

David pt14 - Prayer Moves God

Pastor John Carmichael

[2Sa 21:14 NASB] 14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the grave of Kish his father; thus they did all that the king commanded, and after that God was moved by prayer for the land.

- Read receipts on emails. They can be used against you. Don't leave people on "read", it offends them.
- How does this have anything to do with prayer and the Holy Spirit?
- "God was moved by prayer for the land." (some translations "entreated": not one-way communication but heard and answered. God received the prayer and released the answer. (Gesenius Hebrew Chaldean Lexicon)
- Most believers agree that prayer is important, but do not do it. Dr. Jack Deere writes, "The problem is not that we do not know to them (to pray, study the Bible, faithful to church, etc.), but the problem is that we do not 'do' them."
- Maybe the reason we do pray is that we do not know that God will move as a result of our prayer.

What will God do because of our prayers?

The book of Acts reveals several things God will do because of our prayers.

I. Prayer moves God to pour out His Holy Spirit.

- A. [Act 1:14 NASB] 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with [the] women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- B. [Act 2:1 NASB] 1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
- C. Prayerfulness creates an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit.

II. Prayer moves God to release a boldness to preach.

- A. [Act 4:24-31 NASB] 24 And when they heard [this,] they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, 25 who by the Holy Spirit, [through] the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. 29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, 30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and [began] to speak the word of God with boldness.
- B. [Eph 6:18-19 NASB] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and [pray] on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

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C. Prayerfulness enables us to be bold.

III. Prayer moves God to give an effective solution.

- A. [Act 6:1-6 NASB] 1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing [in number,] a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic [Jews] against the [native] Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving [of food.] 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.
- B. [Jas 1:5 NASB] 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- C. Prayerfulness connects to the answers of our problems.

IV. Prayer moves God to cause a miraculous deliverance.

- A. [Act 12:2, 5, 12-16 NASB] 2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. ... 5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. ... 12 And when he realized [this,] he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. 15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel." 16 But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened [the door,] they saw him and were amazed.
- B. Most of Hebrews 11 speaks of miraculous deliverances.
- C. Prayerfulness is connected to the deliverances God desires for us.

V. Prayer moves God to reveal callings.

- A. [Act 13:1-3 NASB] 1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was [there,] prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
- B. When you are calling on Him, He reveals His calling on you.
- C. Prayerfulness helps find out what we are called to do.

VI. Prayer moves God to demonstrate His power to cause salvation.

- A. [Act 16:22-31 NASB] 22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order [them] to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of

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praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" 29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- B. [Act 2:41-42, 47 NASB] 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- C. God is wanting to save the lost.
- D. Prayerfulness helps people see Jesus so that can surrender to Him.

- Prayer is not an empty exercise. Believe that prayer is worth your time.
- Prayer should not be neglected. Begin to pray daily and join the church in prayer.
- Prayer moves God. Know that God will respond to your prayer.