Prayer

David Banning · Psalm 145:17–19 · Series: **Christian Living (Attributes of)**

INTRODUCTION

- Perhaps the most significant thing that we need to say about prayer, and that is that prayer is powerful. That when we pray, it makes a difference.
- Just because God will answer does not mean that we will always get the answer we want. It does mean we'll always get the answer we need.
- A critical part of effective prayer is praying in faith, praying with the belief and confidence that God will indeed answer.

1 The Bible Teaches the Power of Prayer

Matthew 7:7–11; 1 John 3:21–22; James 5:13–18

- Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be open to you.
- Asking requires humility. It means that I've got to reject the notion of this world that I'm a self-made man.
- Keep on in your asking. Keep on in your seeking. Keep on in your knocking. Be persistent.
- Our prayers are heard by a God who is not only able, but who is willing to answer.
- And whatever we ask, we receive from him. Because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.
- James is saying that the prayer of a righteous man is capable of producing results. It changes things. It makes a difference.

2 The Bible Demonstrates the Power of Prayer

1 Kings 18:20–39; 2 Kings 19:14–35; Acts 4:24–31

- The Bible demonstrates over and over again, in biblical case after biblical case, demonstrates to us the power of prayer.
- Four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal could not accomplish in a whole day of shouting what a simple appeal of a man of God could accomplish in an instant.
- The same power that brought down fire from heaven to consume this sacrifice is exactly the same power, equally potent power that works to answer our prayers.
- With God on our side and the power of prayer at our disposal, we are always the majority.
- Nehemiah's is a great example about how God answers our prayers, but not always in our time.
- They prayed for courage, and immediately the answer of God is to provide them with the courage they needed.

THE CHALLENGE

The question I would pose to all of us this morning is how will we respond to that love?

MY NOTES