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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

13. The Dynamic of Fervency

This chapter argues that prevailing prayer needs fervency—passion and zeal—not just desire. Where desire is born in need, fervency is born in love, which God places in the praying heart. The claim: cold, lifeless prayer is not really prayer, and only intense, earnest prayer has power with God.

Key takeaways

- Desire and fervency work together: desire supplies hunger and urgency, fervency supplies love and passion.
- Fervency flows from God's own love filling you as you draw close to Him—it is His work in you, not human effort.
- What matters is not the length or the words of prayer but its depth and intensity; God is found by those who seek with all their heart.
- Passion is not the same as loud or physical praying—it can be silent. It is also not 'works' that earn God's blessing.
- Scripture models it: Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Hannah, David, Elijah, and Jesus all prayed with agonizing intensity.

- Develop it by asking the Spirit for His love, cherishing any drawing to pray, feeding on Scripture and spiritual accounts, staying faithful in prayer habits, and carrying a few focused burdens.

Passages worth keeping

“Prayer without fervency is no prayer; it is speaking, not praying. Lifeless prayer is no more prayer than a picture of a man is a man.”

Richard Watson's line frames the chapter's core claim that intensity is essential, not optional.

“Prayers must be red hot. It is the fervent prayer that is effective... By flame prayer ascends to heaven.”

Bounds' summary image of fire captures the whole chapter.

How it connects

The chapter ties fervent prayer to Gethsemane: as Christ sweat blood in agony, prevailing prayer costs passion—but the fire is God's love working in us, never emotion we manufacture.

Scripture referenced

- **Isa. 64:7** -- No one rouses himself to lay hold of God—the failure of fervency.
- **Ps. 62:8** -- 'Pour out your hearts to him'—the passion of the soul in prayer.

- **Jer. 29:12-14** -- God is found by those who seek Him with all their heart.
- **Heb. 5:7** -- Jesus prayed with loud cries and tears—Christlike passion.
- **Rom. 15:30** -- 'Agonize with me' in prayer—Paul asking for struggling intercession.
- **James 5:17** -- Elijah 'prayed earnestly'—literally 'with prayer he prayed,' i.e. with intensity.