

Hear The Sound Of The Trumpet ■ The Call To War

by Brian Long

This sermon emphasizes the power of united, fervent, and specific intercessory prayer, using examples from the Bible and personal testimonies to illustrate how faith in God's promises can lead to miraculous breakthroughs and healing. It highlights the importance of beholding God, praying without ceasing, and trusting in God's faithfulness even in the face of challenges and seemingly impossible situations.

Scripture: Matthew 15:21, James 5:16, Psalms 41:1, John 11:5, Philippians 4:13

Topics: "Intercessory Prayer", "Faith in God's Promises"

Description

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Transcript

I want to share something that I'm rejoicing about this morning. I shared with brother Shane through a text message leading up to these meetings how my daughter had become very very ill and she was in a hospital room and in near Washington DC where she's at she could not walk on her own she could not sit up out of bed on her own very ill and I asked Shane and Al to really go to prayer with me today is Kaylee's birthday and she said to me dad in the last four days I have felt so good I don't remember the last time I felt so good as I felt in the last four days glory be to God amen and I want to thank you for praying and I told her well there's a church in Leona Valley California called West Side Christian Fellowship and they know how to pray and there's some of them that have been praying all night long around the clock they've been plowing when God is here when God moves today and he's going to move mightily today let us give him thanks and praise for some faithful laborers who called upon him all night long and made intercession at an intercessory prayer amen joy to be here our main text today is going to come from Acts chapter 12 but and we're going to look at a lot of scripture today but before we turn there I want you to look at Numbers chapter 10 Numbers chapter 10 where we'll just see a couple verses and just to give you a little bit of review from Friday night Saturday morning Saturday night we've been talking at least the messages that God has really impressed upon my heart have to do with hearing the sound of the trumpet many times throughout the scripture God had his watchman blow the trumpet and it was to sound the alarm and give

an alert and awaken the people and we've been talking about three trumpet blasts three trumpet calls Friday night the trumpet call was a call of warning the warning is judgment is coming judgment is coming to this nation but with that warning call was a mercy call it's time to get right with God it's time to turn to him with all of our hearts it's time to cry out in prayer like we've never prayed before and knows but what God would hear our cries and have mercy forgive our sin heal our land again revive his church that's the trumpet call the call to warning last night we heard the trumpet call which was a call to worship the call to worship to return to true worship and we said that true worshipers they're not taken up with the place or anything else outside they're taken up with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ true worshipers fear God they stand in awe of him they worship him with reverence and all true worshipers hold nothing back they give their best and their all to God true worshipers surrender now I'm here to blow the third trumpet this morning and that trumpet is a call to war it is a war call it is a call a battle cry a battle cry and how do we primarily go to war this is not how do we fight it's not joining the MMA it's not joining the army or the Marines or the Air Force if you try to fight this war that way you will be destroyed this isn't even this is a more fierce battle a greater war but God has taught us how to fight and it's time that we as the people of God stand as soldiers good soldiers of Jesus Christ engage in the battle stand in the gap and fight as God has called us to fight we've got to hear the trumpet sound this morning we've got to respond now in Numbers chapter 10 in verse 8 it says and the sons of Aaron the priest shall blow with the trumpets and they shall be to you for an ordinance forever throughout your generations and if you go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresses you then you shall blow an alarm with the trumpets and you shall be remembered before the Lord your God and you shall be saved from your enemies hallelujah Nehemiah chapter 4 verse 20 says it this way whenever you hear the sound of the trumpet sorry wherever wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet join us there our God will fight for us isn't that good news wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet join us there our God will fight for us now how do we how do we join in the battle how do we fight let's go to Acts chapter 12 and learn how the early church fought how they went to war Acts chapter 12 beginning in verse 1 I never thought I would have to do this but I'm having to break down and use glasses Acts chapter 12 verse 1 now about that time Herod the King stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church and he killed James the brother of John with a sword and because he saw it pleased the Jews he proceeded further to take Peter also then were the days of unleavened bread and when he had apprehended him he put him in prison and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people Peter therefore was kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him and when Herod would have brought him forth the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers bound with chains and the keepers before the door kept the prison and behold the angel of the Lord came upon him and a light shined in the prison and he smote Peter on the side and raised him up saying arise up quickly and his chains fell off from his hands and the angel said unto him gird thyself and bind on thy sandals and so he did and he saith unto him cast thy garment about thee and follow me and he went out and followed him and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel but thought he saw a vision when they were passed the first in the second ward they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city which opened to them of his own accord and they went out and passed on through the one street and forthwith the angel departed from him and when Peter was come to himself he said now I know of a surety that the Lord has sent his angel and has delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews and when he had considered the thing he came to the house of Mary the mother of John whose surname was Mark where many were gathered together praying and as Peter knocked at the door of the gate a damsel name came to him came to hearken named Rhoda and when she knew Peter's voice she opened not the gate for gladness but ran in and told how Peter stood before the gate and they said unto her thou art mad

