

# SHORT PRAYERS can be powerful too



By Philip Shields

**Summary: The Bible speaks of all-night-long prayers and short prayers. Both have their time and place. This teaching discusses both. Have you or I ever prayed all night long? But when we have formed a strong bond with God, even short prayers of a few seconds in length, can be life changing. Do you pray 10-20-30x every day? This teaching shows you how. Why pray often? Is your LIFE, the temple of God's spirit, seen as "God's House of Prayer"? This teaching focuses on some of the most powerful short prayers in the Bible and how your own life can be transformed by frequent conversations with your Maker every day. You may find your whole view of prayer changes with this message.**

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Warm greetings to everyone and welcome to Light on the Rock. And thank you to those of you who take the time to send me an email or call me to wish me well or encourage me to keep this website going. Thank you. I will finish the sermons about God the Father's active involvement in the Old Testament – as well as the one we know as the Word. I'm welcoming feedback and input from any of you who would like to add your thoughts to the topic.

But first, I felt led to give this simple, but effective concept first. Then we'll get back to the others.

I was raised in a church from my teen years onward that taught we should pray, as Daniel and David apparently did, three times a day (Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10). David also pleads in one of his psalms for God to be merciful to him, "for I cry out to you *all day long*" (Ps 86:3). It was also understood – as I was growing up -- that at least one of those prayer sessions should be at least 20-30 minutes long - and on your knees. Plus, in my childhood years, my father's church had "prayer meetings" that could go on for hours, usually involving people all praying together. And we also had the feeling that "fervent" prayers were forceful and loud.

*I've come to see over the years that God has very good hearing and doesn't need us to shout. He hears groanings and even our thoughts very well too. He hears the broken heart, the whispers in between sobs.*

So what about the notion that effective prayers have to be long? Is there a place for short prayers? And for that matter, is there a time for the marathon prayers that go on and on?

So I grew up thinking effective prayers were long prayers. It was assumed somehow that one praying a long time was more zealous, **concluding that a long prayer was generally more effective than a short prayer** more sincere and more in touch with God. But is that right? Back then, one could almost conclude that God wasn't even bothering to notice you praying unless you had crossed at least the 20 minute mark.

Now ask yourself: do you ever think that way?

I've also noticed over the years that some **opening and closing prayers** in our ekklesia services can go on and on and on. I've been guilty of that too, at times in the past. (**Story of the little girl** who – after the prayer went on “too long” – started shouting loudly, “Amen, amen... Mommy, why won't he say Amen?”) Those of us within 50 feet of her were all chuckling, for we were thinking the same thing, no doubt.

Even those asked to pray and give thanks **over the meal**, can go on and on – and meanwhile, the food's getting cold! Do we need long prayers?

Here's something interesting: **can you find Yeshua ever castigating people for having prayers that were short, or too short? I can't. But I can quote you times when he mocked those who liked to have long public prayers.**

**Mark 12:38-40**

“Then He said to them in His teaching, “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, 39 the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 40 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”

**Matthew 6:7-8**

“And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. **For they think that they will be heard for their many words.**

**“Therefore DON'T be like them.** For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

"Vain repetitions" does not mean asking God for the same thing many times. We're also taught to be persistent, like in the parable of the importunate (persistent) widow. Even Yeshua spoke the same words in prayer sometimes, so those aren't “vain repetitions”. In **Matthew 26:39-44**, we see that Yeshua himself said the same basic prayer, the same words, in the Garden of Gethsemane. So he's not speaking against being persistent and asking for something several times. He said the SAME WORDS three times, we're told in Matthew 26. But long prayers for long prayers' sake, is what he's talking about in Matthew 6.

For public prayers – like over a meal or for opening/closing prayers in church – I'd recommend get to the point: ask for God's presence and blessing on the message and on the hearing and perhaps a few words of thanks and worship –and then end it. Some use these prayers to give their own sermonette, it seems.

But whether long or short, a prayer from the heart is what means the most. And there IS a time for a longer public prayer. One example that comes to mind is **when King Solomon dedicated the brand new Temple they had built.** Take time to read his majestic prayer – a prayer that clearly got God's attention, as God mentioned it in a dream/vision to Solomon

later. (**2 Chronicles 6:12-42**). Right after Solomon's lengthy prayer, God sent fire from heaven that devoured the sacrifices. (2 Chron 7:1-7) And the glory of Yehovah FILLED the temple so priests could not go in. When the people saw it they all fell to the ground, faces to the ground and worshipped. So there is a place for the long public prayer.

