

THE EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYERS OF RIGHTEOUS MEN

Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him ~Matthew 18:6



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LET'S OPEN THIS SESSION IN PRAYER

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WHAT IS A FERVENT PRAYER?

And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.

~Luke 9:38

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BESEECHING THE LORD

Beseech (bĭ-sēch') - transitive verb

1. to request in an earnest or urgent manor
2. to implore; to beg; to cry out
3. to entreat in a forceful way
4. to supplicate, to plead with, appeal to...

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BESEECHING THE LORD (LUKE 18:1-8)

¹ Then [Jesus] spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' ⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

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BESEECHING THE LORD (LUKE 18:1-8)

⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "
⁶ Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

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BESEECHING THE LORD

- Do we really believe (have faith) that He will answer?
- Do we merely justify His silence as normal?
- Am I praying the will of God? (1 John 5:14)

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BESEECHING THE LORD

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
~1 John 5:14-15

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BESEECHING THE LORD

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BESEECHING THE LORD

- Do we really believe (have faith) that He will answer?
- Do we merely justify His silence as normal?
- Am I praying the will of God? (1 John 5:14)
- How do I know if what I'm praying for is God's will

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BESEECHING THE LORD

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

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BESEECHING THE LORD

- Do we really believe (have faith) that He will answer?
- Do we merely justify His silence as normal?
- Am I praying the will of God? (1 John 5:14)
- How do I know if what I'm praying for is God's will
- What Paul was praying was NOT God's will; but God answered Him. And the answer was a good answer!
- An example from parenting

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EXODUS 32:7-10 (CONDENSED)

⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸ They have turned aside... They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰ Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

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EXODUS 32:11-14 (CONDENSED)

¹¹ Then Moses pleaded with the LORD... "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people... ¹² Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them'?... Turn from Your fierce wrath, relent from this harm to Your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel... to whom You swore... I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴ So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

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BESEECHING THE LORD

Whether we're crying out for...

- The salvation of a wayward child; change in an abusive spouse
- Healing of an ongoing disease; Justice in wrongful situation
- ...or for a prodigal nation, a wayward wife, an unfaithful people
- The LORD craves our prayers of fervency and persistence
- He appreciates the tenacity shown by the persistent widow
- He answers prayers like Paul's

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“Our passions are not too strong; they are too weak. We are far too easily pleased.”

~ C.S. Lewis (The Weight of Glory)

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WHAT DO WE BESEECH THE LORD FOR?

Severity of the Prayer:

- * Pleas of mercy * Supplications * Mourning *
- * Fasting * Sackcloth & Ashes * Full Confessions *
- * Look upon Him whom they have pierced *
- * Weeping * Great Cries *

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I SAMUEL 1:7-18

⁷ So it was, year by year, when [Hannah] went up to the house of the LORD... she wept and did not eat.

⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”...

¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore, Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!”

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I SAMUEL 1:7-18

¹⁵ But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."
¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."
¹⁸ And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

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WHAT DO WE BESEECH THE LORD FOR?

Severity of the Prayer:
 * Pleas of mercy * Supplications * Mourning *
 * Fasting * Sackcloth & Ashes * Full Confessions *
 * Look upon Him whom they have pierced *
 * Weeping * Great Cries *
 * Thoughts about Hannah's prayer *

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GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

- God answers prayer: sometimes YES; sometimes NO;
- He will not ignore our fervent, persistent prayer
- Even if the answer is "no", we move into God's confidence
- The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
- Our willingness to labour in prayer wins us His audience.
- Our fervency in prayer is evidence of our faith...

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GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Hebrews 11:6
...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

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GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

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WHAT DO WE BESEECH THE LORD FOR?

- The things we personally care about
- The things we feel are beyond our control
- The things that matter, things that have significance
- The things we feel God has burdened our hearts with
- The things which cause pain to us and those we love
- The things that demand justice

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WHY PRAY FOR ISRAEL?

