

The World Spins Madly On

Week 3: The Power of Prayer

CCV Groups Discussion Guide

Opening Question:

- How did this message challenge your approach to prayer? What do you need to start doing, stop doing, or keep doing to strengthen this area of your faith?

Groups [Video Guide](#)

Read again:

- [1 Kings 18:41–44](#) and [James 5:13–20](#)

Discuss:

- Share with the group one habit or practice you have found helpful in your own prayer life.
- Read the passages listed below. As a group, come up with a list of habits or practices that someone could use to coach others how to pray?
- We talked this weekend about prayer being “expectant.” What action steps could we (or should we) take after we pray to help answer the very prayer we prayed?
- According to the message, prayer should be humble, specific, expectant, and persistent. Which of these four characteristics mark your prayers the most and which marks your prayers the least?

Prayer:

Have a time of prayer right now.

- Take a moment to humble yourself before the Lord.
- Pray very specifically. Ask God what you want, not in general terms but with details.
- Over the next couple of days, act on the prayer as if it is already answered.
- Pray these very prayers all week long and report back to the group next week.

Scriptures:

- **Luke 18:1-8**, “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary. “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”
- **Luke 18:9-14**, “To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner. “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

- **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, “Pray without ceasing.”
- **Mark 11:23**, “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.”
- **1 John 5:14**, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: That if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”
- **Ephesians 6:18**, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”
- **Psalms 17:6**, “I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.”
- **James 1:6**, “But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.”
- **James 5:15**, “Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.”