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The Art of Prayer

6. Chapter Three: Supplication Defined

This chapter defines supplication as heartfelt, earnest, fervent prayer — much more than a casual request. It then lays out who we can pray this way for and what we can pray for.

Key takeaways

- Supplication means a humble, earnest, fervent entreaty. If it isn't heartfelt, it isn't supplication.
- Pray it for yourself, for fellow believers, and for all people — including unbelievers and those in authority.
- It can be offered for laborers for the harvest, for God's Spirit to be poured out, for forgiveness (as Daniel confessed his sins and his people's), and for the spiritual growth of others (as Paul did in his letters).
- Its marks are always the same: fervent, earnest, continued prayer that makes tremendous power available.

Passages worth keeping

“The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available.”

James 5:16 (Amplified) — captures the whole point: real supplication releases power.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Timothy 2:1,2** -- supplication for all men and those in authority
- **Matthew 9:37,38** -- praying for laborers for the harvest
- **James 5:16-18** -- fervent prayer that avails; Elijah and the rain
- **Daniel 9:2,3,17,18** -- supplication to confess sin and seek forgiveness