

# CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR  
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

## PRACTICING POWERFUL PRAYING

1 KINGS 18:36-46

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | December 3, 2017

**Introduction:** Last time we began looking at Elijah's fifth secret for living a successful and significant life: unleashing the powerful prayer.

### I. The Prelude To Powerful Praying

1 Kings 18:24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God. And all the people answered and said, 'that is a good idea.'"

### II. The Prerequisites For Powerful Praying

- A. A Right Relationship with God
- B. Obedience to God's Commands
- C. Unshakable Faith

### III. The Principles Of Powerful Praying

1 Kings 18:36-37 <sup>36</sup> "Then it came about at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, 'O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.'"

**A. Approach God with Confidence**

**B. Pray According to God's Will**

1 John 5:14 “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality.”

**C. Focus on Glorifying God**

1 Kings 18:36-37 <sup>36</sup> “...O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God...”

**IV. The Practice Of Powerful Praying**

1 Kings 18:42-43; 45 <sup>42</sup> “...Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees. <sup>43</sup> And he said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ So he went up and looked and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And he said, ‘Go back’ seven times. <sup>45</sup> So it came about in a little while, that the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower.”

**A. Pray Privately**

Matthew 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

Mark 1:35 “In the early morning, while it was still dark, He [Jesus] arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.”

**B. Pray Honestly**

1 Kings 18:42 “...But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth, and put his face between his knees.”

Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

**C. Pray Specifically**

James 5:17-18 <sup>17</sup> “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

**D. Pray Persistently**

1 Kings 18:42-44 <sup>42</sup> “So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees. <sup>43</sup> And he said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ So he went up and looked and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And he said, ‘Go back’ seven times. <sup>44</sup> And it came about at the seventh time, that he said, ‘Behold, a cloud as small as a man’s hand is coming up from the sea.’ And he said, ‘Go up, say to Ahab, prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.’”

Conclusion