you're crazy they said but she constantly affirmed that it was even so then said they it is his angel but Peter continued knocking and when they opened the door and saw him they were astonished they were astonished let's pray one more time father we thank you for the anointing of your Holy Spirit we thank you for your incredible amazing presence here in this place we thank you that not one of us is here by accident or coincidence but you've drawn us together for such a time as this you have a very very important word to speak to us Lord I'm asking you that your strength and power would be made perfect in my total weakness and that you would proclaim your word in such a way that we would clearly hear the sound of the trumpet learn how to fight learn how to go to battle learn how to war your way open our eyes to see you open our ears to hear you open our heart that we may be captivated by you in your presence and have your way in this place today let your name be glorified is our prayer in Jesus name Amen it was a very very dark day for the early church it looked at this point as if evil were going to triumph as if evil were going to overcome good the church is under major satanic attack brother James has just been put to death and now they say Peter was to be next but for now he's bound in chains and he's being held in a prison awaiting for his execution it was a dark dark day for the early church and I wonder my brothers and sisters if we have eyes to see what a dark dark day it is today in this country I wonder if we have eyes to see what a critical hour it really is just one glance at the news today and it seems like evil is triumphing has it ever occurred to you what your children and grandchildren will face in the future should there be no awakening no revival Peter is bound in prison yet how many of our loved ones and our neighbors and how many in this house this morning are bound by sin being held captive by the devil in prisons of darkness and addiction how many are chained to this big ball and chain of drink or dope how many are bound by prescription pills how many today are enslaved by the sin of lust and pornography addiction how many are held captive by the devil in prisons of hopelessness depression and despair how many will soon face death but they're not ready to die and what will be the end if God's people don't learn how to pray and stand in the gap I want us to learn from this early church what would their response be at such a critical hour James their brother has just been executed Peter their their pastor their brother is in prison Herod's going to do the same to him do they get real political and start signing petitions and see if that'll work do they get on the phone and talk about how gloomy and sad it is and just just talk about it but do nothing would they just say well everything happens for a reason if God wants Peter to live you live if God wants Peter to die he'll die and passively just let things continue as they are do they just turn a deaf ear on it in a blind eye to what's happening turn on the TV watch another movie and pretend that all is well do they say sorry Peter I'm just too busy right now you're on your own thanks be to God this early church did none of that they did none of that they had one response and it was their first response not their last resort they said we must go to prayer let's pray pray pray why because they believed in the covenant keeping and prayer answering God who had not forgotten them they believed the Word of God and the promises of God such as Jeremiah 33 3 where God says call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know promises such as Psalm 50 verse 15 where God says call upon me in the day of trouble I will deliver you and you will glorify me they called a prayer meeting Acts chapter 12 verse 5 Peter therefore was kept in prison if this verse is not underscored in your Bible brothers and sisters underline it underscore it Peter therefore was kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him this is the turning point of the whole chapter this is where everything changes Peter is kept in prison but the church starts praying the people of God start calling upon God that's the turning point that can be the turning point for somebody here this morning that can be the turning point for a wayward son or daughter to suddenly come home come to Christ they called a prayer meeting many were gathered together it says later on in verse 12 praying at the house of Mary now I want you to notice what kind of prayer it was Peter therefore was kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him there's

