

Why Pray?

- Genesis 1:26-28 – 26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- Psalm 115:16 – The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.
- Genesis 2:15 – The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
 - “keep” = shamar = to watch over, protect, guard

Elijah Prays and Controls the Weather

- James 5:17-18 – 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.
- James 5:16 – ...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
 - Passion Translation = ...tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer!

Daniel Prays and the Exile Ends

- Background
 - 606 BC – Israel was defeated by Babylon and exiled
 - Jeremiah prophesied this captivity would happen, and that it would last 70 years
 - Years later, Daniel finds himself reading Jeremiah, and he realizes that the exile is nearing the 70-year mark.
 - So he starts praying that God would do it, return the exiles
- Daniel 9:3 – Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
- Daniel 10:12 - ...Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

You Can Even Change God's Mind

- Moses Prays for Israel (Exodus 32)
 - Because Moses prayed, God changed His mind and didn't destroy Israel after the Golden Calf
- Hezekiah Lives Longer (2 Kings 20)
 - Hezekiah was sick, and God told him he was going to die as a result. Hezekiah prayed and God decided to heal him and let him live another 15 years instead

Eight Quick Prayer Tips

- 1) Pray in faith, not in fear or whining
- 2) Pray knowing that God is good and hates evil
- 3) Pray what's in the Scriptures, or pray Scriptures themselves. Then you know it's in His heart.
- 4) Pray knowing that God is all-powerful and holds the nations in His hands
- 5) Pray in authority, as God's representatives on earth, here to see His will accomplished
- 6) Pray with someone else. Hearing their faith will build your faith.
- 7) Pray like you're talking to your best friend. You don't need fancy words. Just tell Him what you need.
- 8) Don't waste your time praying for things God won't do