

A background image showing the Earth from space, with a bright sun in the upper right corner creating a lens flare effect. The Earth's blue atmosphere and white clouds are visible against the blackness of space.

A TIME FOR...

“Prayer that Prevails”

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”

Helen Keller

Does Prayer have Impact?

Acts 16:16-18 NLT

¹⁶ One day **as we were going down to the place of prayer**, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes.

¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.”

¹⁸ This went on **day after day until Paul got so exasperated** that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her.

Q. Where is Philippi?



What Draws Attention & Intervention

Acts 16:22-26 NLT

²² A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.

²³ They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape.

²⁴ So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ Around midnight **Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the other prisoners were listening. ²⁶ **Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake**, and the **prison was shaken to its foundations**. All the **doors immediately flew open**, and the **chains of every prisoner fell off!**

What Undermines Effective Prayer?

- 1. Ungodly Motives:** **James 4:3**...when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.
- 2. Unconfessed Sin:** **Ps 66:18** ... If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
- 3. Unforgiveness:** **Mark 11:25** ... when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against...
- 4. Uncaring Relationships:** **1 Peter 3:7** ...you husbands must give honour to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding... She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner... Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

What Produces Prayer that Prevails?

James 5:16-18 NLT

¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

Fuel for Effective Prayer?

- 1. Focus:** **John 14:13** NLT You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.
- 2. Faith:** **Matt 21:22** NLT “You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.”
- 3. Fervency:** **1 Thess. 5:17** NLT “Never stop praying.”
- 4. Fasting:** **Acts 13:2** NLT One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.”



A TIME FOR...

What Do You See?

Prayer that Prevails!

Acts 16:27-33 NLT

²⁷ The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open.

²⁹ The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.” ³² And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household.

³³ Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.

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