

BOLD *Prayer* **Pray Hard**

give your prayer life a 360

Jeremy Peters ~ January 18, 2015

Luke 18:1-5 NLT

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

Augustine: "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

Romans 8:26-27 NLT

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

Because the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf, we can have confidence when we come to God in bold prayer that *He is going to give us what we would've asked for if we knew everything He knows.*

Two Structures to Enable Bold Prayer

1. Pray the _____

To meditate on a passage in order to pray it, write down answers to the following questions:

- *What does this text show me about God for which I should praise or thank Him?*
- *What does the text show me about my sin that I should confess and repent of?*

- *What false attitudes, behavior, emotions, or idols come alive in me whenever I forget this truth?*
- *What does the text show me about a need that I have?*
- *What do I need to do or become in light of this?*
- *Why might God be showing this to me now?*
- *What is going on in my life that he would be bringing this to my attention today?*

taken from Tim Keller's book "Prayer"

2. " _____ " with God

J.I. Packer: "...we should lay before God, as part of our prayer, the reasons why we think that what we ask for is the best thing."

The question is: **'Why do I believe what I am praying for may be within the will of God?'**

1 Kings 18:43-45 NIV

"Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'" Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling...

- It took Elijah 7 rounds of prayer to see the promise of God realized!

James 5:16-18 NLT

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. **Elijah was as human as we are**, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.