Certainly for our own PRIVATE time praying, I still do believe we should seek our God fervently on a daily basis, for more than the quick hello – but a good talk with God, on our knees if you can manage that (some of you have seriously painful knees, and God understands).

**Yeshua** prayed all night (**Luke 6:12-13**) before selecting the 12 disciples/apostles, whose names would be inscribed on the foundation stones of the gates of heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14) forever and ever. Have you or I ever prayed all night long?

**Luke 6:12-13**

“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the **mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.** 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.”

**Daniel's** private prayer in **Daniel 9** is fairly long also – but again, a prayer answered powerfully by YHVH. And his long prayer of supplication for his nation in captivity, and for God to be forgiving and merciful to him and the nation of Judah – was very appropriate.

Another example: **When Peter was arrested to be killed around Passover – Acts 12:1-5**– what do we find the brethren doing? James had already been killed with Herod's sword! Peter was next. This was serious time, requiring serious prayer! Turn there with me please.

**Acts 12:5**

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, **but CONSTANT prayer was offered to God for him by the church.**”

In fact, in that instance, a group of them had gathered at Mary's house to PRAY together. Have we ever done that? I also wonder if they all had prayed as fervently for James.

**Acts 12:12**

“So, when he [Peter] had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, **where many were gathered together praying.**”

**Group prayer.** We take the one time Yeshua said to pray privately, or the examples of him praying in the hillsides – so we're afraid to ever gather together to pray together, as a group, for a serious condition. The early church did. The early church was heard. The early church was rewarded for it. Peter's life was spared. Presumably they would have prayed all night, as Peter was slated to be beheaded or killed someday the next morning – or very soon!

Let's start doing some of this group prayer when someone needs healing or protection or blessings badly

When God told Samuel that he was not pleased with King Saul and was had decided to get rid of Saul, what did Samuel do? He was seriously grieved, so much that he prayed all night long! (1 Samuel 15:10-11). Have you and I ever prayed all night long?

So yes, there are definitely times to pray all night long.

***So I'm not saying in today's sermon that we shouldn't ever have long prayers.***

When my son had banged/scraped his head badly in an accident as a teenager, my wife took him to the hospital and I stayed home to pray – for hours for him. Especially when they said there was some blood on his brain. I prayed much of the night and by morning we were told the blood spots had disappeared.

### **Short, frequent prayers can also be effective**

I believe if you've built a foundation of frequent, solid and fervent praying to your Father – and even to Yeshua – that with that foundation, you can and even should be making frequent short contacts throughout the day to your Father.

But maybe it's just me, but years ago if I couldn't pray a "proper prayer" of 20-30 minutes, I felt guilty. *And so sometimes I wouldn't pray at all* if I couldn't pray for a longer time than what I had right then. Am I the only one who has ever felt that way? Maybe so. So this sermon was born. Topic: yes, even short prayers can be powerful, as we shall see. Especially if you've built the foundation of a solid relationship with your father already.

Someone once asked me how often I pray. I answered when I'm "on my game" – 10-20 even 30 times a day. Seriously. Now those aren't 20-30 minute prayers but shorter contacts with my heavenly Daddy and my fiancé Yeshua the Messiah.

I'm not really talking about praying while doing my gardening or shaving or driving – though I do those too – but the problem with those is that your mind can wander quite easily. I'm talking about a serious short prayer, where you may even find a private spot and just commune with God, even bowing your head and taking time to mention someone who asked for prayers. Or to pray for your children and other people's children who are struggling with things to do with God. These prayers can be very effective.

I'm not saying to replace your main prayer when you get up in the morning – or go to bed at night – with all short prayers. I'm saying, build on that foundation and then pray *throughout* the day with many, many contacts with your God and Savior.

*Folks, I'm taking for granted that you pray every day. And that your LIFE can be described as a "house of Prayer", for indeed you and I ARE the spiritual House of God, where the Holy Spirit dwells – inside you and me. We are the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit – and the Temple of God was called the House of God, the House of Prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:6-8).*

So believe – the frequent short prayers can be awesome!

I remember **my car was slipping on an icy major highway** in Canada years ago. I was sliding right towards an 18-wheeler truck to my right. I had hit a patch of some "black ice" on the road and in another 2 seconds I'd be crunched under his wheels. It was terrifying. I cried out in prayer – **"Father, help! Help!"** That was just a two-second prayer. My tires instantly grabbed back on to the road, and I stopped sliding and avoided what could have been a terrible accident or even death. The short prayer. It was powerfully effective.

