

# The World-Changing Power of Prayer

*The ONE Thing That Changes Everything, Week Five*

Jesus gave his disciples a basic introduction to prayer, but he also challenged them to go deeper into supplication and intercession. We'll talk about how to pray like an advanced disciple and see miracles happen in, around, and through us as a result.

## HEART

I have this strange tendency to say that I believe in the power of prayer, to pray when I feel a sense of desperation, and then to get to the other side of my trial and forget to look back and celebrate just how powerfully God worked.

In other words, while I say I believe in the power of prayer, I sometimes forget to actually believe in the power of prayer, and yet I strongly believe that I *should* believe in the power of prayer.

## HEAD

The early church was absolutely dependent on the power of prayer. And they sometimes forgot about it, too.

There was that time (Acts 12) when Peter was in jail. They prayed for his release and when he was released, they didn't believe he was actually free. But...

**God is extremely patient with our little bit of faith and wants to watch it grow in us. So he gives us his word and he gives us experiences of victories.**

### Acts 4:23-35 NLT

23 As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. 24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: "O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—

25 You spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? 26 The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered

together against the LORD and against his Messiah.'

27 "In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. 28 But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will.

29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. 30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. 32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. 34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

**Prayer doesn't FIX everything.**

**But prayer does CHANGE everything.**

Prayer doesn't fix everything about **me**, but it changes me.

It shapes me. It molds me into one who is intimately connected with God, who thinks more biblically and believes with greater boldness in God's response.

Prayer doesn't fix everything about **the world**, but it does change the world.

Prayer doesn't fix everything about **my circumstances** but it does change my circumstances.

Prayer doesn't fix everything about **my health** or **my finances** or **my relationships**, but prayer effectively changes things in every one of those areas.

# God has chosen prayer as the means by which we effect real, lasting change in the world around us.

## HANDS

I want to ask you to pray right now! Pray for yourself - that you would be centered and contented in your relationship with Jesus, that you would have all that you need and life abundantly. Pray for others - those who are hurting, who are lost, who are broken. And pray for the world that doesn't yet know Jesus.

## HEART

How do you need prayer? We'll support you as your church family. Write it down and let us pray over your needs this week.