

Prayer for the Lost is Slow

Kings 18:43-44 – “Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked. “There is nothing there,” he said. Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.” The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.”

Elijah was persistent in his prayer for rain after God revealed himself to King Ahab and the people of Israel. In the position of giving birth, he shows us that praying for the lost can be long and arduous. What symbolism can you see in this story?..time, position, the mountain, the rain.

James 5:17-20 – Jesus said – “Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”
What does this mean to you?

We are to labor in secret prayer. “It is not glamorous. But it is powerful and effective.”
Do you have souls you should be praying for?

The Pattern of Renewal - Every revival and awakening follows a common pattern.

J. Edwin Orr said – “Whenever God is ready to do something new with His people, He always sets them to praying.”

Charles Spurgeon said he always had a team of intercessors praying for him non-stop during his sermons, his “boiler room”.

Psalms 6:9 – “The Lord has heard my cry for mercy, the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.”
Who can we consider to be our enemies?

Proverbs 15:8 – “The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.”
How does God feel when we pray? Do you ever think about the feelings of God?

Math. 21:22 – Jesus said - “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, (The fig tree withered because Jesus saw that it would not bear fruit.) but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”
How is it possible that our prayers can be so powerful?

John 17:20-21 – Jesus said referring to His disciples – “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Jesus prayed for the future unsaved to be saved.

“Prayer is slow and unglamorous and it sometimes requires labor pains, but prayer is also a means to the joy of new life.”