Some of the most powerful prayers can be a few words or even just a word or two: "Father! Help!"

If I heard my children, and now my grandchildren, crying out with loud alarm – "POPPY! POPPY!" – I may be getting old but I will be there in a split second to help them or fight off whatever dinosaur is facing them! Our heavenly daddy is much, much more aware of us and our fears and hears us crying – much more than we ever did as parents, and He will hear you.

I knew of a **pastor's wife who was home alone** one day when someone came in with bad intentions. If I remember right, I believe he brandished a knife or weapon and ordered her into the bedroom as he followed her. This was not going to end well without God's intervention. As she slowly walked to the room, she prayed fervently. We're talking about seconds. In the bedroom she turned around and suddenly the man was terrified, his eyes fixed a foot or so above her head. He dropped the knife and started backing up as he shouted, "OK, I wasn't going to do anything. I'm going, I'm going..." - as he ran out of the house.

The pastor's wife looked behind her and saw nothing, saw no one. But the man apparently did. Perhaps it was a strong, tall, muscular-looking angel. Or who knows, maybe one of those creatures around God's throne that looks a lion or even the 4-faced creatures. Can you imagine? Whatever it was, her short fervent prayer was dramatically and instantly answered.

### **Groaning in our prayers**

*How about times of your life when you're so concerned, so upset, so perplexed and don't know what to do, so you try to pray – but all you can muster is a series of sobs and groans? What about those? Sometimes we may feel a groan is almost like a lack of faith or complaining or something and so we don't do it. But if you take your pain to God, the groaning prayers are actually very effective. God has deep feelings for you and listens when you are in that much agony that you're baring your broken spirit and broken heart.*

Sometimes the groans are for someone one. I had heard of a family whose young son, a young man, had been in a terrible ATV accident and was lying in ICU (Intensive Care Unit) in a coma. I've lost a son too, and that agony the family must have been feeling came upon me. I fell to my knees for them and groaned in my spirit for them and the boy. I believe God heard all our prayers, though he decided for his own reasons to let the boy die.

So sometimes your “**short prayer**” **may be just a GROAN**. You just don't even know what to say or how to ask, in your despair of hearing your son is in a coma, lying motionless in the hospital after his ATV accident. Groans can be very effective. We're told at times that it was the “groans” that God heard when the children of Israel were being burdened as slaves (**Exodus 2:24; 3:7; Acts 7:34** in Stephen's recounting). See also **Romans 8:26; Psalm 55:1-2** In Gethsemane, it says Christ “being in agony...” (Luke 22:44). Your Redeemer knows how it feels to have to face a terrifying next day! God heard the Israelites' groanings. Remember, they didn't even know the true God at that point! But God heard their groanings.

**Hannah** -- Samuel's mom (**1 Samuel 1**) -- was so insulted by the other wife that her heart was broken. Add her strong desire to have children, so she cried from a broken heart! 1 Sam 1:10 says she prayed from “*bitterness of soul ...*” *Many* of us would conclude there's no point praying if we're bitter. But even if bitter, if you tell God that, he'll hear you. God heard her cry, her groans. Eli the High Priest thought she was drunk. So a heartbroken woman suffering bitterness of soul prayed, and was heard.

**1 Samuel 1:15-17**

But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but ***have poured out my soul before YHVH***. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for *out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken* until now."

17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

Be sure to pray when you're in that much hurt, as I've often been. If you've brought the pain on yourself by your own sins and actions, as I have too, then pray even more.

Another example of the “groaning” prayer was **Hagar, the mother of Ishmael**. She and Ishmael had been forced out of Abraham's household – with God's blessing. Out in the wilderness they ran out of water and were close to death. GOD heard her groanings and spared them both by providing a bubbling spring of water. The story is in **Genesis 21:14-21**. Notice especially verse 16 – all Hagar could do was to weep. God apparently heard her weeping as well as “the voice of the lad”.

So the effective prayer does not have to be a long prayer. It does have to be from the heart. It does not have to perfectly worded. Groans – are perfect too.

*Your own words I believe mean more than reading someone's book of Prayers.* I have some of those books including the official Jewish one, and I've read many of those written-out prayers, but still – I know our Father wants to hear MY heart, not someone else's perfectly scripted prayer written a thousand years ago.

Think of prayer – whether your more formal main prayer in the day or the series of short contacts with your God – think of prayer as building your relationship with God. Instead of a doctrine or part of a to-do list -- **think of prayer as conversations** with God. Your one-on-one time with your Maker – whether short or long.

