

HOW TO PRAY PREVAILING PRAYERS

FELIX ABODUNDE

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By

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1Ki 3:4-15 KJV 4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. 5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. 6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. 8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. 9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? 10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; 12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. 13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. 14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days. 15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

Eph 3:20 KJV Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly

above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

In the text above Paul was giving praise unto God and we ought to always praise God. And many people don't really know why we should praise God or for what? Sometime we are at lost for words not because we are overwhelmed by our feelings but because we can't fathom the reason why we should praise Him. Some will say I don't know what to say in praises.

It may look like everything is working extremely bad and it seems there is nothing to thank God for but I tell you very soon you have cause to praise God. You will sing your songs, you will dance your dance and give your testimony in Jesus name

Here in the text Paul praised God for His ability to do exceeding abundantly above all that all we could ask or think.

The comprehensive fullness of this expression: he is able to do for us, to do abundantly for us, to do exceeding abundantly for us, above what we ask; yea, to do exceeding abundantly for us above what we can think, as well as ask.

What man, husband, government cannot do. God is able to it. He has the ability, capability and the resources to do them. He is not limited.

But is it really true that God is able to do exceeding abundantly much more than we ask?

Many we say 'even the little I ask its not done yet, am not asking for much, I just want God to please help me with some money, help me get a job at least so I could be leaving home, help me pay my debt, give our family some lease of life'.

But Paul here is saying God is not only able to do this but much more than that,

So why is it not done? Paul must have known some things we don't know.

The text we read is a good example of God exceeding our expectations

In the text we read in 1Kg 3, it is a known passage of the scripture.

Solomon had just been made King after his father David had died. He went to the mountain Gibeon to pray and offer sacrifice.

The Bible recorded that he offered a thousand animals for sacrifice. This has not been done before by anybody. The usual thing is to bring one animal, a lamb or a suckling goat but Solomon loved the Lord and brought much more than required.

One of the way to provoke and dare heaven is to do the unusual and uncommon, it will set you up for God's uncommon favour.

If you love the Lord you will give and you will give beyond what is normally required. The Bible say in the night God appeared unto Solomon and asked him to ask for anything that he wanted. Solomon asked the Lord for strange things. I was expecting him to ask for millions of dollars, private jets, houses but he asked for wisdom and understanding to rule God's people.

I know many of us would wish that we have such question from God. How many of us want God or wish God will ask us such question, 'say what shall I give you'?

Well the good news is that we don't need God or an angel to ask us the question because it has been asked and our response is what heaven is awaiting.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Mat 7:7)

Mat 7:7-8 KJV 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:8 For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened.

In verse 8, He gave us an assurance that Solomon did not even have. He said for everyone that asks receives, everyone that seeks found and everyone that knocks the doors is opened.

What you have been seeking for will start seeking for you in Jesus name.

This week door shall be open for you.

The Bible says God was pleased with what Solomon asked.

1Ki 3:10 KJV And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

The Hebrew word used for “pleased” is “yâṭab” and it means to be accepted, to be glad, be joyful, to be well placed, to be well for, be well with, go well with, to be pleasing, be pleasing to

What pleased God in Solomon’s prayer and request that made him to get such a response from God?

God told him that I will do more than what you ask? And in the New Testament as we read in Ephe. 3:20 that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above what we ask or think.

If God did it for Solomon, Ephes 3:20 says He is able to do it for me. So I need to find out what made Solomon an Old Testament man to receive what is promised to New Testament people.

1. Solomon came in humility. He said I am but a child. Many of us have option B. He raise the humble.

1Pet. 5:6 KJV Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Many of us are self sufficient, self dependent, we do it by ourselves, you don’t agree with other brethren in prayer, Jesus says without me you can not do anything successfully.

2. Solomon did not ask for himself. He was not self centered. Many of our prayers today are self motivated, self conscious, are for us and our family.
3. Solomon ask about the kingdom and God’s people. It was about other people. Mt 6:33. Seek ye first the kingdom
4. Solomon asked to serve. Jesus said the way to top is be a minister

So how did God respond to what Solomon asked? God did much more than what he asked. God said because you did not ask for yourself riches, long life and life of your enemies, He said I will give you all these

and in addition to what you requested for wisdom and understanding.

Much more than all these, the prayers of Solomon was consistent with what was in the heart of God. Solomon's prayer was consistent with the heart of God. In the Lord's prayer, Jesus said thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. God answer His own will and not our will.

The Bible says what Solomon asked or his speech pleased the Lord that it was agreeable to him. It was in concordance with His will. Amos 3:3 says can two walk together except they be agreed. So when the speech of Solomon pleased the Lord, it means it is the same thing God had in mind. Its agreeable. It was according to His will.

Solomon asked for the things in the heart of God. His heart and God's heart were congruent, in agreement.

How was Solomon able to know what was in the heart of God?

His father David had taught him what he will need in life. God delights in judgement and righteousness. So when God asked him 'what I should do for you?', he just went to what his father had taught him. His father David was a man after God's heart Act 13:22 & 1Sam 13:14 He knows the heart of God.

