



Praying With God Video Course

Session Three

What Happens When We Pray

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'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' Acts 4: 31

Session Three: What Happens When We Pray



*'The earnest heartfelt continued prayer of a righteous **man makes tremendous power available dynamic in its working.**' James 5:16, Amplified.*



Releases tremendous power from the throne room

The right kind of prayer can release power that changes things and brings us the victory in the battle. There are many examples in the Bible.

1. Power released on earth

Acts 16:25: Amplified. Paul and Silas delivered from prison: 'But about midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them, Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the very foundations of the prison were shaken; and at once all the doors opened and everyone's shackles were unfastened'.

At about midnight they were singing songs and praying and this praise was connecting them to God. Suddenly, such tremendous power was released from their prayers that their shackles broke off and the prison doors flew open. These two men had been doing the work of God when these unfortunate things happened to them. Notice they did not sit in their stocks and ask God why He allowed this to happen to them, and tell God how they didn't deserve this. They prayed and praised God with thanksgiving.

2. Activity in Heaven

The prayers of Paul and Silas in the prison released a power from heaven: Revelation 5:8: 'And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders of the heavenly Sanhedrin prostrated themselves before the Lamb. Each was holding a harp (lute or guitar), and they had bowls full of incense (fragrant spices or gums for burning), which are the prayers of God's people the saints.'

As Paul and Silas were praying on earth, they were releasing 'incense' in Heaven. Once these bowls were full with prayer, *'the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and cast it upon the earth. Then there followed peals of thunder and loud rumblings and blasts and noises, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.'* Revelation 8:5.

The result was astounding. The jail was shaken to pieces by an earthquake and the shackles of every person in that jail fell off. Yet, they did not run away. There was a glory released in

the jail that was so appealing and so beautiful, that even hardened criminals were touched by it.

Another example of this beautiful glory cloud is in 2 Chronicles 5: 14 when Solomon's temple was dedicated and the priests could not stand because of the heavy, tangible Presence.

3. **Examples in the Psalms**

In Psalm 141 we see David comparing his prayer and uplifted hands to the evening sacrifice or 'incense'. Psalm 18 describes similar earth shattering manifestations of power as a result of David's prayer – lightening, smoke, thunder and deliverance.

4. **Power to heal the sick**

We see yet another example of the heavenly release of power resulting in a release of physical power that healed the sick in Acts 4: 28-31. The disciples had been threatened by the Sanhedrin and gathered to pray in the upper room. The place was physically shaken as they prayed, and they were 'filled with the spirit'. This experience resulted in miracles, signs and wonders. The people brought the sick and laid them on the street where Peter's shadow released healing. As prayer is being offered to God by the disciples, the incense is being collected before the throne of God. Picture the scene in heaven as the angel dips the censer into the fire on the altar and throws it down on the room where the apostles are praying. The whole room shakes and the Glory of God fills the room.

5. **Power to defeat the enemy**

1 Samuel 7:8-10: The Philistines were threatening to destroy Israel, who had no weapons. The Lord fought for Israel, with 'thunder and lightning' and the Philistines were routed. It was the physical power of God released in the natural that won the victory.

So we have seen many examples of this dynamic throughout the Bible - the prayers of the people released tremendous power to bring deliverance and victory.



Key Points

1. Effective prayer releases power from heaven.
2. This power brings release, deliverance and victory.



Reflective Question

What happens on earth and in Heaven when we pray? Support with scripture.



Bible Study: 'Avaieth' – Greek: ἰσχύω (ischuō)

James 5: 16b : KJV: 'availeth' much: look up original meaning of Greek word Strong's G2480 – ischyō

You can use this link:

<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G2480/ischuo.htm>

Write out the meanings of the word below:

Y _____

Y _____

Y _____

Y _____

Y _____

List at least 5 other places in the Bible where this word is used:

Y _____

Y _____

Y _____

Y _____

Y _____



Bible Study: Results of Effective Prayers

Read through the following scriptures. List the features you notice about the different prayers. What are the results of effective prayers?

Verse	Features/Results
Acts 1: 14	
Acts 2: 1-4	
Acts 2: 42-43	
Acts 4: 23-31	
Acts 6: 4-6	
Acts 12: 1-17	
Acts 13: 2-3	
James 5:16-18	
Revelation: 5: 8-10	