every prayer to be answered. We are 1 Peter 1:9 *“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls”—the one thing we do take with us—our soul! The Power of Prayer is amazing!*



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