

I Dare You to Pray Big

Every time that I evaluate my walk with the Lord, prayer is always the area that I lack in the most. Even in groups of believers when asked how others can pray for me I shy away from sharing my heart and tend to say something along the lines of “school”, “work”, “growth” and in the vagueness miss out on something big we have access to in prayer.

When I was considering a section of scripture to emphasize in this devotional I came across too many that tend to be overused when looking at the topic of prayer. In praying (ironically) I personally felt extremely convicted by James 5:16-18.

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 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. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.”

Before even revealing the prayer that Elijah had, James is quick to point out, he was a man just like us. The same God can and wants to answer our rain-stopping, life-shaking prayers just like Elijah. God wants to grant us the “desires of our heart” but when was the last time you stopped to think about what those were?

To give you some insight into my own conviction regarding prayer, I have to explain that this week I moved houses. In setting up the new place and starting to arrange my furniture I was overwhelmed that in all of the years of living as an adult, I have never prayed for someone to be saved in my home. The Holy Spirit moves hearts and opens doors but I had never asked him to humbly use my space to live out the great commission in Huntington. I stopped unpacking and texted some of my close friends to come over that night, the house was a mess the new couch was still in the box and sitting on the floor but standing in the living room we came over to pray over the space, that every room would be used for his glory in the upcoming semester that there would be a welcome environment and a space so prayed over there is something different when people enter in for the first time. I've never hosted a prayer party and what I had for people to eat was granola bars and water from the sink. Yet I left that simple gathering feeling there would be an eternal impact from it.

My challenge to you is to make a list of things that would be impossible without God, our God is the one who causes a three-year drought for a man that prayed fervently. If your impossible is getting 1 hour of quiet time this week then bring your big requests to the feet of Jesus and the feet of our church. The idea of praying big is new for me too, going to the Middle East this summer I was put in countless positions where I was in full dependance for God to answer my plea in prayer. We have an entire women's ministry (or at least me) that would love nothing more than to meet, call, and text about the desires of your heart.

-Michaela Marshall