

A defeated prayer life will defeat you. So let's pray victoriously!

Winning Prayers have 3 Characteristics in **1 Kings 18:36-37**

36 At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah approached the altar and said, "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant, and that at your word I have done all these things. 37 Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that you, the LORD, are God and that you have turned their hearts back."

1. REVERENCE

- a. I heard over and over for those who didn't go to church during COVID how they missed worshipping together with other Christians. There is something wired into us with a need to worship. There is only ONE who is worthy.
- b. Holiness - The LORD - the self-existing one, God - the mighty one
 - i. What you call God in your prayers is important! His names in the Bible give us reason and perspective on why we should worship Him.
- c. Faithfulness - God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel
- d. Presence - "you are God in Israel"
 - i. God can be worshiped despite circumstances and opposition.
- e. Authority - At your word I have done all these things - the one in charge

God's Word is sometimes called *His Revelation*. He reveals Himself! Why? So we can worship!

2. RESPONSE

- a. Prayer has always been a spiritual activity delegated out.
 - i. How many times have you asked a friend, family member, pastor, a priest or a religious person to pray for you, but you don't even pray?
 - ii. Stop counting on someone else to pray for you. Because when we pray something important happens.
- b. V. 36 "I am your servant, and that at your word I have done all these things."
 - i. Elijah describes himself as a slave.
 - ii. When we worship, we not only recognize God, but we see ourselves clearly.
- c. A winning prayer is a humble prayer.

3. REQUEST

- a. Prayer has always been one of the hardest disciplines.
 - i. Prayer is one of the least impressive disciplines...you can measure Bible knowledge. You can see a successful ministry function. You can see a building. But prayer is difficult to measure its success or progress. Why? Because we have to be content to count on someone's activity.
- b. Elijah's 3 Requests
 - i. Answer me 2x
Elijah doesn't dry out the wood and hope for lightning (which is common on Mt Carmel near the Mediterranean Sea. Elijah is counting on God to answer.
 - ii. The people will know God 2x
 - iii. The people will know God turned their hearts back

Elijah doesn't try to control the situation. He doesn't say, "God, I need you to send fire because I made a deal with Ahab. There also has to be a lot of fire because I put water on the altar. There are a lot of people watching so you are in a position where we both look bad if you don't show up. Is there something else you want me to do? If you are going to do this, will you do it soon?"

- iv. **Victorious prayers are ones that admit the victory is going to come from someone greater.**
- c. Psalm 131:1 LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I do not get involved with things too great or too wondrous for me. Why not? There are a lot of things to get involved in!!! Psalm 131:3 **HOPE IN GOD**
- d. Elijah looked at the prayers of the prophets of Baal and said, "I am not going to pray losing prayers. I am not going to call God on a wrong number, I am not going to make prayer about me. I am going to have a healthy prayer of Reverence, Response & Request.

Winning Prayers consist of one basic rhythm, He is Worthy, I am Needy.