

Intro: Continue our series on prayer this AM by talking about Prayer That Produces Spiritual Power: 2Chron 20
All too often we pray...and we don't feel like we see anything change. We ask...but we don't receive. When that happens we get discouraged, and disillusioned, and unfortunately we stop praying. Say: *"Doesn't work for me!"*
But, what if you KNEW how to pray in such a way that God would move powerfully on your behalf? Awesome!
Today I want you to look with me at the account of a man in the OT that KNEW how to pray...and pray powerfully
2 Chronicles 20

1. The Person That Prayed. Vs 1 Jehoshaphat, King of Judah (Divided Kingdom)
Jehoshaphat was one of the "Good Kings" of Judah. Honestly, that is pretty rare company! Not that Many That said, he wasn't perfect...just like you and me Jehoshaphat was a mixture of GOOD...and BAD!

- **Good Things:**
 - >When tough things came up...He SOUGHT THE LORD! His heart was toward God...
 - >Led the people of Judah well: Established fair laws, Led people to worship God,
 - >Destroyed many (not ALL) of the places of false worship around the Kingdom
 - >God's view of his character: 2Chron 20:31-32
- **Bad Things:**
 - >Made some bad choices in CRITICAL areas: Chose daughter of Ahab and Jezebel for son's wife!
 - >Made bad political alliances with other nations
 - >Destroyed most...not ALL of places of false worship 2 Chron 20:33 High Places (False worship)

Applic: Here is what I want you to see: Jehoshaphat was just like you and me. Some good..Some struggles
But, despite the problems in his life...and the failures and missteps and bad choices, God listened!
When he prayed..God listened and moved in response to his prayers! Didn't disqualify him!

- a. We sometimes think: I have to be PERFECT to have God move on my behalf...NO understand dust!
- b. We often have idealized views of biblical characters. They were men and women just like us

Jehoshaphat was an imperfect man...Yet God STILL HEARD HIS PRAYERS...AND MOVED POWERFULLY!

2. The Problem Jehoshaphat Faced. 20:1-2

He was being attacked by overwhelming force...Multiple nations allied against him..coming in to not only defeat him, but they were bringing everything they owned...defeat...destroy...take over...throw them out of the Land!
He faced a problem that was bigger than he was! There was NO way humanly speaking that He could win the war

Applic: We have that happen in our lives as well, don't we! Maybe not in exactly the same way...but all too often we face a Battle Bigger Than We Are...a Battle THAT WE CANNOT WIN!

- Financial Relational Health Spiritual Attack Enemy
- Sometimes it's a battle of our own making...we are dealing with consequences of our own bad choices
Listen, it doesn't matter WHY that battle is there in front of you...ISSUE IS: What are you going to do about it!?

3. The Prayer of Spiritual Power!

There is a pattern here that we all need to pay close attention to. And, very importantly, this is not the ONLY place you see this pattern in the Scriptures. Over and over again you see this pattern, or one very close to it when an OT person of faith is praying. Look at the different parts of how they prayed with me.

- **THEY RESOLVE TO GO TO GOD FIRST!** VS 3
Resolve: Lit = *to purpose in his heart.* Jehoshaphat could have done many different things. Just like we often do he could have gone to God as a LAST resort...but He didn't His heart said...GOD FIRST! In doing that there were 3 specific things that Jehoshaphat did.
 1. He Inquired of the LORD: Lit = *ask God for wisdom:* We ask everyone else: Not even people of faith...
 2. He called for a FAST: I'm not just going to pray...I'm going to do so in a way that says: SERIOUS!
 3. Came **TOGETHER** to seek help: Lit = *Request the favor of God:* God...WE NEED YOU TO INTERVENE!
Sometimes it takes more than one! Jesus: Where two or three together
When you are serious...You invite someone else to join you! TOGETHER!

Applic: That is what our 24 hour day of prayer DOES
We are TOGETHER...I am going to encourage you to FAST!