so much here to unpack first I want you to notice two words prayer was made unto God unto God you say how simple how I mean how much more obvious can you get of course for all prayer is made unto God brother Brian but I want to tell you it's not all made unto God there's a lot of praying that's not focused really upon God at all there's a lot of praying where we're so consumed with the mountain that stands in front of us we don't have faith that God can't even move that mountain there's a lot of praying never goes higher than the ceiling there's a lot of praying that goes out instead of up wonder what my brothers and sisters think about my prayer God never hears such a prayer I want to talk to you today about prayer that is made unto God and what kind of prayer is that that is prayer that is zeroed in focused in upon the greatness the glory the majesty the power the authority the wisdom the faithfulness the love all of the above of our God focused upon God I want you to hold your place there and turn to Isaiah chapter 40 Isaiah chapter 40 as we look at prayer that is made unto God you want your prayer life to be transformed brothers and sisters here it is you want to begin to pray warfare prayer that is full of faith here's where we begin prayer that is made unto God Isaiah chapter 40 and we'll begin reading I want you to notice one verse first verse 9 Oh Zion that bring us good tidings get thee up into the high mountain Oh Jerusalem that bring us good tidings lift up lift up thy voice with strength lift it up be not afraid say unto the cities of Judah behold your God behold listen if you forget everything else I say in this message will you please never forget these three words behold your God behold your God this is where prayer our prayer lives are transformed behold your God now what does it mean let's start with the word behold to behold means to look intently upon something behold it's not a passive glance to behold means to fix your eyes on something I think of that photographer who wants to get the perfect shot and he lifts up his camera and he focuses in on the object of his picture and he focuses in he zeroes in on it he beholds what he wants to take a picture of I think of the deer hunter who wants that that big buck or maybe he needs to meet for his family and he's out hunting and there it is and he puts that scope up and he zeroes in he's beholding he's looking intently upon that buck I think of a mother who hasn't seen her son in a long long time and he comes back from war and he runs home and she runs out and throws his arms around him and then pushes him away and grabs his face and looks upon his face she is beholding his face we are commanded here in Scripture behold your God behold your God look at him who is this that we are really praying to who is this that we are really calling upon here behold your God well he goes on to tell us who he is he is all-powerful he is omnipotent verse 12 of Isaiah 40 who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and meted out heaven with the span and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the heels in a balance notice if you will down to verse 21 God says have you not known have you not heard hath it not been told you from the beginning have you not understood from the foundation of the earth it is he that sits upon the circle of the earth and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers that stretches out the heavens as a curtain and spreads them out as as a tent to dwell in verse 25 to whom then will you liken me or shall I be equal sayeth the Holy One lift up your eyes on high and behold who has created all these things that brings out their host starry host by number he calls them all by name because the by the greatness of his might for that he is strong in power not one is missing our God is a God who is omnipotent that means he's above all power he has all authority and God is saying just lift your eyes for a moment look at all those stars out there how did they get there by one spoken word from the Almighty God let there be and there were let there be and there were galaxies millions and billions and trillions of stars and God knows them all by name stars so big that some of them if they were hollow our entire solar system could rotate on the inside of them our God is a big God he is a mighty God and he stretches out the heavens with the span of his hand he holds the oceans and measures the waters and the hollow of his hand who can you compare him with he is God beyond compare he has no equal he is unparalleled there is none like him there is nothing too difficult for him

