How Can YOU Pray Like Elijah?

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By **Asher Intrater**





There is a beautiful passage in the Epistle of James, chapter 5 that encourages us to pray, to pray hard, to pray like Elijah... and if we do, our prayers can **open the heavens** and change history as Elijah's did.

Even Greater Access and Position through Faith in Yeshua

Let's assume that Elijah was a greater man of faith than you or I. The Bible also says that John the Baptist came in the same spirit and power of Elijah. And that John was the greatest human that ever lived (Matthew 11:11). So, John was like Elijah but even greater.

However, in comparison to John, Yeshua said that even the "least believer" in the kingdom of God is of greater stature than John or Elijah (Matthew 11:11). This is like a parable of a basketball player and an elevator. A basketball player might be almost twice your height, but if you take an elevator to a higher level, than you are "taller" than he is.

John and Elijah might be greater than you or I in their personal human stature, but we have an advantage of being born again into a higher status. Although we are less, we can still be more. What grace! We are not talking about human ability but about access and position through faith in *Yeshua* (Ephesians 1:19-21; 2:6, 18).

Energetic and Focused

The fifth chapter of James speaks of **prayer** 7 - 8 times. Some of the prayers are of intercession, some of repentance, some of reconciliation, some with the elders, some with oil, some for healing and some by faith. The conclusion speaks of the effectiveness of energetic prayer.

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." (James [Yaakov] 5:16-18, NKJV)

The "effective fervent" type prayer in verse 16 in Greek is **energeo**, from which we have the word energy or energetic. The Elijah-type prayer is energetic. It is not lazy or half-hearted. It is intense and demands the total effort and focus of the person praying.

In Acts 12, James the son of Zebedee was arrested. I imagine the local community of faith was praying for him. But he was killed by Herod. Then Peter was arrested. Apparently, the congregation prayed much harder, "fervently, without ceasing" (Acts 12:5). This time Peter was supernaturally released by angelic intervention.

There is prayer that may have good intention, but for a given circumstance it is not activated with enough "faith energy" to produce the needed results. It was said of Elijah that he prayed again and again, seven times, in one prayer until he saw the breakthrough of a small cloud, shaped like a hand, appearing on the horizon (I Kings 18:42-44).

Repentant and Receiving Imparted Righteousness

The prayer must not only be "energetic" in order to be effective, it must also be prayed by righteous people (James 5:16). We must repent of our sins, keep a loving and forgiving heart, walk in humility and boldness, be led by the Holy Spirit, and be submitted to the Word of God and the lordship of Yeshua.

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Yeshua is the high priest through whom our prayers are accepted. As His priests we are tasked with interceding for the people.

This is one of the central messages of the letter to the Hebrews. The terminology and subject matter seen throughout Hebrews involves the temple sanctuary, sacrifice and high priest. The three of these point to Yeshua; for He is all of them and more! If we look at the function of the Temple priests, we see that they were responsible to receive, prepare and present sacrifices before God for forgiveness of sins of the people. Only one day a year, on the Day of Atonement, could the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies.

In the book of Hebrews, we are given the example of Melchizedek who was not only priest of Salem (Jerusalem) but also its king. Abraham gave him his tithe and offering, as they blessed one another. The writer of Hebrews emphasized that Yeshua was a King and Priest, on the order of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4). Unlike the other high priests of Israel who were chosen by man, Yeshua was ordained by God. He is our High Priest forever (Hebrews 5:1-5).

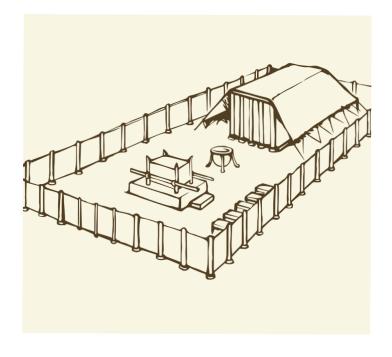
In His three years of ministry here on earth, Yeshua reflected all that the world needs in a leader, and He reflected all that is written in the Word of God about Messiah.

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Yeshua the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

This is our job; we are priests called to come before God at the mercy seat and intercede for the nation. We must do so with a clean heart before Yeshua. Yeshua is our High Priest, Messiah King, Sacrifice Lamb, the First and the Last, the Faithful One. He is our Temple, our Healer and Deliver, and Prince of Peace.

As I write this, many in Israel are preparing to fast and mourn before God commemorating the destruction of God's temple in Jerusalem. Our intercession is that even the solemn fast days will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah (Zechariah 8:19).









In 2007, the first Reshet Camp* took place. Birthed out of a shared vision between Tents of Mercy and Beltway Church in Abilene Texas, it was the pilot version of what would prove to become a pillar event in the lives of our children. That year Katya Morrison, of blessed memory, and Pastor Randy Turner began a friendship and partnership that soon turned into a finely oiled camp machine – annually housing, feeding, teaching, entertaining, praying for and loving on children for the whole last week of July. Many different challenges were met along the way and overcome by patience, generosity, determination, creativity, teamwork, and most importantly the Grace of God!