**If you and I really understood what's happening when we pray –we'd be doing so much more of it.** No time? Turn off Facebook more often. Turn your smart phone off more often. I promise you, you'll find lots and lots more time.

When we pray, we're immediately transported – instantly – into God's throne room with the real Mercy Seat of grace, God's favor and love for you. God's door is always OPEN to his children. Walk in that door frequently. He loves you stopping by! He loves to hear from you.

**And don't be shy to pray together.**

But I want to be clear of these 2 points:

- **Whether you have long prayers or short prayers, be sure you're praying. Don't decide not to pray simply because you don't have much time to pray a "proper" longer prayer. Pray anyway.** You are now the Temple of God's spirit. The temple was God's House of Prayer. Be sure God hears you praying so often that HE would call you his House of Prayer!

Or perhaps at that moment you're just worn out and know you won't be praying a fervent prayer anyway – well, be fervent for 3-4 minutes then instead and then go to bed.

I wonder if we all are truly people of prayer. The end time "virgins" awaiting the return are all asleep when Christ returns (Matthew 25:1-10). He asked if he'd see faith on earth when he returns (Luke 18:8). Many are lukewarm Laodiceans. Don't let that be you.

- **2nd point: If even Jesus felt HE needed to pray a lot – and he obviously did – what does that tell us?** He was God in the flesh – and felt a need to pray. He said he could do nothing apart from his Father (John 5:19, 30; 8:28). How could we dare to go into the day without prayer?

### **John 5:19**

Then 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."

### **John 5:30**

**“I can of Myself do NOTHING.** As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

In **John 14:10** he says even all the good works he was doing – was his father doing the works in him! “The Father who dwells in me does the works”.

Let that sink in. He told us WE can do nothing, apart from him (John 15:5). So if you’re not praying, you need to change that right away for your own stability, closeness to God and all the benefits you get from a life of praying.

THINK how many powerful great works and even miracles each of us could be doing – if we would just follow Yeshua’s example of praying a LOT, often, long prayers, short prayers – but often relying on our Father to work in and through us. Can you admit this is you?

Plus remember we’re in a spiritual war. Most of us don’t act like we know that. We go into the day without prayer, without the armor of God – and it’s like going into a battle oblivious of the battle and we’re just in our underwear. That’s what it’s like when we don’t pray every day.

### **Praying to Jesus (Yeshua)**

Now briefly – can we pray to Christ? Or are our prayers supposed to be only to the Father as Christ taught in the model prayer he gave?

#### **Examples of praying to Jesus**

**FIRST of all, think about this: Yeshua is God, the son of God, and coming soon to be our husband.** Of course we want to be talking – a lot – to our future husband! Should there even be any question of the rightness or wrongness of praying to Christ, our fiancé and soon coming King?

Here are some examples in the NT when they prayed to Christ:

**Stephen** the first martyr after Christ’s resurrection, as he lay dying, **prayed: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59).** **And then he knelt and cried out loudly, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin” (v. 60).**

Scripture identifies the one we call “Lord” in the New Testament as Yeshua, as Jesus Christ. **There is one God – the Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:4-6).**

In Acts 9, at the calling of Paul (formerly called Saul), we see him speaking to Yeshua and calling him “Lord”. Later, Ananias in Damascus also speaks to and about – Yeshua (Acts 9:10-18).



Remember we must confess with our mouths “the Lord Jesus” (Romans 10:9-10). And with every prayer we utter, we are supposed to **pray “in Jesus’ name”** – as if Yeshua himself was the one praying our words. We pray by his authority. We come boldly before the throne of grace in HIS name, through Him, and IN Him. (Story of my grandson and “in the name of...” – on the audio).

**John 16:23-25**

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you **ask the Father in My name He will give you.** 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

**So, can we pray to Jesus (Yeshua)? Absolutely. In fact the New Testament closes with John** praying to Yeshua. We read of John hearing Yeshua say “Surely I am coming quickly”. John responds with “Amen. ***Even so, come, Lord Jesus***” – **Revelation 22:20**. That’s just another example of praying to our Savior directly.

We could go on and on... but if you’ve never prayed directly to your Redeemer and Elder Brother Yeshua, try it. It’s amazing. It’s wonderful. Your prayers will be enriched if you remember to talk to our amazing Savior directly from time to time – and even often.

***Prayer is talking openly and intimately to God the Father or God the Son – who are as one God – as you would to your own father or brother, or best friend. You bare your soul in prayer. You expose your heart to the God who loves you so much he did not spare His own son for you. When you truly grasp that, you will pray – often, as first recourse, and regularly.***

Now lest we think short prayers can’t do much, let’s see what scripture tells us.