there is nothing impossible with him he is God behold him not only is he all-powerful he is all-knowing he is omniscient he is infinite in wisdom he knows all about you he knows everything that's happened to you he knows the end from the beginning nothing has escaped his sight he is all-knowing he says here in verse 13 who has directed the spirit of the Lord who's been his counselor who taught him with whom took he counsel and who instructed him and taught him in the path of judgment and taught him knowledge and showed to him the way of understanding our God is infinite in wisdom all-knowing all-powerful but someone says okay I believe all that but does he care does he care and God says in verse 11 he shall feed his flock like a shepherd he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom that's near his heart gently shall he lead those that are with young verse 27 he says why do you say Oh Jacob why do you complain Oh Israel that my way is hidden from the Lord and my judgment is passed over from my God have you not known have you not heard that the everlasting God the Lord the creator of the ends of the earth he doesn't faint neither is he weary there's no searching of his understanding and he gives power to the faint to them that have no might he increases strength does he care look at Calvary look at the cross look where Jesus died for you does he care look at Gethsemane where he prayed so fervently before he drank this cup prayed so fervently that he sweat blood for you he sweat drops about does he care he cares beyond what I could ever ever describe to you he loves you with an everlasting love and it's a real love it's a genuine love it's a love that never fails it's perfect love that casts out all fear you better believe he cares behold your God and you're about ready to pray behold your God I wrote some things down and I felt the Lord wanted me to read them and I want you maybe you might want to close your eyes or just listen intently as we behold our God as we behold our God because we're not ready to pray warfare prayer until we learn to behold him I want to ask you church as I've had to ask myself is your prayer really being made unto God is it God centered is it God conscious is it God focused are you really praying unto God are you really praying to the one in whom and with whom nothing is impossible are you praying to the one who sits enthroned above the circle of the earth with heaven as his throne and the earth as his footstool who spoke spoke in the darkness and said let there be light and light was who simply spoke and this whole world came into existence mountains trees oceans valleys who said let there be and he formed the planets and began to they began to spin in orbit with perfect precision and timing remember that when you are calling upon the one who brings out the starry host in their billions one by one and calls them each by name who utters his voice and the earth melts mountain shake the Red Sea parts the sun stands still for Joshua water comes from a dry rock manna falls from heaven are you really praying to the one who says to the ocean tide you can come this far but no further remember that you are praying to the very one who created the universe who holds it all together in the palm of his powerful omnipotent hand who is above all power all authority principalities rulers dominions kings and kingdoms are you praying to the one who sits king of the flood because that's who he is this king of glory he stands in a boat with fearful disciples in the midst of a violent raging storm and he says peace be still and the wind stop and the waves die down and the sea becomes like glass who is this they said that even the wind and the waves obey him this is the one we call upon in prayer he's the almighty God he is the king of kings he is the Lord of Lords he is Jesus will you will you cry out to the one who rebukes a fever and it is gone who touches the leper and he is cleansed who says to a dead girl telleth I come I and she is raised to life to a paralyzed boy he says your sins are forgiven now take up your mat and walk and the boy walks who says to Lazarus come forth and he who'd been dead four days gets up and walks out of the grave are we praying to this God the one who heals cancer and all manner of sickness and disease the one who saves sinners and makes them into saints the one who takes a murderer and makes him into an apostle the one who opens blind eyes and and prison doors the one who heals broken hearts and sets captives free this is the God who sends fire from heaven he awakens nations he revives churches he transforms cities and when you come

