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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

6. Prevailing Prayer — The Need of the Church

The chapter argues that the church's greatest need is people who prevail in prayer, not people who offer polite, occasional prayers. Prevailing prayer is hard, holy labor that produces real results. It is God's ordained means to save the world and advance His kingdom, and He is actively searching for intercessors who will take up that work.

Key takeaways

- Results, not eloquent words or pious feelings, are the test of true prevailing prayer.
- Prayer is not incidental to God's work — it is the work; everything else accomplishes little without it.
- Most Christians pray casually and rarely prevail, so the church stays busy and organized but sees few divine results.
- God has ordained Christ as the great, ongoing Intercessor, and He calls us to intercede alongside Him.
- Through prayer God has let believers share Christ's throne — we 'reign' by prevailing intercession (Eph. 2:6).

- The church needs prayer 'giants' and leaders who model and teach prevailing prayer to a new generation.
- No ministry is higher or more Christlike; its full reward will be revealed at the judgment seat of Christ.

Passages worth keeping

“Prayer was never meant to be incidental to the work of God. It is the work.”

States the chapter's central claim about prayer's priority.

“God's cause creeps forward timidly and slowly when there are more organizers than agonizers.”

Contrasts activity with genuine prevailing prayer.

How it connects

The chapter ties our prayer directly to Christ's ongoing intercession (Rom. 8:26; Heb. 7:25): the Spirit shares Christ's burden with us, and our prevailing joins His until God's will is done on earth.

Scripture referenced

- **James 5:16-18** -- Elijah as an ordinary man whose prayers were powerful and effective.
- **Col. 4:12** -- Epaphras 'always wrestling in prayer' — the model intercessor.

- **Acts 6:4** -- Apostles devoted themselves to prayer; the word then spread.
- **Eph. 2:6** -- Believers seated with Christ, sharing His rule through intercession.
- **Heb. 7:25** -- Christ's high-priestly intercession continues forever.
- **Ps. 2:8** -- God ordained to give the nations in answer to prayer.