

Four Keys to the Power of Prayer

(James 5:16-18) vs 17*

Elijah was like us.

Elijah had his Troubles, Trials, & Triumphs.

Elijah was Persecuted for his Witness: (1 Kings 17:1-7)

Elijah Prevailed on Mt Carmel: (1 Kings 18:38-40)

Elijah had his Problem-Discouragement: (1 Kings 19:2)

When Jezebel threatened to kill him.

It was comforting to know that the giants of faith are no different than us!

Same Trials, Triumphs, and Troubles.

I. I was challenged to Pray: (James 5:16b) *The effectual ... prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

“Availleth” To be of use, or advantage; to answer the purpose.

“Effectual” To have force/efficacy sufficient to accomplish.

“There is more that you can do after you pray, but there is nothing you can do until you pray.”—Dr. Curtis Hutson

We sow our wild oats 6 days a week, & on Sunday pray for crop failure.

(James 5:17) Elijah's prayers affected an entire Nation.

(1 Kings 17:1) Prayed: 3.5 year Drought

(1 Kings 18:37-38) Fire Fell From heaven.

(1 Kings 18:42) Prayed: *“for there is a sound of abundance of rain.”*

I was challenged to Ask for the impossible: (Jer 33:2-3) *Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name;*

What limits your thinking?

Human failings - Our Human failings?

I was challenged to put together an impossible prayer list: (Matthew 19:26) *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

An Impossible prayer list, one that would be ridiculous without God: (Mark 9:23) *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

“Nothing lies outside the reach of prayer, except that which lies outside the will of God.”

Do you want to see what YOU can do, or what GOD can do? *“What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.”—E.M. Bounds*

I was challenged to Pray for my children to do something impossible. - *“All things are possible through God.”*

II. I was challenged to pray Fervently: (Vs 16) with Fervor/boiling hot! **We need to Pour our hearts into prayer.** Has your family ever seen you fervent.

(Ps 63:1-2) *God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*

Am I Thirsty? Do I Really Want it?

(Is 44:3) *For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:*

Since these Scriptures are true, why do I lose my thirst?

Satan Assaults Us: His goal is to Hinder us.

(1 Thes 2:18) *Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; **but Satan hindered us.** - WHY?*

Because prayer is as Big as God is.

Because Prayer is as Powerful as God is.

Because Prayer can Reach as far as God can reach.

If he can get us discouraged he can keep us from praying!

(1 Kings 19:4-5) *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; **for I am not better than my fathers.***

He Assaults us with Accusations about ourselves:

He reminds us of how sinful we are, and thus...

He reminds us of how unworthy we are.

"Of course God loves those other Christians who have gotten the victory, they're not a 10th degree sinners like you!"

He Stalls us With Skepticism:

Satan is the Original Skeptic:

(Gen 3) *"Yeah, Hath God said?"*

"Ye shall not surely die..."

"I know what the bible says, but does that really apply to you in 2017?"

"Who do you know who is REALLY experiencing Revival?"

It's Time Get back in front of God!

Remember: You are in the Thrown Room! (Heb 4:16) *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Pray Fervently, by Praying out loud: What are we afraid of?

Illus: Bro Jerry at Sheets Gas Station.

I was challenged to Pray:

Billy Sunday said: *"He that is a stranger to prayer is a stranger to power."*

I was challenged to pray Fervently:

III. I was challenged to Get Clean: (James 5:16)
"righteous man"

Don't pray to get cleaner, but to get CLEAN!

How long has it been since you were clean?

Hymn: *"nothing between my soul and the saviour."*

Do you want to be clean?

(1 Jn 3:22) *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

God won't answer until I am clean:

(Is 59:1-2) *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.* (Ps 15:1-5)

(Ps 24:3-4) *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands,*

Ask God to Reveal to you where you need to be cleansed:
(Ps 139:23-24) *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

God wont answer if I am not right with my spouse:
(1 Pet 3:7) *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

Are you right with your neighbor: (James 5:16) *Confess your*

Are your prayers being answered?

Have you had one answered in the last 7 days?

Are you Clean?

Are you willing to get clean?

Are you right with your spouse?

Are you willing to humble yourself & be right with your spouse?

No? Then you know where the problem resides.

I was challenged to pray Fervently:

I was challenged to Get Clean

IV. I was challenged to persist in prayer: (James 5:18)

(1 Kings 18:42-44) He prayed a 7th time.

When have I ever persisted in prayer for Something?

I want big things, Don't you?

Why do we give up so easily?

I can only deduce that I don't actually believe it will happen.

I tend to have more faith in **Amazon** than the Lord.

I order something, & tomorrow I start looking outside for it because I am expecting it.

Why do we believe the promises of Amazon, than the Lord?

Because Amazon delivers what I want.

Because Amazon delivered on my timing.

Because with Amazon, I am charge.

I have to Pray IN FAITH: With expectation of God's Answer!

(1 John 5:13-14) *"We know we HAVE the petitions that we desired of Him"*

I was Challenged...

When have I ever persisted in prayer by Faith?

What have I ever persisted in prayer for, by Faith?

I have to Pray without Ceasing:

(Heb 11:6) *"Diligently SEEK"*

Like the Widow/Unjust judge: (Luke 18:1-8a)

Like the man who knocked at night: (Luke 11:5-10*)

I know you are going to answer:

I am going to be persistent to show my faith.

Faith is just taking God at His Word.

(Matthew 21:22) *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

(James 5:16) *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

What is it that seems impossible, if were not for God.

Lets ask Him!pro