

## Effectual Fervent Prayer, Part 5 - Prevailing Prayer

**James 5:16** Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The Napoleonic Wars which stormed through Europe from 1792 to 1815 were waged in the name of tyranny. Napoleone Buonaparte was bent on establishing his very own empire. He had risen quickly through the ranks of the French army due to his natural talents for leadership and strategy. With age, his ambitions grew more lofty and by his late twenties Napoleon had forced all of France's continental opponents to submit.

Napoleon enjoyed great success until 1812, when Napoleon made the fatal mistake of attacking Russia to punish it for abandoning their crucial economic alliance. This campaign ended with Napoleon's humiliating retreat from Moscow, and was the turning point in Napoleon's dream of total conquest in Europe. Napoleon abdicated in 1814 and was exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba.

And then, after a short-lived escape and return to power in March of 1815, Britain and its allies ultimately defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo a few months later.

From an original force of 678,000 men that entered Russian Territory in June 1812, only a force between 10,000 and 30,000 crossed the Nieman river into Kovno and left Russian territory to return home to France in December 1812. In the judgment of the majority of historians, it was not the skill of the Russian Army that was responsible for their defeat; it was simply that the Russians held out until the harsh Russian winters cut off Napoleon's supply lines. His army literally starved and froze to death

**Charles Minard's famous graph** – tan line showing how many marched into Russia, black line showing how many marched home to France, and recorded along with the temperatures they faced

The historical novel "Napoleon and Blücher" by Luise Mühlbach begins

with these words ...

“It was a fine, warm day in May, 1812. The world was groaning under the yoke of Napoleon’s tyranny.”

But this was the year that Napoleon chose to lift his hand against Russia! Later in the book comes this dialogue between Napoleon’s nemesis, the Prussian General Gebhard von Blucher, and one of his direct reports, General Scharnhorst, about the outcome of the Russian invasion ...

“Has [Napoleon] again obtained a great victory?”

“No, general,” said Scharnhorst, solemnly, “God has obtained a victory!”

Blucher raised his head, and laid his clay pipe slowly on the table. “What do you mean, general?” he asked. “What do you mean by saying, ‘God has obtained a victory?’”

“I mean to say that He has sent into the field troops whom even Napoleon is unable to defeat.”

“What troops do you refer to?”

“I refer to the cold, the snow, the ice, the howling storm blowing from Siberia, like the angry voice of Heaven, striking down men and beasts alike.”

“And these troops of God have defeated Napoleon?”

“They have, general!”

“Blucher uttered a cry, and, jumping up from his chair, drew himself up to his full height. “The troops of God have defeated Napoleon!” he exclaimed, solemnly. “I have always believed in divine justice – slow sometimes, but sure. Tell me every thing, my friend, tell me everything,” he added, sinking back into the chair, quite overwhelmed by what he had heard.

God's will prevails, though it may seem slow, God always prevails.

**Isaiah 55:8-11** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

His word SHALL accomplish the thing for which He has sent it, as surely as the earth watered by rain and snow brings forth life on earth.

Rain and snow. We get rain. We understand that rain waters, nourishes, brings forth life. But snow?

Snow. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. Who wrote that song?! I thought snow killed everything. But the promise in the Word is that snow will bring forth, bud, and give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.

When it's brutally cold and there is a ton of snow on the ground, I'm not a huge fan of the weather man. But rain and snow BOTH bring forth God's purpose. Both seem destructive at times, but if you just wait around awhile, you'll figure out that we can't even exist without rain and snow.

Think about the seasons in your life when you feel cold, and numb in your heart, like there is a storm all around you. Even in that time God is still working! Just like snow preserves dormant seeds until spring, that's what God is doing in your life even when you can't see Him at work. If you'll stay steady, you'll see the seed spring forth after the winter.

**Job 23:8-12** Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

God's Word will NOT return until it accomplishes what He sent it to do! So hold on to the WORD God has spoken to you – it is piling up like snow until it stops the devil dead in his tracks!

We have to keep praying!

When Daniel went on his 21-day fast, God gave him a grand vision – every word was true, but it didn't all happen immediately!

**Daniel 10:1** In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; **and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long:** and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

Some causes take a long time to accomplish in the Kingdom of God. It is going to take more than a couple prayers.

Young William Wilberforce was discouraged one night in the early 1790s after another defeat in his 10 year battle against the slave trade in England. Tired and frustrated, he opened his Bible and began to leaf through it. A small piece of paper fell out and fluttered to the floor. It was a letter written by John Wesley shortly before his death. Wilberforce read it again: "Unless the divine power has raised you up... I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that (abominable practice of slavery), which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? Oh, be not weary of well-doing. Go on in the name of God, and in the power of His might."

[\*Daily Bread, June 16, 1989.\*](#)

It is God's power and might that will lead to our victory. We cannot stop trusting in Him. It is not human effort alone. It is the power of prevailing prayer!

In his book, Pastoral Grit: the Strength to Stand and to Stay (Bethany), Craig Brian Larson writes:

"In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe Pioneer 10. According to Leon Jaroff in *Time*, the satellite's primary mission was to reach Jupiter, photograph the planet and its moons, and beam data to earth about Jupiter's magnetic field, radiation belts, and atmosphere. Scientists regarded this as a bold plan, for at that time no earth satellite had ever gone beyond Mars, and they feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target.

"But Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and much, much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's immense gravity hurled Pioneer 10 at a higher rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. At one billion miles from the sun, Pioneer 10 passed Saturn. At some two billion miles, it hurtled past Uranus; Neptune at nearly three billion miles; Pluto at almost four billion miles. By 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun.

"And despite that immense distance, Pioneer 10 continued to beam back radio signals to scientists on Earth. 'Perhaps most remarkable,' writes Jaroff, 'those signals emanate from an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light, and takes more than nine hours to reach Earth.'

"The Little Satellite That Could was not qualified to do what it did. Engineers designed Pioneer 10 with a useful life of just three years. But it kept going and going. By simple longevity, its tiny 8-watt transmitter radio accomplished more than anyone thought possible.

**"So it is when we offer ourselves to serve the Lord. God can work even through someone with 8-watt abilities. God cannot work, however, through someone who quits."**      Philippians 3:12-14    Hebrews 12:1    Mark 10:45

Craig Brian Larson, [Pastoral Grit: the Strength to Stand and to Stay](#), Bethany.

We have a great assignment before us. We want to see multitudes of souls saved in our area. It won't be easy. It won't happen overnight. Our efforts seem so little at times, but God can use someone who doesn't quit. God can use someone who keeps praying in faith!

## **Conclusion:**

We all have friends and loved ones who need to be saved. I believe you will be encouraged tonight by a story about George Muller.

One day Muller began praying for five of his friends. After many months, one of them came to the Lord. Ten years later, two others became Christians. It took 25 years before the fourth man gave in and came to Jesus. Muller persevered in prayer until his death for the fifth friend, and throughout those 52 years he never gave up hoping that he would surrender to Christ! His faith was rewarded, for soon after Muller's funeral, the last one was gave his life to Jesus.

### *Our Daily Bread.*

Don't give up. Don't quit. Keep practicing prevailing prayer! We will see the enemy defeated. We will see friends and family members saved. We will have coworkers who come to Christ. We will see people set free. We will see the Kingdom of God advanced in us and through us!