

## “Prayer That Availeth Much” class

### Lesson 3—Prayer That Availeth Much

Finally! The good stuff! Now that your heart is prepared, you get to start learning how to pray mighty prayers! James 5:16 says, *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* (KJV) So, let’s get down to business!

- Ask God to guide your prayers. The disciples of Jesus and John the Baptist didn’t mind asking their leaders for help with their prayers, so why should you? Asking God for help in your prayer life will relieve you of the false burden of feeling the need to pray the exact right thing for everyone and every situation, and of feeling you have to get things exactly right or your prayers won’t be heard.

*Luke 11:1, “And it came to pass, as he was praying in a certain place, that when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, even as John also taught his disciples.” (ASV)*

- Listen to the still, small voice of God as He urges you when to pray, and how to pray. He will place the urge in you to pray for what you should pray for. For example, if you are passed on the road by an ambulance with sirens roaring, you may feel an impulse to say a quick prayer for the person who is being raced to the hospital. Follow that urge and pray for him or her! That is God’s way of telling you to pray! He speaks to us in many ways about our prayer life, including little “urges” to pray, bringing someone or a specific situation to mind during our prayer time, and even reminding us of someone as we read a Bible verse that is similar to that person’s situation.

A time may come when you may not think to pray for the person for whose home a fire truck is racing towards, or the people involved in that fender bender you just passed on the road. That doesn’t mean God doesn’t care, or you don’t care, or you can’t hear from God. It simply means God has someone else in mind to pray for that person. I believe when certain situations or people move our hearts, it is God’s way of opening a door for us to pray for that person or situation.

*Revelations 3:8, “I know thy works (behold, I have set before thee a door opened, which none can shut), that thou hast a little power, and didst keep my word, and didst not deny my name.” (ASV)*

- State a need, not the reasons God should meet the need. He knows why your sister needs \$1,000 soon. Telling God why she needs that money isn't going to persuade Him to answer the prayer. Just keep things to the point. Look at how Jesus prayed the Lord's prayer as an excellent example of this:

*Matthew 6:9-13, "After this manner therefore pray ye. Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil (one.)" (ASV)*

- Spending extra time repeating yourself won't impress God. A heartfelt prayer that lasts for 30 seconds can be more powerful than a 30 minute prayer full of repetitions designed to fill time or impress God.

*Matthew 6:7, " And in praying use not vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." (ASV)*

- Have a believing heart when you pray. God wants you to believe that He will answer your prayers. Faith makes Him move! Remember Jairus' daughter? She died while he was trying to get Jesus to come to his home to heal her, yet he raised her from the dead, because Jairus believed in Jesus.

*Mark 5:36, "But Jesus, not heeding the word spoken, saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Fear not, only believe." (ASV)*

- Have a grateful heart. Why would anyone want to bless someone who expects to be blessed without offering any thanks in return? God is the same way. When we are grateful to Him for what He does, it makes Him want to bless us all the more. This also feeds into the above point of having a believing heart. When you are thankful, you think about what God has done for you. And, when you think about what He has done for you, then it builds your faith.

*Colossians 3:15, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful." (ASV)*

- Pray for God's will to be done in the situation for which you are praying. I cannot stress this enough! God is wise beyond our mere human comprehension—He knows what needs

to be done to be the greatest blessing far more than we do! No matter how good our intentions, it is still wisest to trust that His will is the best answer to the situation at hand.

My testimony of praying for God's will for my father is amazing. He has had health problems his entire life. Now that he is in his 70's, they seemed to have gotten worse, along with some new ones. Dad had begun using a cane a while back, having balance and memory problems and more. I started out praying for God to heal him and fix all these problems. One day it hit me—Dad is tired of living with all these problems. Maybe it's his time to rest. How could I be selfish and want him to be healed if he may be, in a way, looking forward to resting in the Father's arms? He wasn't suicidal, or even depressed, but knowing him, I thought that he may be thinking of death as a rest from all these problems. I stopped praying for God to heal him specifically. I asked God for His will to be done in this situation. It was daunting—I thought my dad may possibly die soon, I wasn't sure. But instead, within a few weeks, Dad saw a new doctor who took him off one prescription that was causing 90% of his health problems, and once it was out of his system, he was back to quite good health!

Now it's journal time again. You might want to start a new one just to keep track of your prayers. If you decide to keep a prayer journal, you can follow this basic format below. It isn't mandatory, but merely a suggestion. Personally, I just write my prayers in my everyday journal along with their answers.

#### Example Prayer Journal:

Prayer Need:	Date Prayed:	Answer:	Date Answered:
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