

To Pray and Not to Lose Heart

Heaven's Response to Prayer



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **God rules over all the universe**
 - Colossians 1:15-17
 - Acts 17:24-28
 - 1 Timothy 6:15-16



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- God has established and circumscribed His rule in such a way that the **prayers of believers** can impact His rule!
– Revelation 8:1-5



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **Should encourage us to give our full devotion to prayer**
 - **Like Paul and Peter, Jeremiah and Nehemiah, Hannah and Esther, Abraham**



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **Should encourage us to give our full devotion to prayer**
 - **Like Jesus Christ, our Lord**
 - **His pattern**
 - **Luke 3:21; 4:42; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 9:28; 11:1; 22:39**



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- **James 5:16-18**
 - **Effective, fervent prayer by a righteous man avails much**
 - **Elijah, a man with a nature like ours**
 - **His prayers impacted God's providential manipulation of nature**



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- **Luke 18:1-8**
 - **Pray and not lose heart**
 - **Widow represents God's own elect**
 - **We can affect God's ruling in this world!**



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **Luke 18:1-8**
 - **Pray and not lose heart**
 - **Widow represents God's own elect**
 - **1 Timothy 2:1-4**
 - **Jeremiah 18:7-10**



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **Examples of righteous prayers who changed God's decision**
 - **Abraham** – Genesis 18:18-33
 - **Moses** – Deuteronomy 9:24-29
 - **Hannah** – 1 Samuel 1:5-20



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- **Examples of righteous prayers who did not change God's decision**
 - **Paul** – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
 - **Jesus** – Matthew 26:36-44



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **Some lessons learned**
 - God has chosen that the prayers of His faithful disciples can affect His decisions!
 - He has demonstrated that He will respond to their prayers



Heaven's Response to Prayer

- **Some lessons learned**
 - He has responded both miraculously and providentially
 - If we truly believe these things, surely we will be more intense and continual in our prayers!!



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