- **THEY BEGAN PRAYER WITH REMEMBERING WHO GOD IS!** VS 6
 1. God who is in Heaven! The REAL eternal God of Heaven and Earth.
 2. You RULE the kingdoms: Prov says *"The heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord, you turn it!"*
 3. You are ALL POWERFUL: Power and might are in your hands...No one can stand against YOU!**Applic:** When you REMEMBER who you are in touch with...Your problem small: Big God Small Problem

- **THEY REHEARSED HIS PAST WORK ON THEIR BEHALF** Vs 7-8
 1. Drove our inhabitants
 2. Gave them the land forever
 3. They have lived in the land: Built a life: Married, Buried, Celebrated, Laughed, Cried: LIVED LIFE!

When you start with past blessings the future challenges get smaller! REHEARSING all He has done builds faith

- **THEY REMINDED THEMSELVES OF HIS PROMISE.** Vs 9
 1. When Trouble comes: **REGARDLESS** of WHY! (Judgment or Famine)
 2. We will stand in YOUR presence and cry out our distress
 3. **YOU WILL HEAR US AND SAVE US!**

Applic: This is not some random cry for help! This is a reminder of the **PROMISE OF GOD!**
 2 Chron 7:11-16 We quote the first half...often overlook the last half of promise!
- **THEY RESTATED THE PROBLEM...AND CRIED OUT FOR GOD'S HELP!** Vs 10-12
 1. Our enemies are coming...Multiple nations
 2. We have **NO POWER** to face this vast Army... **BATTLE IS BIGGER THAN WE ARE**
 3. **KEY: WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO....BUT OUR EYES ARE ON YOU!**
- **THEY RELIED ON WHAT GOD SAID...AND SAW VICTORY.** Vs 13-29
 1. vs 15: The battle is not yours...but the Lord's
 2. vs 17: Take up your positions and **WATCH!**
 3. vs 20ff: Have enough faith to sing victory **BEFORE** the battle!
 4. vs 22: As they began to sing God began to work! Their enemies attacked and destroyed one another
 5. vs 29: God was glorified, the nation was protected and the other nations were afraid to attack!

Maybe this morning YOU are facing a battle that is bigger than you are. It is so large, so overwhelming, so out of your control that you have no idea what to do. Listen to me. **THAT'S OK!** You aren't the first one that is a follower of God that has been there, and you will not be the last!

Just because you love Him, and serve Him, and seek to honor Him you are not given a pass from all the difficulties of life. In fact...sometimes you have them come **BECAUSE** you are seeking to serve God. And that's Ok. Just like Jehoshaphat you can win that battle if you deal with it in the right way: **THE PRAYER OF POWER!**

CONCL: Today, if you are in that situation, I challenge you To Do A Couple of Things

1. Turn to God **FIRST!**
2. **REMEMBER** to Who God IS
3. **REHEARSE** His provision and blessing in the past
4. Restate the problem... *"Let your request be made known to God."*
5. Rely on what God says!

OK PASTOR...I'm Willing to Try...How do I do that PRACTICALLY?

1. Sign up for the 24 Hour Day of Prayer
2. Take one of the prayer Request cards and write your prayer request on it...bring it to me...Riva Link
Do it now...Don't wait...resolve that you are going to turn to and trust God.
We will take those...and make a list for the church to pray during the 24 hour day of prayer
3. Start **SINGING**...as you begin to **TRUST GOD** for the answer to **PRAYER BEFORE YOU SEE IT!**

AFTER LAST SONG: THE BLESSING

What To Expect If God Doesn't Answer the way you Desire

1. Know that He is strengthening or Preparing you to bless others
2. Know that He is making you a testimony of **FAITHFULNESS** to others: Heb: Such a great cloud of witnesses
3. Know that **HE** has a **GREATER PURPOSE:** ESTHER; SAMPSON; PETER; JESUS saw that "Any other way"
4. Know that you can trust Him for the best...He will work all things together for **GOOD!** Rom 8