

CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

SECRET #5: PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLES OF POWERFUL PRAYING

1 KINGS 18:17-41

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Introduction: Successful and significant people learn how to unleash the supernatural power of prayer in their lives. According to James 5:16-18, Elijah is Exhibit "A" of effective and powerful praying.

I. The Prelude To Powerful Praying (1 Kings 18:17-35)

1 Kings 18:24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God. And all the people answered and said, 'That is a good idea.'"

1 Kings 18:25-26 ²⁵ "So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.' ²⁶ Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, 'O Baal, answer us.' But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made."

Psalms 115:4-7 ⁴ "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; ⁶ They have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; ⁷ They have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat."

1 Kings 18:27 "And it came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, 'Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.'"

1 Kings 18:29 "And it came about when midday was past, that they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention."

1 Kings 18:30 "Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near to me.' So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down."

1 Kings 18:31-32 ³¹ “And Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, ‘Israel shall be your name.’ ³² So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.”

II. **The Prerequisites To Powerful Praying** (Matthew 6:7-8)

Matthew 6:7-8 ⁷ “When you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.”

A. **A Right Relationship with God**

(James 5:16b; Romans 8:1; Galatians 4:6-7)

James 5:16(b) “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

Romans 8:1 “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 4:6-7 ⁶ “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”

1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

B. **Obedience to God’s Commands** (1 Peter 3:12)

1 Peter 3:12 “THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”

1. The primary **desire** of our life
2. The primary **direction** of our life

C. An **Unshakable Faith**

- “...If you have *faith* as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.” (Matthew 17:20)
- “Without *faith* it is impossible to please Him [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)
- “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in *faith* without any doubting...” (James 1:5-6)
- “The prayer offered in *faith* will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.” (James 5:15)

Conclusion