



Focus God has deposited His power within us. We distribute His power on the earth through persistently praying in Jesus' name for His will to be done.

Open What is your favorite wintertime activity?

Read Why must we persist in prayer? It is not because we are talking God into moving, or that we are earning answers to our prayers through hard work.

God has deposited His power within us through the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that God “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20, NKJV). In this verse, the word “according” denotes distribution. Our prayers determine how much of God’s exceedingly abundant power is distributed in our lives. God has decided to partner with us. He has deposited the power of the Holy Spirit within us for *us* to measure out.

In John 7:37–39, Jesus described the flow of the Holy Spirit from our lives as a river. However, our hands are on the “faucet”—we control whether the flow of the Holy Spirit is a river or a trickle. Prayer is not a matter of motivating the Father to move, but releasing the power that He has already given us. There is no problem with His power, but there may be a problem with how we are controlling the flow of the faucet!

The Book of Revelation describes a picture in which the prayers of the saints are held in a bowl, like incense. When the bowl is full, the fire (power) of God is added to the prayers and returned to earth. This is the same fire that fell when Elijah prayed, that stood between the children of God and their enemies, and that fell on the Day of Pentecost! When we persist in prayer, we open the “faucet,” fill the bowl, and unleash the fire of God in our lives.

Talk

1. What stood out to you most in this message?
2. Have you believed that prayer was earning a response from God, or talking Him into doing something? Why did you think some situations required persistent prayer?
3. Read Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8 and Ephesians 3:20.
 - a. What is the power that God has deposited in you through the Holy Spirit? What is it like?
 - b. In Ephesians 3:20, the word “according” means “to the measure of.” How does understanding the meaning of this word change your understanding of the entire verse?
4. The work of our salvation is finished and complete through Jesus, yet we must receive it by faith and learn to fully walk in it. Likewise, all the power that we need is fully available to us, but we must learn to fully distribute it through prayer. How can understanding and applying this truth revolutionize your life?
5. What effect does it have on the way you pray to realize that the power God distributes through you is the *same* power that was at work in the lives of the people in the Bible, such as Elijah and Daniel?

Live

1. In what areas of your life, such as your marriage or finances, are you distributing a “river” of power through prayer? In what areas are you distributing a trickle? Why is that?
2. Specifically, what effect have the truths discussed in this series had on your prayer life? What has caused the greatest impact on your relationship with the Lord? Why?

Pray

Thank the Lord that He has chosen to partner with you. Thank Him for His power that He has given you. Ask Him to help you to distribute His power to its fullest potential on the earth. Commit to persistently seek His will in prayer.