

A Call to Prayer (4)

Prayer That Changes Things

James 5:13-18 & Selected Texts

Intro: Unlimited Access (we are welcomed to boldly approach the King and present our petitions... why would we NOT pray bold prayers?)

I. Prayer That Can Change Outcomes (13-16)

PT example of the bank vault which requires TWO keys in order to open.

II. The Example of Elijah (17-18)

III. Other Examples

a. Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 1:9-20)

b. Hezekiah's Prayer for Deliverance from Assyria (2 Kings 19) & Prayer that results in God extending his life 15 years (2 Kings 20)

c. Jonah's Prayer (Jonah 2)

d. Prayer for Peter's release from prison (Acts 12)

e. Daniel's prayer for the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2)

Conclusion: The Most Powerful Prayer (The thief on the cross... SAVE ME JESUS!)

Discussion Questions

1. If you are completely honest with yourself, would you say that prayer is your FIRST response to situations (both good and bad), a LAST RESORT, or somewhere in between? Why do you think that is?
2. Have you ever prayed for someone earnestly, yet they still died? How did that impact your faith at the time? How has God shown you His love and faithfulness since that time? How did this message shed some light on prayers that don't get answered the way we might hope?
3. PD posed the hypothetical question, 'What if Hannah (& others) had not prayed?' Think of (& share if you're in a group setting) a time when you tried to handle the situation yourself. Could it have gone differently if you had prayed first? Now, think of a time when you prayed, and the situation changed. Do you think prayer was a major reason for the change?
4. *How do you reconcile the idea that prayer is effective & can really cause things to change with the idea that God already knows the number of our days & has it all written down in His Book of Truth?*