

Prayer Bugle #3



Introduction: Often there is a disconnect when it comes to prayer. Many Christians think of it as an activity only done at church or something for the uber spiritual. However, the Bible is full of prayers where normal everyday people called out to the Lord in real life situations; and God acted!

The Scripture: I Kings 17:2-7

The Situation: Elijah had said there would be no dew or rain except at his word (I Kings 17:1) God took him to the Brook Cherith to provide for him during the famine.

Suggestions for mediation and prayer: In what ways has God provided for your needs lately? Take time to thank Him for things He has done. Try to make it as specific as possible, Example: I was nervous about having a conversation with someone, but it went very well.

The Scripture: I Kings 18:17-19

The Situation: After 3 ½ years of no rain, God told Elijah to confront the king of Israel, Ahab. Ahab was not a friend of Elijah's, but Elijah shared God's message with him anyway. He put forth to Ahab and his god (Baal) a challenge.

Suggestions for mediation and prayer: Often in life we face difficult situations. Maybe the situation is a person; someone that is difficult to get along with or talk to. Do you know anyone like that? Have you asked the Lord for wisdom on how to handle such a person? Take time to ask the Lord for wisdom to handle the difficult relationships in your life. If there are specific people in mind, name them. If you have had success dealing with difficult relationships in your life, thank the Lord for showing you the right path and helping you through those situations.

The Scripture: I Kings 18:22-29

The Situation: Elijah was outnumbered 850 to 1! The challenge was to call down fire from heaven for a sacrifice. The prophets of Baal cried out most of the day and even cut themselves begging their god to answer, but he never did.

Suggestions for meditation and prayer: It is a wonderful thing to pray to a God who is alive and real and can hear our requests. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are personal beings that hear, know, and understand. Take a moment to thank God for listening, hearing and understanding your requests. Thank Him for Jesus who is “our high priest that understands” and is seated at the right hand of God the Father as our Advocate. Ask Him to hear and answer your prayers.

The Scripture: I Kings 18:36-39;41-46

The Situation: After Baal failed to send the fire from heaven, it was Elijah’s turn. He built the altar and even flooded everything with water! He prayed a 63 word prayer that would take less than a minute to pray and fire fell from heaven and consumed everything. Later Elijah prayed again and God sent the much needed rain.

Suggestions for meditation and prayer: James 5:17-18 says, “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain... Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.” Elijah was “a man with a nature like ours.” He was just like any other person, yet God used him in a powerful way because he believed in the power prayer. Jesus told his disciples in John 14:12 that “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do *even greater things* than these!” Because of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit which indwells every believer, we now have the power to do “even greater things” than Elijah and even Jesus through prayer. Take a moment to thank God for this power and ask Him to help you use it.

Conclusion: God chose to use a simple man in an amazing way. Elijah simply trusted the Lord and sought to obey Him. He prayed and God answered with fire from heaven and rain. The key was not Elijah, but the awesome God that he served. The Lord is waiting to use common believers in a mighty way when they seek to honor Him and pray.