

FOUR SIMPLE RULES FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

A Framework for a Prayer Life That Expects God to Move

A WORD BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, yet his prayer unsynched the weather of a nation for three and a half years — and then reversed it. You don't need extraordinary standing with God. You need to actually ask, with specificity, in faith, and without quitting.

THE FOUR RULES

1. You Must Pray — ask
2. Pray Specifically — detail
3. Pray in Faith — believe
4. Persevere — don't quit

1 YOU MUST PRAY

"Elijah . . . prayed."

James 5:17

KEY PRINCIPLE *You have not because you ask not. (James 4:2)*

2 PRAY SPECIFICALLY

- Don't just pray, "Bless my children."
- Ask for each child's salvation, character, wisdom, calling, protection, and future — by name.

KEY PRINCIPLE *Present your requests, not merely your wishes. (Phil. 4:6)*

3 PRAY IN FAITH

"Whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Matthew 21:22

KEY PRINCIPLE *Be expecting God to act.*

4 PERSEVERE UNTIL GOD ANSWERS

- Elijah sent his servant back seven times before the cloud appeared (1 Kings 18).
- See also the persistent widow (Luke 18:1–8) and the friend at midnight (Luke 11:5–13).

KEY PRINCIPLE *Don't quit praying because the answer delays.*

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- What's on your prayer list right now — specifically?
- Where have you settled for broad, general prayers?
- What have you stopped asking for too soon?

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FINAL WORD

Your prayer life matters. Ask specifically. Ask believing. Don't stop asking.