Here is what David taught Solomon?

Pro. 4:1-7 KJV 1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. 2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. 3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. 4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. 6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

As I said David knew the heart of God and so he instructed Solomon what he should aspire to in life.

That gives me an insight. I need to be able to pray like Solomon, in such a way that it will be agreeable to Him and be His will.

What did Bible say about “will” in prayers?

There are two part to the word ”will”

One is in approach or manner of doing things and the other is what is in the mind of a person, what that person desire or delight or want to do. How God want us to come to Him, how will come to God.

1Jn 5:14 KJV And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1Jn 5:15 KJV And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

What does John mean by **according to His will** here? Many have taught that we need to find out from the Bible what is the will of God in a particular area and then ask accordingly. This is good but it is not what John is talking about here. AS at the time when this was written, the complete Bible has not been put together. All they had was the “Scripture” which includes; the torah, the prophets and the judges. They did not have complete Bible so how are they going to check if what is been asked is according to His will or not’?

The Greek word used for “ye will” is “thelema” and it means how things is to be done, approach or manner. E.g

He is talking about the mode of approach unto God. How God wants us to come to Him. And what is that?

Jesus told us

Joh 16:23 KJV And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Joh 14:13-14 KJV 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

He wants us to direct our prayer directly unto God. We ask in the name of Jesus based on the power of attorney to use His name.

and this is what many of us has been doing, we end our prayer in the name of Jesus. If Jn 14:13 & Jn 16:23 are correct then how come we still

don't have what we asked for as promised by 1Jn 5:14?

This is where the other side of the word "will" comes in

Joh 15:7 KJV If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

The word "it shall be done" is 'ginomai' and it means it come into being, it shall appear.

The Greek word for "ye will" here is "thelō ethelō" and it means: to will, have in mind, intend to be resolved or determined, to purpose, to desire, to wish.

In order word he is talking of what you have in mind or what you want to be done

The two 'will' has the same root and are similar, one is 'thelema' talking about the approach or how he want things like prayer to be done and the other is 'thelo ethelo' talking about desire or what you have in mind, your wish.

What is written in the Bible is written for us as example. If we follow them we will obtain the same result or much better. If they prosper I will also prosper.

Under the New Covenant, God does the same thing when we asked according to His will.

In fact God wants us to find out His will for our life

Eph 5:17 KJV Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

The question is how do I know His will or what He desire? I will need somebody like David to tell me what is in the mind of God, what does God desire or long for, or wish to be done? What does He wish or will for me in marriage, business, relationship, whom does He want me to spend the rest of my life with? I need somebody.

Here is the good news that I don't need a man like David, or a pastor or prophet, God Himself can let me know what He wills and desire. He gave us the Holy Spirit who knows the mind of God.

Rom 8:26-27 KJV 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Greek word they used for “mind” there is “phronēma” and it means: what one has in the mind, the thoughts and purposes.

In order word the Holy Spirit who is God knows what is in the mind of God. And I have been given the Holy Spirit. Therefore I can know the mind of God or the will of God in prayers.

So how do i get the mind of God? The Holy Spirt give it to me.

Here is what Paul says:

Phi 2:13 KJV For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure

The word rendered “worketh” - energōn - working - is from a verb meaning to work, to be active to produce effect - and is that from which we have derived the word “energetic.” The meaning is, that God “produces a certain effect in us;” he exerts such an influence over us as to lead to a certain result in our minds - to wit, “to will and to do.”

It means that he works in their hearts that which is agreeable to him, or leads them to “will and to do” that which is in accordance with his own will. The word rendered “good pleasure” - eudokia - means “delight, good-will, favor;” then “good pleasure, purpose, will;” see Eph 1:5; 2Th 1:11. Here it means that which would be agreeable to him; and the idea is, that he exerts such an influence as to lead people to will and to do that which is in accordance with his will.

How do I participate?

Jn 15:7, PS 37:4, Mk 11:23 combined together.

Jesus said if you abide in me and my word abides in you will ask what you will and it shall be ‘ginomai’ for you. Jesus also said whatsoever you desire when you pray. David in Psalm 37:4 says delight yourself in the

Lord and he shall give the desire of your heart. Putting all together, as we delight ourselves in the Lord, then the God the Holy Spirit according to Phil 2:13 works in our heart, He put His desire in our heart and we will begin to desire what He desire. And God has no choice but answer the desire because they are his desire.

THREE IMPORTANT FACTS

God does not necessarily answer our prayers or do our will he answer his own desire that is prayed by man,

Only a spirit with physical body has authority to operate on earth.

Psa 115:16 KJV The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

What man does is to give him legal permission to carry out his desire as our Lord's prayer teaches thy will be done on earth s it is in heaven.

Case Study:

Hannah asked for a male child

1Sa 1:11 KJV And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

It is not because she doesn't like female children but because there was an urgent need for a male priest to replace the household of Eli whom God has rejected from continuing as priest and only male can be priest at that time unlike under the new testament where there is neither male or female but a new man in Christ.

