

PREVAILING PRAYER

1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the sojourners of Gilead, said to Ahab, As Jehovah, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except according to my word.

1Kings 18:41 And Elijah said to Ahab, Go up, eat and drink, because of the sound of plenty of rain. 42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel. And he threw himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. 43 And he said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up and looked and said, Nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. 44 And it happened at the seventh time, he said, Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up and say to Ahab, Bind up and go down, so that the rain does not stop you. 45 And it happened in the meantime the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rose and went to Jezreel.

James 5:16Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail. 17Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

- These are some powerful scriptures regarding prayer, and they are in line with the season of prayer and fasting that is commencing on Monday.
- Take note, the Bible says the prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail. Prayer is the greatest weapon that God gave to His children – when prayer is done right, prayer will always prevail.
- This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **PREVAILING PRAYER**. This refers to prayers that penetrate the heavens, right to the throne room of God.
- Prevailing prayer is that prayer which obtains the blessing that it seeks by causing God to move on your behalf.
- Prayer does not change God or His character by works on the person praying so that they are rightly positioned to receive what He had always wanted to do.
- When a church engages in prevailing prayers, the sick are healed, demons flee, sin loses its grip on people and the kingdom of God invades the atmosphere.
- Lets learn from Elijah the prophet, the prayer warrior. This man lived in a period in Israel during which one of the most wicked kings and queens were on the throne.

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- Ahab and Jezebel led the people of God astray, they caused them to worship Baal, the fertility god, they worshiped at the Ashireh poles and such like things. This was a spiritually charged environment and Elijah was equal to the task – he became even more spiritually charged in his conduct by engaging in prevailing prayer.
- He did not leave things unchecked, he ensured that through engaging in prevailing prayer, he influenced the affairs of the nation.
- Saints, your life is existing in a spiritually charged environment and if anything is going to come of it, you need to engage prevailing prayer.
- What is the make up of prevailing prayer, how does one get to engage in prevailing prayer?

1. Prevailing prayer can be engaged in by any disciple of Jesus

- Prevailing prayer is not for a select few – every child of God can engage and experience prevailing prayer.

James 5: 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years

- Many believers suffer from spiritual laziness, as a result they engage in weak and shallow prayers – prayers that don't register on the spiritual Richter scale.
- Elijah was weak like all of us, he was susceptible to emotional turmoil like all of us, he had moments of doubt and yet he engaged in prevailing prayer.
- Prevailing prayer only requires the willingness to pay the price – prayer takes a great discipline from a child of God. It is an area of great contestation because prayer gives you access to the spiritual world around you.

2. Prevailing prayer is targeted on a definite object

- A prevailing prayer is not a random prayer or a machine gun type of prayer – this is a prayer that is focused and direct.
- Many people pray because they must pray in the morning or before going to bed, but they actually don't know what they are seeking God for.
- A targeted prayer is a prayer that is full of expectations - you pray expecting an answer.
- The Bible calls them prayers of faith. James says prayers of faith make the sick well – before you pray, ask yourself if you believe the stuff, you are praying and saying to God.
- Elijah was quite clear about what he wanted – his objective was for rain to stop. He made a faith filled declaration.

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- He firmly believed in the ability of the God heaven. Elijah was aligned with the heart of God and by so doing he knew that whatever he asked, heaven would respond. Elijah had a disposition of faith – he firmly believed in God’s ability.

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- Jesus would ask the sick, what do you want me to do for you, He would ask the blind, what do you want from me. That is what produces prevailing prayer – be specific in your requests.
- For you to make prayers of faith, learn to pray the word – it is the word that builds your faith and God only response to His word and not to your words.
- With every promise, there is a prayer to be made in order to bring it into fulfilment. Isaac was the promised child and through him, nations were going to come forth. When he got married, Rebekah was barren and Isaac had to petition God in prayer for Rebecca to be able to give birth.

Genesis 25: 21 Later, Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

3. Prevailing prayer is birthed through a broken and contrite heart

- Humility and favour go hand in hand – in fact God says He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- In other words, prevailing prayer requires a certain posture in the spirit. When you pray from a place of brokenness, you attract heaven to come to your rescue.

1 Kings 18: 42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel. And he threw himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.

- I don’t know if you can picture Elijah – this is a very uncomfortable position to be in, it is a lowly position, it is one of humility.
- Your posture in the spirit will determine whether you will make prevailing prayers or not.
- The famous scripture 2 Chronicles 7:14 teaches us a great deal about how to engage prevailing prayer.

2 Chronicles 7:14 if My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- A humble person knows that they are God’s child and should fully submit to His ways.

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- A humble person is not afraid to call for help – God is waiting for you to pray and seek His face.
- A humble person does not remain in their sinful state – they ask for forgiveness; what is that you need to confess before God right now.

4. Prevailing prayer is born out of persistence

- Many people can start praying but very few can keep at it until they prevail over their situation.
- Elijah was persistent in prayer – when it was time to pray down some rain, he prayed seven times.

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- We are in a fast-paced world now, where everything happens quicker than ever before – we talk about the speed of internet, the speed of heating up our food, the speed of travel and so forth.
- Without realising it, we have become conditioned to expect even our prayers to be answered on the click of a button – our patience levels have diminished.
- If you are to see prevailing prayer, you need to learn to wait and fight in the spirit because you are involved in a war. Think about Russia and Ukraine – someone thought it was going to be a smash and grab, in and out kind of affair but 7 months down the road, Russia is still trying to defeat Ukraine. They went in there on the 24th of February and today, they are still there.
- What is the point; the point is that you need to learn to pray without ceasing. Jesus taught this and He used the example of a wicked judge in Luke:

Luke 18:1 And He also spoke a parable to them to teach it is always right to pray, and not to faint, 2 saying, A certain judge was in a certain city, not fearing God, nor respecting man. 3 And a widow was in that city. And she came to Him, saying, Avenge me of my adversary. 4 And he would not do so for a time. But afterward he said within himself, Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, that she not wear me down in the end.

- Prevailing prayer calls for persistence – prayer is like a buttering ram, hitting against the walls of the enemy.

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- Prayer works – it works both on you and on the enemy. It works on you, to make you ready to receive your miracle, it works on the enemy to loosen his old on your miracle.
- After being persistent in prayer, when you finalise receive your breakthrough, you will not take the credit any longer.