to him in prayer are you aware that you are coming to converse with a God who is so holy that even angels cover their faces in his presence and though he wraps himself in light that no man can approach unto and though he has a face that shines brighter than the sun and that no man on earth can see and live are you aware that this same God loves you deeply he so loved you that he gave his only son who shed his blood to cleanse you from all sin he tore the veil and paved the way into the holy presence of God with his precious blood so that we brothers and sisters in Christ can now hear him say come boldly unto my throne of grace having therefore brethren boldness to enter into the holy of holies by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way and having a high priest over the house of God let us draw near with the true heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water God waits for us to come God waits for us to pray behold your God behold your God amen you do you will not ever have faith the kind of faith that pleases God the kind of faith necessary in warfare prayer if you are looking to yourself to get more faith if you're looking and gazing upon the problems all the time but you never lift your eyes from them the only way to have faith brothers and sisters is to understand that faith has a focus and the focus of faith is God himself the focus of faith is the faithfulness of God we are praying to a God who does not and cannot lie we are praying to a God who keeps his promises who keeps his covenants we are praying to a God who will never change he's the same yesterday today and forever he says I the Lord your God do not change this is the one we call upon is your prayer being made unto God well what other kind of prayer was it it was specific intercessory prayer if we go back to Acts chapter 12 and verse 5 specific intercessory prayer it says the prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him they were praying specifically for Peter God wants us to be specific in warfare prayer they are praying specifically for one man and it is beautiful when you begin to pray specifically to see how specifically God answers one thing one story comes to mind when I was pastoring in in Boy City we had a Monday night men's group that guys were getting off drugs and alcohol the Lord was setting them free some of them were still struggling some of them are still battling addictions but we met every Monday night and we prayed for one another and we got into the word of God but there was one man there named Javier and Javier he hadn't been coming very long but he was really plugging in and I was so proud of him and and we all loved him but the night came when Javier slipped up he sinned he fell he fell backwards he got drunk and then he went on a drunken binge and then he started doing dope again and and he was so ashamed about it that he left his wife and his children and he told her I can't do this anymore I'm going back to Mexico so he went to Mexico his wife came and told me what would we do we would do what the early church did I called the prayer warriors together and I had some sisters there in their 80s and 90s who knew how to pray and we gathered together and those young men that gathered with us we gathered together and we begin to pray and I'll never forget one of the things we prayed we said Lord get a hold of Javier and don't let him eat and don't let him sleep make him so convicted the Holy Ghost come upon him so he's so convicted he cannot sleep and he cannot eat and he comes running back to his family didn't happen the next day didn't happen the next day but on the third day Sunday morning I got to the church early and I was in my office looking out the window before anybody arrived that morning and this man is walking up the sidewalk like this I didn't recognize him I ran I walked outside to see who was coming up the sidewalk he looked up Pastor Javier is that you he came running to me put my arms around him he put his arms around me I said Javier what happened I fell I sinned I sinned I said come in we come into the office we sit down I said now tell me what we have what happened he said I got drunk I started doing drugs again I and then I left I left my wife I left my chair went all the way back to Mexico he said hermano for three days I could not eat and I could not sleep hallelujah specific intercessory prayer that is exactly what we asked the Lord to do and he came back home and God restored his marriage and he brought him brought us all back together specific intercessory prayer

there was another time when I felt this is another church but I felt Lord it seems no one none of us believe that you're the same that you're the same God nobody has seen a demonstration of your power where is faith Lord would you do something here for the glory of your name to show the church that you're the same God who parts the Red Sea who saves the lost sinner and the Lord put something on my heart asked me asked me to save the hardest sinner in town and I went before the congregation Wednesday night prayer meeting and I told them that and I said I want you all to make a list and you we had little sticky notes we're gonna put these sticky notes on the inside cover of our Bible you write down names three four five ten names whoever God puts on your heart well I know who the number one name on the top of my list Leon Alts Leon Alts was a big mountain of a man I had encountered him in town every time I saw him he started cussing the church calling us hypocrites saying I never stepped church in the foot in that church one time his brother was the same way one time at a parade I was handing out tracts and sharing the gospel and he stands over me like this and he says do you realize what a man my size can do to a man your size and he said and I just stood never said a word and I said he said I've never stepped foot in that church he said I said I don't care if you ever step foot in that church but I do want you to come know my Jesus and he walked away he was that he was a belligerent man everybody knew him pushed his way around lived in that town all of his life ruled with an iron fist and when I said this to the church the word exact words of one deacon you are wasting your time with Leon Alts another phrase Leon Alts will never get saved I thought Lord there's your challenge here's an opportunity for you to glorify your name and I got a few people who would believe with me and we started praying for the lost and we started praying for him it didn't happen overnight brothers and sisters it took time fervent intercessory prayer consistent laying hold of God every week sometimes every day calling out to the Lord and I'll never forget the day New Year's Day the offices were closed and I'd gone up to the office to get a book or something I was up there alone and I was down on my knees at the shelf and I heard the door open I turned around and this big man is standing in the door tears going down his face literally physically shaking Leon he said I need to talk to you and I need help now he was getting older at this point and I didn't know this but he had gone in that week for a heart condition and he was going in two days later for a heart procedure and he said I don't know what happened last night but I turned over in bed and everything went black and he said I'm not sure but I didn't die for a little while he said Brian I'm going to hell I'm going to hell I said sit down preach the gospel to him I said Leon are you ready he said I begged God if he would let me live through the night I'd go up on that hill find that preacher and tell him I want to get right with God he didn't know he didn't have to find the preacher to do that but he came I said get on your knees and boy I wanted to be hard on him after all he'd done get on your knees and he gets on his knees I said I'm not gonna pray for you you pray you call out to Jesus and trembling and shaking he calls out to Jesus for God to save him for God to have mercy on his soul confessing his as a sinner then I begin to help him a little say this pray this and then I prayed over him and that man got up a saved man and I looked at him and I said hallelujah I said Leon two things number one everybody in this town knows you they know they know who you are they know who you've been are you willing to post it just did he said that means you go out unashamedly and you tell everybody what Jesus did just did he said I am I said number two and what I didn't share he and his brother had gotten a fight four years before this at a poker game and they wouldn't even speak to one another if one was in the local cafe and the other one came in that one got up and left I said will you and he said I got to get right with Richard I said that's exactly what I was gonna say will you he said I don't have a choice will you he said yes Leon alts leaves that office and goes to his brother's house I get a call later from his brother's wife brother Brian you'll never believe what just happened I said I bet I will Leon knocked on the door Richard thought he wanted to fight I got up Richard comes the door Leon said Richard I'm here to tell you something I'm not here for trouble Jesus Christ just saved my soul and it's real

