



Discussion:

- Compare the action items in 2 Chronicles 7:14 and James 5:16.
- What makes prayer a great privilege?
- Share some answers to prayer that you prayed on another's behalf.

(Make a prayer list, including fellow Christians and those who need to accept Christ as their Savior)



The Power of Prayer

Biblical Text: Psalm 143
Biblical Truth: Prayer is the church's most powerful resource.
Lesson Goal: Fervent prayer is the key to true Kingdom building.

Introduction:

Acts 4:31, "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

There are nearly twenty magnitude 7.0 earthquakes each year. If you consider the effect of the first century prayer meeting in Jerusalem as a "spiritual earthquake," you would call the magnitude of that quake the greatest of all time. The prayer of the disciples resulted in a world-shaking.

They went from that prayer meeting with a powerful dynamic that resulted in the conversion of thousands of people—3,000 in one day. The church that prays has a dynamic power source. And the Christian that relies on prayer is a **Power of One**.

The psalmist David understood the **power of prayer**. A common man with human frailties, he was called by God to lead the nation of Israel—and was called a man "after God's own heart." His insights on prayer reveal a source of spiritual strength that equipped him for battle against the enemies of his heart and his country.

Discussion:

- Name some enemies of the heart and enemies of the country.
- How does prayer help us face those enemies with a powerful dynamic?

David's writings open eyes of faith toward God and connect our hearts with His heart. Reading the Word, then praying the Word, compels God's people to go forward as a **Power of One**.

Read Psalm 143:

1. David's Confidence was in God, "in your faithfulness come to my relief. . ." (v. 1)

- David trusted God for personal forgiveness (v. 2)
- David trusted God for courage to face the enemy (v. 3)
- David trusted God for strength to serve (v. 4)

David trusted God to come alongside and meet him in his weakest areas. Prayer is relying on God's for ministry to others.

2. David reflected on God's Presence, "I remember the days of old" (v. 5).

- God was present in creation and provision - "I meditate on all your works"
- God was present in loving care - "I . . . consider what your hands have done."

David remembered times of deliverance, from facing Goliath to facing the threats of Saul. Difficult times teach us what it means to depend on God. He will make a way for our good and His glory.

Discussion:

- Think of a time when God's presence helped you through a challenging situation.
- How does God's presence motivate us for service to others in their challenging situations?

3. David called out to God in faith, "I spread out my hands to you" (v. 6)

- His position was one of total dependence on the resources that only God could provide; like the words of the song "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling."
- For David, there was no Plan B. The enemy's plans were too big. He needed the wisdom and might of a Sovereign God.
- David believed that God would hear and answer his prayer. His prayer was a personal and sacred decision.

The attitude of prayer is humility in the presence of God's majesty.

4. David prayed in the confidence of His relationship with God, "I have put my trust in you" (v. 8)

- A heart free from inner strife is the foundation of faith.
- A heart purified from self-rule is a heart that rests in the power of God (Ps. 51:10, Acts 15:8-9, James 4:3).

"Reflecting on the faithfulness of God gives us strength for trusting in the promises of God." - Amy Carmichael:

5. David remembered His Holy Calling – "I am your servant" (v. 12)

- He sought God's will
- He answered God's call
- He led God's people

Prayer not only gets God's attention, it calls us to action.