- What are we requesting when we pray for Israel?
- **Standard Four Prayer Points:**
 - Prayer for the Salvation of the people of Israel
 - Prayer for effectiveness of Israel-related ministries
 - Pray for the land and the people
 - Pray for pastors and churches to understand Israel

I think we have to go deeper

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THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

What exactly are we pleading for?

- We're asking to God to restore a **broken marriage relationship**
 1. The wife (Israel) is **estranged, rebellious** and **disinterested**
 2. The Husband (God) will not break His oath her
 3. Continuation of the purpose of God's relationship to Israel
- We're asking God to continue to pursue His adulterous wife

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IS ISRAEL GOD'S WIFE?

- ¹⁴ "Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD;
"for I am married to you. ~Jeremiah 3:14

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IS ISRAEL GOD'S WIFE?

• ⁶ “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers ~Deuteronomy 7:6-8

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WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ESTRANGEMENT?

- Brokenness of original relationship**
- The loss of respect for God
- The results of broken communication
- The outcome


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**THE BIG STORY OF THE BIBLE
(RESTORING A BROKEN RELATIONSHIP)**

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RUNAWAY BRIDE

- Mankind in the Garden
- First Kingdom of God
- Love, Intimacy, Trust
- Continuous, Loving, Willing Submission
- Suspicion Entered
- Eve believed the lie
- She lost faith – ran away

The serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
~Genesis 3:4,5

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BROKENNESS OF ORIGINAL RELATIONSHIP

- By believing the lie, her faith in God’s love is undermined
 - she stops trusting that he has her best interests at heart
 - She looks elsewhere for protection
- Likewise Israel is unwilling to allow God to be her protector
 - Flip-Flop:
 - Too afraid to trust Him as her protector
 - Too arrogant to admit she needs His protection

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WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ESTRANGEMENT?

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LOSS OF RESPECT FOR GOD

- Do not be afraid; I am your shield and your very great reward ~Gen 15:1
- God alone is to be Israel's protector and provider
- Because Israel won't trust God, she constantly turns to:
 - Other nations, other gods, or her own strength
 - The repetitive story of Kings and Chronicles
- Our tiny home, her faith in me allowed me to perform ³⁴

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LOSS OF RESPECT FOR GOD

Matthew 13:57-58

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." ⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

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LOSS OF RESPECT FOR GOD

- I am your shield and your very great reward
- God alone is to be Israel's protection and provider
- Israel won't trust God to be her provider or protector
 - A lesson from Kings and Chronicles
 - The fear or the LORD
 - Israel & Judah looked to other Gods & Nations
- Our tiny home, her faith in me allowed me to perform ³⁶

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WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ESTRANGEMENT?

- Brokenness of original relationship
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- The results of broken communication**
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RESULTS OF BROKEN COMMUNICATION

- She turns to others for her protection and provision
- She's afraid to turn back to God
- She lost her God-centred worldview
- Her faith in His character continues to diminish
- She falls for the lies of the enemy even further
- The enemy mocks God and tells her she can't trust Him

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- Brokenness of original relationship
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- The results of broken communication
- The outcome**

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LAWFUL PUNISHMENT

- Ends w/ divorce, death or separation - definition: tragedy
- Judgement
- Removed from Inheritance

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WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ESTRANGEMENT?

- Brokenness of original relationship
- The loss of respect for God
- The results of broken communion
- The outcome: death & divorce**

But when God... (Galatians 1:15)

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LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS.

- God's plan is to:
 - Win back the run-away bride
 - Restore the broken-hearted
 - Resurrect the dead
 - Reconcile the irreconcilable
- God hates divorce and hates adultery!
- Yet, let's look at Jesus' treatment of divorced women

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BUT WHEN GOD... (GALATIANS 1:15)

- God will not break His covenant with her**
- In spite of her disobedience, God will restore her
- For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ~Rom 11:15

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