Richard I want to ask you to forgive me for everything I've done to you and I want to tell you I'm sorry Lona said brother Brian they both hugged each other God did that he went then the next day I think was Sunday he went to the Baptist Church which is where I was and he stood up and testified to everybody about what had happened he didn't stay for the service he left he went up onto the lighthouse a charismatic church up on the hill everybody knew him there too preacher knew him and may I say something yes you may testified to that church told him that the Lord saved his soul he got right with his brother left that church went down to the Assembly of God Church down the lower street did the exact same thing the next I don't remember the time frame exactly it was maybe the next day or I think it was the next day he was gonna have that heart procedure his wife is not saved I go in and they've already got him in the back we're sitting in the waiting room and she says look here this is his picture this is arteries 100% block this one's 85 this is what they got to do I said okay and I was praying Lord reveal yourself to her save her you saved him you can save her and pretty soon the nurse came back and said we can let two at a time go back before he goes in for the seat surgery and Dorothy grabs my wrist and says I think the preacher and I need to go back we go back I said on the way Dorothy I don't understand everything about healing but somehow I believe that God wants to heal Leon just to show his power and his glory would you mind if I prayed over him she said not at all we gather around prayed over him he just started weeping he never said a word I didn't know anything happened I left got a call not too long after that the most amazing thing the doctor's trying to find the clogged arteries and there's no blockages anywhere that's the truth before God praise be to God so now Leon makes another round through the town and he literally testifies and we got it on tape him testifying the Lord saved my soul I got right with my brother and he healed my heart and he preached that he became a soul winner another miracle it's better brothers and sisters this is our God the one we behold we were studying the Bible I said we need to study the Bible together and we sat down and he added we had another man there I didn't know this I said Leon would you read such-and-such verse he looked up at me I said you don't want to read it he said I can't read never learned to read he said maybe a couple little words but I never learned to read I said that's okay got him an audio Bible one day I'm in my study and the guy comes in and he says overjoyed brother Brian you're never gonna believe this I went up on the hill my truck I've been there all almost half a day he said I just read Romans 1 2 3 4 you're kidding me no he said I read it God did that God did that he became one of the most incredible testimonies in that town and I'd said to the people when when God saves Leon alts it can be the beginning of revival in this town and we saw so many there's so many other stories brothers and sisters I don't tell you that to tell you about any man I tell you that to tell you about the glory and power of our God behold your God be specific in prayer now what other kind of prayer was it it was united prayer it was say it said prayer was made without ceasing of the church it was united prayer they were in one accord they were praying in agreement the church that prays together stays together the marriage that the husband and wife that pray together stay together the family that prays together stays together and Jesus said my house shall be called a house of prayer amen this is how we do battle the final thing I want you to notice is what is that it was fervent prayer therefore Peter was kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing without ceasing actinus is the the word without ceasing letter means stretched out intense continual fervent it's believed by many scholars and commentaries commentators that this prayer meeting for Peter lasted nearly a whole week they prayed and they wouldn't stop praying until the breakthrough came until God came down James 5 16 says the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much this is prayer that comes from the heart this is crying out to God with every fiber of your being praying from our hearts pouring out our hearts before God like water before the face of the Lord this is praying and not fainting praying and not quitting praying and not stopping until you hear from God and I think one of the most glorious examples of this is in Matthew chapter 15 I want you to look at this scripture Matthew chapter 15 beginning in verse 21