She prayed according to the will and mind of God, she asked just for one child, But God that do exceeding abundantly gave her more up to five.

Find out what does God need and key into it.

1Chr 12:32 KJV And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

Case study 2:

James 5:16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

Jas 5:16 KJV Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

The word “fervent” there actually means “inwrought”

16. “The inwrought prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” The Greek for ‘inwrought’ is ‘energeumenee’. It means the prayer wrought in the heart by the Holy Ghost. It is from ‘ergon’, work, and ‘en’, in. When the Holy Ghost works a prayer in your heart He is sure to answer it. This wonderful truth is corroborated by the case of Elijah, when he prayed three years in the cave by the Brook Cherith

The word “earnestly” in verse 17 is a metaphor, an Hebraism meaning pray with prayer

17. “Elijah prayed with prayer” (not “earnestly,” as your English reads). “With prayer,” as the Greek has it, is very significant. It means that Elijah prayed with the prayer which God gave him. That is the reason why he could lock the heavens three years and six months and withhold the rains.

If God were to give you the prayer you could do the same, because God always answers the prayers which He gives.

Learn the secret of prevailing prayer. Get in touch with the Almighty so He will give you your prayers, then He is sure to answer them. If you get in touch with God, so He will give you your petitions. You have but to take hold of Him in prayer and He will raise them up.(Godbey)

Most of the time our prayer is based on feelings and emotions, circumstances and James said we ask and receive not, but we need Holy Spirit inspired prayer, prayer induced by His which is the prayer Jesus will answer.

The Holy Spirit will help us when we don't know what to pray.

Elijah prayed with prayer (Jas 5:17), not as E. V., "prayed earnestly," but prayed with the prayer the Holy Ghost gave him. Hence the miraculous effect of his prayers. "He that searcheth the heart," i. e., Jesus, who answers our prayers, "knoweth the mind of the Spirit." Now you see this wonderful problem; the Holy Spirit indicts our prayers, which are often too deep for utterance. But remember He is the Spirit of Jesus (Chapter 8:9 and Acts 5), i. e., the spiritual Christ on the earth (Mat 28:20); while the glorified Jesus is interceding for us at God's right hand, who actually understands perfectly all the petitions indicted by the Holy Ghost and groaned out by us, and answers faithfully, though too deeply for verbal utterance.

The Holy Spirit is the Author of a truly efficient prayer. He knows all languages, whether in words or groans. Consequently all true hearts under all circumstances can pray right up to God the petition indicted by the Holy Spirit, whether in words or groans, understood by our glorious Intercessor and presented directly to the Father.

The Holy Spirit help us to pray the prayer He put in our heart and that is why James said the fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much.

Elijah prayed with faith and fervency, according to the will of God revealed to him; and though he was a man subject to the common infirmities of human nature with ourselves, yet his passions did not hinder the prevalence of his prayers;

we too have passions like Elijah but when we pray with what Holy Spirit gives us, we will get answer despite our passions.

So in order to get much more than what we requested or think as Ephe 3:20 says, it has to be according to the power that worketh in us.

Eph 3:20 KJV Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh

in us,

The power which is working (not passive: see on Gal 5:6 : the power is the might of the indwelling Spirit; see Rom 8:26)

1. the power that worketh in us , which is none other than the power "which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead". (Eph 1:20)
2. The power that is actually at work in us has only to be exerted a little more to accomplish wonders of sanctification, and confer on us immense spiritual strength.

All we need to do is to cooperate or engage the Holy Spirit today?

One beautiful way to respond, exert, or cooperates with power that works in us is to speak in tongues. When you speak in tongues

1. you speak the mystery of God.

1Cor 14:2 KJV For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

The word mysteries means secret will of God. It is not revealed to the uninitiated. When you give expression to it, it will be done.

2. you edify yourself, that is you charge yourself up like battery connected to power. At that time anything is possible.

Jud 1:20 KJV But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Your prayer become more fervent that is inwrought and Bibles says the fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much. It makes tremendous power available dynamic in its working. You will begin to pray with prayer given by Holy Spirit like Elijah and power is generated, things around begin to change, power changes hand, ministry change, healing takes place, bonds are loosed, healing takes place, oppressed are delivered, burden are broken. Boldness comes to you, you do as occasion permits like what Samuel told Saul.

The reason why it has tremendous force is because it is the prayer

generated by the Holy Spirit and prayed under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is dynamic, it make tremendous power to be available.

When the power is available, changes takes place, blessing comes down, adversary are defeated, battles are won, children line up, husband behaves, jobs are found. Then what we asked will be granted and God will do exceeding abundantly above what we ask because we ask according to the purpose of His heart like Solomon and Hannah

Prayers

Father as I begin to pray, reveal your will, show me your way, open my eyes, open my hears, enlighten me.

Every power blocking my vision in life perish in Jesus name.

I receive the infilling of the Holy Ghost with fire and power or you can pray, Lord Jesus you are the baptizer of men with Holy Ghost, baptize me with today.

The audio teaching is available on our website www.felixabodundeoutreach.org

