They Prayed

Abraham’s servant prayed; Rebekah appeared.

Jacob prayed; Esau’s mind was wonderfully changed from a revengeful purpose he had harbored for twenty years.

Moses cried to God; the sea was divided.

Moses prayed; Amalek was discomfited.

Joshua prayed; Achan was discovered.

Hannah prayed; Samuel was born.

David prayed; Ahithophel hung himself.

Asa prayed; a victory was gained.

Jehoshaphat cried to God; God turned away his foes.

Isaiah and Hezekiah prayed; 185,000 Assyrians were dead in twelve hours.

Daniel prayed; lions were muzzled.

Ezra prayed; God answered (Ezra 8:21-23).

Nehemiah prayed; a king’s heart was softened quickly.

Elijah prayed; rain came.

Elisha prayed; the Jordan was divided.

The Apostles prayed; the Holy Ghost came down.

The church prayed; Peter was delivered from prison.

Unanswered Prayers

I have seen persons stand at the door of a house, knocking on the wood with their knuckles, while a door-knocker was provided for them to use. Had they used the brass knocker they would have saved their hands pain and gotten a much speedier response.

This is like many and their prayer life. Instead of praying with the promises and the Spirit of God, they pray in their own feeble strength, and hence they pray amiss.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:3
Benefits of Prayer
Trench, 1871

Lord, what a change within us one short hour
Spent in Thy presence will prevail to make!
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take,
What parch’d grounds refresh, as with a shower!
We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;
We rise, and all, the distant and the near,
Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear;
We kneel, how weak! We rise, how full of power!
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others, that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overborne with care,
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy, and strength, and courage are with Thee?

“Prayer crowns God with the honour and glory that are due to His name, and God crowns prayer with assurance and comfort. Usually the most praying souls are the most assured souls.” — T. Brooks

Keep Praying!
C. H. Surgeon

You say you have been praying for a matter. Remember, the tree does not always drop its fruit at the first shake you give it. Shake it again! Give it another shake! Sometimes, when the tree is loaded, and it is pretty firm in the earth, you have to shake it to and fro, and at last you plant your feet, and get hold of it, and shake it with might, till you strain every muscle and sinew to get the fruit down. That is the way to pray. Shake the Tree of Life until the mercy drops into your lap.

Christ loves for men to beg hard. You cannot be too importunate. That which might be disagreeable to your fellow-creatures, when you ask of them, will be agreeable to Christ. Oh! Get ye to your chambers, ye that are saved! To your bed-sides, to your closets, and, “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:” Isaiah 55:6

May the Spirit of God constrain you to pray. May he constrain you to continue in prayer. Jesus must hear you. The gate of heaven is open to the sturdy knocker that affirms he will not take a denial.

“... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Why Pray?
Edited from an article by C. H. Spurgeon

A preacher promised to pray for a warrior who was going forth to battle for his country. “My prayer will be made continually for you that you may be victorious,” said the preacher.

The warrior, in his philosophic doubt, replied that he saw no use in the promised prayers. If God was determined to give him victory, He would do it without prayer; and if fate had decreed that he should be defeated, prayers could not prevent it, reasoned the soldier.

The godly man replied, “Then take off your helmet and your coat of mail, and hang up your sword and buckler. Go not forth to battle at all with your men-at-arms; for, indeed, if the Lord is to conquer your enemies He can do it without your weapons, and if God will not prosper you, it will then be in vain for you to mount your war-horse.”

Quickly, the soldier saw how ridiculous it was not to have the man of God pray for him.

Don’t Miss a Meal
Author Unknown

A laboring man needs three meals of nutritious food daily. A genteel idler may not relish even one, but he who toils with brain or brawn requires a regular supply of food; properly prepared and deliberately eaten.

Can a healthy, working Christian, maintain his efficiency on less? Shall he not give at least as much time in talking with the Lord as he would to his stomach?

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” Psalm 55:17

“Praying will give you a calm-plex!”

“The Aediles, who lived among the Romans, had their doors always left open, that all who had petitions might have free access to them. The door of Heaven is always open for the prayers of God’s people.” — T. Watson