Matthew 15 21 here's a woman who understood this then Jesus went thence and departed into the coast of Tyre and Sidon and behold a woman of Canaan came out of the coast the same coast and cried unto him saying have mercy on me O Lord thou son of David my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil you talk about a critical need my daughter is demon-possessed the devil has my daughter have mercy on me Jesus he says O Lord thou son of David and the most amazing thing happens he answered her not a word how many of us cry out to God and we don't hear anything and so we stop he answered her not a word so does she stop praying does he say well I guess I'll try something else he answered her not a word and then his disciples came and besought him saying send her away for she cries after us now I'm praying and not only do I not hear anything from God but his own disciples are telling me give it up send her away and that happens a lot why do you keep praying maybe it's God's will he doesn't answer you does she give up say oh maybe the disciples are right not this woman this woman has something called tenacity fervent prayer that lays hold of God and will not let go why wordy she knows you're my only hope my daughter is demon-possessed and I will not stop fighting I will not lay down we're not going to go watch a movie sit on the couch my daughter is demon-possessed where else can I go I will pray verse 24 but he answered and said I'm not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel woman I came for the Jews and you're not a Jew whoo how many of us then would have said okay Lord you didn't come for me and then he goes on to say or before he says that she came and worshipped him amazing this is prayer brothers and sisters okay Lord you're not going to answer me your disciples are telling me to stop praying and now you tell you you say you're not even come for me I worship you Lord I worship you because you're worthy whether you answer me or not you are God you are Lord and I worship you but then she prays again Lord here's this big long eloquent prayer Lord help me that's it three words Lord but it's coming from the heart fervency faith this this woman had faith that wouldn't let go Lord help me I worship you help me Jesus said in verse 26 it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs what is he doing is he calling her a Gentile dog or is he doing something else is he testing teaching his disciples that this woman has something that you know nothing about she's got faith she knows how to pray she will lay hold of me and my promises and not let go until I answer she says true Lord but even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table and I believe Jesus answered with a big smile Oh woman when you see that Oh in the Bible brothers and sisters don't read by it too fast Oh woman joy must have been coming up out of the heart of Jesus I found someone who believes me I found someone who will pray and not stop Oh woman great is your faith be it unto you even as you will and her daughter was made whole that very hour hallelujah that's our God amen faith that lays hold of God and won't let go that's what kind of prayer it is that turns the tide but brothers and sisters where does faith come from we said it comes from beholding our God but I want to tell you something else the scripture says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God it's not presumption it's saying Lord I've got a need and you open up his book and you say Lord what do you say about this is there a promise for me to believe is there a command for me to obey Lord speak to me faith comes by hearing hearing by the Word of God I'll give you a quick testimony and we close when our son Luke was diagnosed with cancer it was it was acute myeloid leukemia and it was as if somebody punched me in the gut when I heard that news and my wife was hanging on to my my arm and I remember that later that day going out into the car and getting along with God and crying out from the depths of my gut and soul crying out to God because of the news and I remember saying to the Lord Lord I only know of one of two things you could be saying either you are saying that you're going to take Luke home to be with you in heaven he belongs to you he knows you or you're gonna heal him here for your glory Lord I'm willing to bow my knee and surrender to either one but you must give me a word you must give me a promise if I don't have a promise faith comes by hearing hearing by the Word of God if I don't have a word from you I will never make it if you take him it will crush me it will devastate me but if you give me a word

