

Living By Prayer

12-29-24

Nehemiah 2:4 (ESV)

Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So, I prayed to the God of heaven.

“Then I prayed to the God of heaven” is the most beautiful example of spontaneous prayer in the Scriptures. In this situation Nehemiah standing before the Persian King, the most powerful person on earth, and he is caught off guard by a question from the King. Nehemiah standing face to face with the King uttered a brief prayer to God. The prayer and the answer impacted all of Israel who was in captivity by the Persian King. The lesson to us should be clear. Whatever situation we face each moment of the day, prayer to God should be the first thing that comes to our mind. Nehemiah *did not* go someplace and have a moment of prayer. Nehemiah spontaneously, immediately prayed in his mind and God likewise gave him his answer. This is Living by Prayer. We should always pray immediately in our mind for God’s guidance. Face to face with our situation, God will answer us. God wants us to bring every impossibility to HIM.

We need to pray like Jehoshaphat when he faced impossibilities.

2 Chronicles 20:12 (ESV)

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

This is Living by Prayer. God answers our immediate prayer in the immediate situation, but also there are times where we have time to get alone with God and present our impossible situation to HIM. Hezekiah received a letter presenting a devastating situation. Hezekiah shows us how we should deal with our unsolvable problems or for any matter facing us.

Isaiah 37:14–15 (ESV)

Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD AND spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD:

How many of us have received a distressing letter or news. Like Hezekiah we should take the letter and spread it before the LORD and pray.

I have actually done this several times. Often when facing difficult situations, I will write on paper the difficulty that I am facing and spread it on the floor before the LORD and lay my hands on it and pray. This is Living by Prayer. God promises us great things when we pray. Now I want to read a Challenging Scripture on Living by Prayer. We see in James 5:13-18 that we are called to live above the world's oppression and not live under the world's oppression. I wish I could say that I fully live out these truths, but I don't. However, I fully believe these are God's truth and strive to keep my eyes fixed on these truths. Living by Prayer!

James 5:13 (ESV)

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

All believers are to do this. Prayer connects our inner being to God. With sickness more support is needed; the elders of the church need to be called.

James 5:14 (ESV)

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Through God, Elders as overseers have positional authority to exercise the power of healing. In the church, elders also have a pastoral responsibility that comes with healing. Therefore, it does not say call those with the gift of healing. Also, the elders should “anoint with oil”. Biblically to anoint someone with oil for ministry was to say they were claimed and qualified for ministry. For healing the elders by anointing with oil carries the idea declaring a person claimed and qualified” by God for their healing. **With this healing prayer, Elders have an extended pastoral ministry.**

James 5:13–16a (ESV) NO/OH

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

We offer a prayer of faith. Faith is hearing from God and acting on what we hear. Of course, we pray in every circumstance. However, we also ask God to reveal to us anything else we should pray.

Thus, before we pray, we should listen to God so that we know how to pray. Then pray what God tells us.

James 5:16b (Literal)

The prayer of a righteous person is great power working.

When we pray, God hears us. Since God hears us, and we are righteous through the blood of Jesus, our prayers are great power working. Therefore, we should be Living by Prayer. God gives us a clear example of our power of prayer.

James 5:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Elijah was just like us. Let 2025 be Living By Prayer.

Colossians 4:2

Continue Living By Prayer, being watchful with thanksgiving.