

Proverbs 28:1

"The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Lions have a well-developed sense of hearing, a lion can hear prey up to a mile away. They rely on it heavily when stalking prey, which may be hidden by dense brush. Lions can rotate their ears toward the direction from which a sound originated. Lions also rely on their hearing to alert them of potential danger lurking beyond their line of sight. **Lions listen closely for direction and protection.**

For followers of Christ, we must listen closely for the same things...direction and protection, in fact, listening may be one of the boldest things we can do...I believe it's the key to releasing bold prayers.

1 Samuel 3:10

"And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." (to hear, discern and obey)

This is a posture we need to adopt... Bold prayers have a common thread... they begin by listening to the Master's voice. He calls us to prayer, urging our spirit to join His, calling us into relationship before He sends us on mission. This fellowship of listening and focusing on His voice empowers us to pray from God's perspective rather than from our own. **The boldness we seek comes from surrendering our agenda**, will and desire to Him. Then... power and purpose are released through us.

Bold prayers begin by listening!

If we want to pray bold prayers, one that move mountains, uproot trees and change lives we may have to have our spiritual ears checked...along with our heart. Maybe the mountain that needs moving may be is our heart, not the trial we're facing. It may be the way we feel towards God. It may be unbelief that needs to be uprooted

Maybe it's the way we approach prayer...when we treat prayer...

Like a to do list

Like a wish list

Like a grocery list...then we're surprised when our prayers don't move anything.

When we pray, we are entering a covenant agreement with God... prayer doesn't change the heart of God...it changes ours. The secret to bold prayers is not praying longer or harder (it may involve that but it's not the secret)...Bold prayers come from knowing Him more and understanding knowing the prayer life of the Lion inside of us!!

In the book of Acts the apostles have a great approach to prayer, one they learned from watching Jesus...

Acts 6:4

But we will continually give ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

That phrase in the Greek means to be earnest towards, that is, to persevere, and be constantly diligent.

The disciples were passionate in following Jesus' model of ministry. They were embracing a lifestyle of desperate dependence upon God and their prayers reflected their Master's heart. When we read the Gospels... we see the priority Jesus gave to prayer in his own life... here are just a few examples.

Matt.4:1-11- 40 days of fasting in the desert.

Lk.6:12-13 - "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles."

John 17:1-16 - The entire chapter is Jesus' prayer.

Lk. 22:41-44 – Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane

Lk.23:34- Jesus praying from the cross

Did you ever wonder...why Jesus prayed?

John 5:19

Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner"

Jesus is showing us a way to pray bold prayers... Jesus completely depended upon the Father during His earthly life and ministry. His **relationship with the Father** fueled His bold prayer life.

If Jesus could do nothing apart from the Father, why would we try to?

Our boldness depends on a deep, embedded relationship with a Holy God...if behavior is born from belief what we believe about Him matters. (again, just a few that are mentioned)

Some of the most challenging teachings of Jesus on prayer are found in the Gospel of John in chapters 14-16. Listen to these bold statements.

Jn.14:13 - "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."

Jn.14:14 - "you may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

Jn. 15:7 - *“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”*

Jn.16:23 - *“I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

Jn.16:24 - *“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”*

Question... is Jesus over promising in these Scriptures? If He is not over selling then what if Jesus meant exactly what he said?

Then we start to believe that there's a bigger Lion inside of us. Bold prayers focus on His character, His track record, what God has done. We zero in on what God values and we pray from that place. Bold prayers follow from what we believe about God! If we would believe just one of these Scriptures with every fiber of our being...imagine the boldness that would flow from us.

The beauty of these promises is that they have everything to do with relationship.

In this same passage of scripture, Jesus teaches us that he is the vine and that we are the branches. We are not separate, but connected...we're grafted on. Life flows to the branches from the vine... our boldness, in prayer, in our heart, in our voice flows from the life we share in Christ.

That life produces bold prayers

We can pray boldly because God hears our prayers. Micah 7:7

“But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me”

We can pray boldly because our prayers make a difference. James 5:16

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

We can pray boldly when our requests are in line with God's will. 1 John 5:14-15

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him”

We can pray boldly because we know He is able. Ephesians 3:20-21

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen” Ephesians 3:20-21

We need to pray like we God will answer us!