## **POWERFUL, POWERFUL SHORT PRAYERS**

### **THE PRAYER FOR LAZARUS’ RESURRECTION (John 11)**

One of the most powerful short prayers was when Yeshua resurrected Lazarus his friend. (In Audio – gave background leading up to Lazarus’ death... and how Martha and Mary both were a bit offended that he took his time getting there. “Had you been here earlier, Lazarus would not have died.”)

When the big moment comes to resurrect Lazarus, the public prayer to his Father is short and thankful for having already been heard –even though the dead man in the cave/tomb was still very dead. Here it is. All of **12 seconds**, if you take your time saying his prayer.

**John 11:41-44**

“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And **Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."** 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come

forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

So when we have a powerful relationship already with Father, when we pray the short prayers, they can be awesomely powerful. There was also another example of being willing to pray to Father openly, when the right time calls for it, in front of other people.

### **ELIJAH ON MT CARMEL (Story in 1 Kings 18)**

You've all probably heard the story of Elijah gathering Israel together to reacquaint them with their own true God – Yehovah! He challenged the priests of Baal – hundreds and hundreds of them – to petition Baal to light up their burnt offerings with fire from heaven. For HOURS they prayed and chanted and who knows what else – and there was no answer from heaven, for there is no Baal. They started in the morning, and Elijah began to mock them at noon, and they continued praying until the evening sacrifice (3 pm). Nothing, absolutely nothing even after all those hours and hours of praying – though to a false and non-existent god. (**1 Kings 18:20-29**)

Then Elijah's turn came up at the evening sacrifice. After fixing the altar and asking for more water to be poured on his sacrifice, here's his prayer. Time it.

#### **1 Kings 18:30-41**

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of YHVH that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the Word of YHVH had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." 32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of YHVH; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four water pots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." 34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

#### **Elijah's 20 second prayer:**

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "*Lord God (YHVH Elohim) of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.*" 37 *Hear me, YHVH, hear me, that this people may know that You are YHVH God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.*"

38 Then the fire of YHVH fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all

the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "YHVH, He is God! YHVH, He is God!"

40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Twenty seconds of powerful, heartfelt, gentle prayer – answered instantly by fire.

### **Prayer of Jabez**

One of my favorite prayers is a short one from a man named “PAIN” – Jabez. Have you heard of him? That’s what his name means. He unabashedly asks God to bless him! Imagine that! And to keep him from causing other people pain. His prayer has become a famous prayer as many have been trying to duplicate it over the years.

The prayer of Jabez – asking for God’s blessing on him and to keep him from evil or causing anyone pain – takes about 10-12 seconds.

#### **1 Chronicles 4:9-10**

"Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." [Discuss]

10 **And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,** "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, *that I may not cause pain!*"

**So God granted him what he requested.**

The story of Jabez to me says this: You have not, for you ask not. You could have so much more, but you don’t take time to talk to Father enough. You could be praying this prayer for someone else as well, that others be blessed mightily from the One who owns the whole universe! Think of it. Cut out one TV show a day you normally watch and spend it in prayer for others – or for yourself – instead. Talk to God. Talk to God. **Cut your Facebook time** by half or more – and see how much time that frees you up to open up with Abba above.

Seriously, some of you younger folks especially. If God had a phone number, you’d all text him or Tweet him 140 character messages.

Let me say this: Fathers and Grandfathers and moms and grandmas like hearing your voice! Grandmas and moms even more so. When our son calls us – my wife just BEAMS for days on end. We like thinking you want to spend time with us. Even if it’s just on the phone. I’m a father and grandfather. I know. I get those feelings from the Supreme Father over all – God the Father. *He loves you and would love to know you want to talk to him.* He knows what you need before you ask, but he enjoys seeing that you know where to go, that you want to talk to him and that you appreciate Him (gratitude).

**Elisha’s “open his eyes” prayer ... 4 seconds!**

Elisha and his ministerial assistant were in trouble one time. The king had sent a large army to find them, bind them and bring them to him. Read the story in 2 Kings 6. (*Fuller account in the audio.*) The servant was terrified. But Elisha knew who had their backs.

**2 Kings 6:16-17**

So he [Elisha] answered [the servant], "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 **And Elisha prayed, and said, "YHVH, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."** Then YHVH opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

I also think it's wonderful how often the Almighty grants requests – and often so quickly – as the one above.

