

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.
- 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.
 - 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)**