

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 is 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.
- 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)
- 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.
- 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 us? Do not tell me. How do we pray?

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 repeated a request 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)**