we'll get through it with you either way Lord what is it and I prayed and I prayed and I prayed and the Lord spoke to my heart a verse of scripture this sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God that the Son of God might be glorified thereby that was so incredibly real to me I laid hold of it with both hands Lord come what may we will trust you and we prayed and the church prayed and it wasn't easy brothers and sisters he didn't get better he got worse one night my poor wife shattered with fear and sorrow wakes me up in the middle of the night she says Brian what's Psalm 41 what's Psalm 41 I'm waking up from a dead sleep I don't know some pretty what song what does it say I said I don't know let's go read it she said all night long I keep hearing Psalm 41 Psalm 41 Psalm 41 I think God wants us to read Psalm 41 so we get up turn the lights on we open up Psalm 41 neither one of us knew what Psalm 41 said blessed is he that considereth the poor the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble the Lord will preserve him and keep him alive and he shall be blessed upon the earth and thou will not deliver him unto the will of his enemies the Lord will strengthen him upon his bed of languishing thou will make all his bed in his sickness with translation we were reading then said the Lord sustains them on their sick bed and restores them from their bed of illness I said Lord be merciful unto me heal my soul for I have sinned against you and by the way we said you got any sin to confess this is not a time to hide anything let's confess all our sins let's be let's make sure our hearts are clean verse 5 my enemies speak evil of me when shall he die and his name perish and if he come to see me he speak of vanity his heart gathereth iniquity to itself when he goeth abroad he telleth it all that hate me whisper together against me against me do they devise my hurt an evil disease they say cleaves fast unto him and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more that's what the devil says yea my own familiar friend and whom I trusted which did eat of my bread has lifted up his heel against me but thou O Lord be merciful unto me and raise me up that I may requite them by this I know that you favor me because my enemy does not triumph over me we laid hold of that it cannot be any more obvious I remember another time I was reading in John chapter 11 when Lazarus died and the scripture says and Jesus loved Martha my wife was crying next to my shoulder and I said did you know your name is in the Bible and not only that listen to what it says and Jesus loved Martha her name is Martha God was speaking to us the whole time it got very very difficult and I'll be real brief we ended up going to st. Jude's Children's Memphis Children's Research Hospital in Memphis Tennessee and Luke had two bone marrow transplants this is the second transplant the worst thing that can happen to you in a bone marrow transplant is to get a fungus if you don't have an immune system you can fight bacterias and you know some viruses but fungus so with zero immune system he gets a fungus fungus spore in his lung that thing starts spreading like a cancer rapidly one day he's writhing in pain dad I've been shot I've been shot his lung collapsed completely this lung was full of fungus and collapsed the other one was moving up every day it was moving up more and more and until he only had a little small portion of lung that he was living on until the moment came when there was no more movement left in the lungs it was a little bit movement they're rushing doing things on him back and forth have him on oxygen all these things and the head doctor comes down and and they all come as a team and I knew that wasn't good and he said to my wife and I if you have any family that wants to see him you better call them now and Kaylee my oldest daughter and I hit the floor just like you just like that Oh God I said you promised you promised Lord we will trust you we cried out right in front of this crying out to God we had scripture promises Psalm 41 was written on the hospital window with window paint this sickness show it is not a sickness unto death it was written on there all these promises we looked up read them God you promised crying out to him and God in his mercy touched Luke and that lung suddenly he began to breathe a little more little more little more little by little he was restored to the day came very soon after that he's shaking because he's so weak nothing but skin and bone left wants me to get him up can barely get that out I barely could understand him I help him sit up he said I want to put my jeans on hadn't had jeans on for so long I helped him put his jeans jeans on

dad I want to walk I said I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me Luke said I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me and he stepped off that bed and we walked out the room and about seven days later we walked out of the hospital and that was seven years ago and he's married and he's riding Bronx and he's working on a ranch and he's serving the Lord glory to you Lord glory be to God glory be to God

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