

- Powerful prayer requires a **bold faith** in our powerful God.

14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for. 1 John 5:14–15

17 Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! James 5:17

- Elijah's **obedience** to God put him in places where he needed God.

30 But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any of the kings before him. 1 Kings 16:30

…and he *(Ahab)* began to bow down in worship of Baal. 32 First Ahab built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. 1 Kings 16:31-32

17 Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! James 5:17

Now Elijah, …told King Ahab, "As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!" I Kings 17:1

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go get something to eat and drink, for I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!" 1 Kings 18:41

42 ….Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees. 1 Kings 18:42

How to pray bold prayers:

- Bold prayers are postured in **humility**.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. 1 Peter 5:6

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6

13 But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 18:13-14

Action Step:

Get away with God and position yourself with **humility**.

"Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said… 1 Kings 18:43a

- Bold prayers are not **discouraged** prayers.

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

Action Step:

Identify a past **disappointment** that has stopped your prayers, and give it to God.

…Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. 44 Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea."… 1 Kings 18:43b-44a

- Bold prayers are **persistent** prayers.

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9

Action Step:

Start praying again for something you've **given up on**.

…Then Elijah shouted, "Hurry to Ahab and tell him, 'Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don't hurry, the rain will stop you!'" 1 Kings 18:44b

- Bold prayers are **expectant** prayers.

God can do anything you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! Ephesians 3:20 (Msg)

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6

45 And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm, and Ahab left quickly…1 Kings 18:45

Action Step:

Identify a need in your life, and begin praying with **expectation**.

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What is the difference between simply believing God exists and boldly believing He can intervene in your circumstances?
- Elijah's obedience put him in difficult situations where he had to depend on God. When has obedience to God required you to trust Him beyond your comfort zone?
- Why do you think pride makes it difficult to pray boldly? How does recognizing our dependence on God change the way we pray?
- What distractions or demands tend to keep you from spending intentional time alone with God?
- Have you ever stopped praying about something because you became discouraged? What caused you to give up?
- Elijah's servant looked toward the sea seven times before seeing a cloud. What does this teach us about continuing to pray when we don't see results?
- Is there something you've given up praying for that you need to start bringing before God again? What's holding you back?
- Elijah saw a small cloud but expected a mighty rainstorm. How can we develop a faith that expects God to move even when we only see small signs of progress?
- How do we maintain bold faith while still surrendering the outcome and timing to God's will?
- If you truly believed God could do more than you could ask or imagine, what would change about the way you pray this week?

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Today's Talk..



How To Pray Bold Prayers

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