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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

5. The Importance of Prevailing Prayer

This chapter defines 'prevailing prayer'—intercession pressed on until the answer comes—and argues it is God's chosen method for advancing His kingdom in this age. It walks through what such prayer is for, how long it may take, the increasing levels of intensity it can reach, and how believers unite in it.

Key takeaways

- Prevailing prayer isn't just for personal growth; it is God's ordained means to extend His kingdom, defeat Satan, and bring His will to earth.
- Christ's present work at the Father's right hand is chiefly to intercede, and the Holy Spirit intercedes with and for us—so our praying is a partnership with them.
- You may prevail for your own needs, but most prevailing is for others: the lost, the church, revival, nations, and situations where God's will is blocked.
- The time span varies wildly. A seemingly instant answer (Elijah on Carmel) often crowns years of hidden intercession. The secret is simply to pray until the answer comes.

- Some situations need repeated prevailing (Moses' raised hands over Amalek). Answers are never earned by loudness, effort, or emotion.
- Seven levels of rising intensity: Ask, Seek, Knock, Fast, Prayer burden, Wrestling, Prayer warfare—the Spirit guides you between them; don't over-analyze which one you're in.
- Five levels of uniting in prayer: prayer partners, prayer groups, simultaneous groups, leader-issued calls, and widespread prayer movements. God honors unity.

Passages worth keeping

“The secret of prevailing prayer is simply to pray until the answer comes.”

The chapter's core definition—intercession intensified until God answers.

How it connects

The chapter frames prayer as joining an intercession already in progress—Christ at the throne and the Spirit within—rather than a solo effort to get God's attention.

Scripture referenced

- **Heb. 7:25** -- Christ's present vocation is to intercede
- **Rom. 8:26** -- the Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words

- **1 Kings 18:38-44** -- Elijah—instant fire, then seven-fold prevailing for rain
- **Exod. 17:11-16** -- Moses' raised hands—repeated prevailing wins the battle
- **Matt. 7:7** -- ask, seek, knock—the first three levels of prayer
- **Col. 4:12-13** -- Epaphras prevailing daily for the Colossian church