**Moses Praying for Miriam (Numbers 12:1-13)**

Miriam and Aaron – Moses' older siblings -- got into some jealousy or something over their kid brother Moses having so much power and felt God had spoken through them also. Well, Yehovah was not too pleased with their attitude and ordered all three to the Tabernacle. God came down in the pillar of cloud and spoke to all three. God said, "Look, I speak face to face to Moses as a man does his friend, and you weren't afraid to talk against him?"

**Numbers 12:9-13**

So the anger of YHVH was aroused against them, and He departed. 10 And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. 11 So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12 Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!"

**13 So Moses cried out to YHVH, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"**

God heard immediately, but still punished Miriam with leprosy for a week first. But notice how short that prayer was! What? Maybe 3 seconds long? Maybe 4?

There are many prayers of Moses for others, including the long, long prayers the second time up Mt Sinai to intercede for the entire nation. Moses prayed days on end with the Almighty, talking as a man does to his friend.

You know what's sad though? Though Moses prayed for Aaron not to be killed after the gold calf incident, and though he prayed for the nation often, though he prayed for God to be merciful to Miriam... I don't see a single instance where it's recorded that people petitioned God on behalf of Moses when God would not let him enter the Promised Land because he lost his cool on the Rock that one time and hit it twice instead of talking to it. Sad, isn't it?

## **The Publican's (cheating tax collector) four second prayer in the temple**

### **Luke 18:9-14**

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

**13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'**

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The summarized Pharisee's prayer is about 10 seconds. The summarized Publican's prayer is about 3 or 4 seconds.

You know what? I could give you 30 more examples of short prayers that were so powerful. I hope you get the point. It doesn't take an hour to pray. Don't put off prayer any longer because you can't devote "enough" time to it. Can you devote a few minutes or even seconds, many times a day? Do it. Sure – do the once a day longer prayers too, or even more if you wish, but how **about adding to that now 20 or more short 1 minute contacts where you just briefly chat or worship with your Maker many times throughout the day. Start that practice. It will be so exciting as you learn to do it.**

And one more thing: I pray on my knees. But some time ago I was jarred off my bike while riding with my dog running alongside. Somehow I ended up crashing on to my right knee and scraping it on the rough pavement. Needless to say, my knee was badly cut up, bruised, banged up and very painful. I was just thankful nothing was broken. Frankly I couldn't kneel for about a month without serious pain. During that month I learned that I could bow my head as I sat in a chair and still talk to my wonderful Abba and Saviour.

Some of you are getting up in age. I'm 64 myself. For some of you, the pain is excruciating to kneel. I tell you what: God understands that. Pray anyway, and you don't have to kneel. Have a kneeling heart, if your body just won't allow you to kneel literally. Bow your head and worship, but hey – your Daddy understands.

But become a house of PRAYER where your daily life is made up of frequent bowings of your head and praying to God, frequently:

- When you leave work and are now sitting in your car. Before you turn on the ignition, bow your head and thank God for all he is and ask for protection, in Jesus' name amen.
- When you pull up into your driveway, stop the car, turn it off, and bow your head – and pray. Pray your first words to your wife and children will be gracious.
- As you pray, also ask for him to speak to you in strong thoughts, situations or anything that makes it clear He is communicating with you. Then watch for them, listen for them, and you will be amazed how much God wants to talk as well, and say things to you, as well. Pause sometimes and just wait and listen.
- When you open your eyes and wake up in the morning, before getting out of bed, praise Him for another day of life as you lay there in bed. Acknowledge him. Give God his due – his “good morning Daddy”, verbal hug. And again pray to be a happy and gracious person as you start the day. Praise him even for his trials.
- Before an important meeting with anyone, even grandkids who need you – find a place to bow your head and ask for his wisdom, grace and favor and guidance.
- Throughout the day – as things happen whether they appear to be good or bad, thank him for being in your life, thank him, thank him, thank him.... All thru the day.
- Certainly continue to thank him for your food before you eat. Let your children know you are a man or woman of prayer in this example.
- As you hug your children, let them hear you say as you squeeze them tightly -- “I love you so much”, and then pray in their hearing, “Father and my Lord, thank you for this very precious child you’ve given me. Thank you, thank you” – and then squeeze again.

All these short prayers can be life savers. Don't ever question the power of the Short prayer. Start these up and you'll be delighted with the results.

And may you have many happy conversations with our Abba, and have many heavy groans if you have to ... just make the contacts, many times a day.

(Closing short prayer on the audio.)