

The word "RESOLVE!" is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn font on a light-colored, textured surface. Below the word is a thick, blue horizontal underline.

The Power and Promise of Prayer

Pastor Dale O'Shields

Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV) Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NLT) Ask Me and I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what is going to happen here.

1. Prayer that is guided by God's Word and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:14, 15 (NLT) And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. ¹⁵ And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for.

Romans 8:26 (NLT) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

2. Specific and focused prayer.

Luke 18:41 (NLT) Then Jesus asked the man, "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord," he pleaded, "I want to see!"

3. Pure prayer.

Psalm 66:18 (NIV) If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

James 4:2, 3 (NLT) You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT) In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

4. Fervent prayer.

James 5:16 (NKJV) Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Psalm 72:12 (NLT) He will rescue the poor when they cry to Him; He will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them.

5. Faith-filled prayer.

Mark 11:24 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

6. Persistent prayer.

Matthew 7:7, 8 (NLT) Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.

Luke 18:1 (NIV) Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

7. Bold and confident prayer.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT) That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to Him and never stop trusting Him. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same temptations we do, yet He did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.

8. Authoritative prayer.

Matthew 16:18, 19 (NIV) And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

James 4:7 (NLT) So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

9. Corporate prayers of agreement.

Matthew 18:19 (NLT) I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, My Father in heaven will do it for you.

10. Consistent, patient prayer.

Luke 2:36-37 (NLT) Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, and was very old. She was a widow, for her husband had died when they had been married only seven years. ²⁷ She was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.