Heaven's Response to Prayer

Buddy Payne · Luke 18:1–8 · Series: **Christians Facing A Corrupting Culture**

INTRODUCTION

- God's people have always faced challenges. So let's not be discouraged by that.
- Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.
- Shine as lights at that time. Hang on to the word of life, be what God wants you to be, and do not allow your culture to corrupt you.

1 God Rules Over This Universe

Colossians 1:15–18; Acts 17; 1 Timothy 6:15–16

- God rules over this universe. That is true in this corrupting culture. It's true in every circumstance, and we need to be reminded that he's in control.
- He started it all, everything was created by him, and it continues to exist because of him. He sustains it all.
- A sovereign, beloved, is one who does not have to answer to anyone.

2 The Prayers of Believers Can Impact His Rule

Revelation 8:1–5

- This God has so established and circumscribed his rule in such a way that the prayers of believers can impact his rule.
- How is it that a sovereign God who is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipowerful, could in any way allow his rule to be impacted by puny, sinful, mortal humans.
- God has so ordained it that the prayers of saints come to his presence in his heavenly throne room.

3 Exhibit Number One: Elijah Prayed Earnestly

James 5:16–18

- The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
- He prayed earnestly that it would not rain. And it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
- Elijah, a man like me and like you, impacted what God did by his prayers.
- He used the things nature normally does and providentially manipulated nature.

4 Exhibit Number Two: Pray and Not Lose Heart

Luke 18:1–8

- The purpose of this parable was to tell us never to give up praying.
- A widow was probably a representative of the weakest human being there was.

- And shall God not avenge his own elect who cry out day and night to him, though he bears long with them? I tell you, he will avenge them speedily.
- Will he find us continually coming back to him in prayer, no matter how discouraging it gets, no matter how corrupt our culture has become.

5 Pray for Kings and All in Authority

1 Timothy 2:1–4

- Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings, for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.
- Is it worth praying for to preserve the freedoms we have in this country?
- Do my prayers impact that? Well, he says they do.

6 As the Clay Is in the Potter's Hand

Jeremiah 18:1–10; 2 Corinthians 12

- If that nation against whom I've spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster I thought to bring upon it.
- Is that the sovereign God saying, I will change my mind? Yes, it is.
- Bible students know Abraham changed God's mind a bunch of times.
- He's made it so he will and can if he decides to. And does he want me coming? Yes, he does.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If we truly believe these things, surely we will be more intense and more continual and more determined in our prayers. Would we not?**

MY NOTES