



# WEDNESDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Elijah: Praying with Power

**Passage:** James 5:17-18, I Kings 18

**Speaker:** Youth Pastor Trevor Hampton

**Introduction:** Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given to His children, yet many believers struggle to experience its power. We know the right words to say, but often wonder why our prayers seem ineffective. James points us to Elijah, an ordinary man with the same struggles and weaknesses we have, yet God used his prayers to stop the rain, bring fire from heaven, and open the heavens once again. The difference was not that Elijah possessed extraordinary ability, but that he had an extraordinary dependence on God.

### I. Pursue God Privately

Before Elijah ever stood on Mount Carmel and prayed a prayer that brought fire down from heaven, God was preparing him in the private places.

The brook, the widow's house, and the room with a dead child were not wasted seasons; they were where Elijah learned to trust the power and faithfulness of God.

We often desire God's power in the public moments, but God develops our faith in the private moments.

A powerful prayer life is not built in the emergency room, in a crisis, or the moment of desperation; it is built daily when nobody else sees, when we seek God, depend on God, and learn to trust God.

The prayer that moves heaven publicly is usually formed through a heart that has been prepared privately.



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## **II. Proclaim God Publicly**

Powerful prayer requires us to stop being controlled by the fear of what people think and start being consumed with the glory of God and His will, not our wishes.

Powerful prayer is not about asking God to make our name great; it is about asking God to make His name known.

When God's glory becomes our greatest concern, we become willing to do whatever He asks, trust Him with whatever He chooses, and watch Him do what only He can do.

## **III. Purge Self Properly**

One of the greatest dangers we face in our walk with God is allowing our focus to shift from God back to ourselves.

When we become consumed with self, we lose sight of what God is doing around us.

The enemy wants us to believe that we are alone, that our problems are too big, and that God is no longer working. But when we take our eyes off ourselves and back on God, we remember that He is more powerful than our circumstances.

Powerful prayer requires a heart that is focused upward on God's glory, not inward on ourselves.

**Conclusion:** Elijah's life reminds us that powerful prayer is not reserved for spiritual giants. It is available to ordinary believers whose hearts are fully surrendered to God. Before God worked through Elijah publicly, He worked in him privately. When Elijah sought God's glory above his own, God answered in remarkable ways. But when Elijah became consumed with himself, fear replaced faith. The greatest obstacle to powerful prayer is still a heart focused on self. If we want to see God work in powerful ways, we must pursue Him privately, proclaim Him publicly, and continually purge self from our hearts.