Generations of children and counsellors from our network of congregations and hundreds of Texan volunteers have passed through the "waters" of the annual Reshet children's camp. Every summer the kids wait impatiently for camp to come. For thirteen years the sleepaway camp happened like clockwork every summer, except for 2014 when rockets were flying near our normal venue near Tel Aviv and we had to hold day camp in our congregational building in the Galilee instead. Despite the kids' disappointment in the alteration of the plan, God brought redemption and blessing that year as we had the privilege of hosting children from the south of the country whose homes were under rocket attack.

In the COVID lockdowns of 2020, camp was yet one more thing tearfully added to the growing list of cancelled activities. In 2021, we began planning and naively thought that it might happen. It did not. Our children were devastated and mourned yet another year of missing camp. All year long, the children kept asking – will we have camp in 2022? By God's grace, Reshet 2022 became the second pilot – the first post-Corona Reshet Camp.

After two years without camp, we decided to not only DO camp, we decided to DOOOO camp. In addition to the network congregations, and one or two local congregations from our area, we also invited sister congregations from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to send their children as well. Even with a handful of last-minute COVID-sickness cancellations, we still were full to the brim with 75 children.

All week long we talked, sang, and crafted while playing the camp theme song "Heroes of the Faith" – superhero style, memorizing and internalizing the theme scripture: "Yet in all these things [trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness and sword] we more-than-overcome through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

In English, perhaps the connection needs a bit of explaining, but in Hebrew the connection is clear: hero and overcome are in the same word family 'gibor' and 'mitgaber.' I can personally testify that the theme was Holy Spirit-led, relevant and powerful for all of us who were blessed to spend the week together: kids, counsellors, staff and volunteers alike!

(*Reshet means net or network in Hebrew.)



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Summer Update





By Leon Mazin

I would like to begin with a request for prayer. In July, our elder, Dima Lutarevich, lost his father and in the same week became a father for the seventh time. These are intense life changes; accompanied by diametrically opposed emotions, so please keep Dima and his family in prayer as you are led.



Shavei Tzion's humanitarian warehouse and aid project is at full capacity. Together with Tents of Mercy, we received a large shipping container from Holland full of furniture and other items. What a blessing! This means we have more to distribute to those in need. As you know, due to the war in Ukraine, immigration of Jews to Israel from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus continues at a high rate. Please pray that threats to stop Jewish immigration from Russia will cease, for we believe this verse:

"As the LORD lives, who brought the children of Israel out of the land of the north, and out of all the lands into which he drove them... for I will bring them back to their land, which I gave to their fathers." (Jeremiah 16:15)

Our ministry was able to assist 80 immigrant families in July. Here is an interesting report on the proportions of migration – 60% from Russia, 30% from Ukraine and another 10% from other countries that comprised the former USSR. As we give tangible aid, we also intercede together that the spiritual eyes of our recipients will be opened!



Our music school for young people, Keshet Tslilim, concluded the school year with a very high-quality concert by its graduates. What a special blessing to see how music and the light of the Lord changes children. Approximately 100 students graduated this year. I ask for your prayers for wisdom and guidance, creativity and anointing for all who invest their time and resources to make this essential establishment a success!











We do not have to be *stressed-out* about being righteous enough, because we receive *imparted-righteousness by faith in the blood of Yeshua*. We need to stay in that mental attitude of grace-righteousness while we pray. We have zero pride and zero self-righteousness. Yet we do have confidence in the righteousness purchased for us by the blood of the Lamb.

No Matter What it Takes

Verse 17 says that Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. The Greek word is *homoiopathés*, a person of the same passions and feelings we have. While we certainly have great respect for Elijah, the point of the passage here is to exhort us to do what he did. We are to follow his example; do it ourselves; not to wait around for someone else to come.

[This is one of the reasons I firmly disagree with the interpretation that Elijah himself will come back to prophesy in the end times. He had his time. We are to look to his example and pray like him. There will be another person; or all of us together will pray and prophesy in the pattern we see in the "spirit and power" of Elijah (Luke 1:17). We are to be activated to do it ourselves.]

Verse 17 states that Elijah prayed earnestly. The Greek actually says "prayed, prayed" – *proseuchomai proseuche.* I suppose we could translate that as "pray doubly hard". Verse 18 says he prayed "again," which we noticed in I Kings 18 was actually seven times. We could say: keep praying repeatedly, *no matter what it takes*, until the results are produced.

And what powerful results they were! He stopped the rains for three and a half years, and then released the rains. What is often more important for us than physical rain, is spiritual rain or spiritual power.

Yeshua gave us "kingdom keys," to open and close the heavens (Matthew 16:19). Each of us can potentially do this, in the name of Yeshua.

We should pray every day to open, open, open the gates of heaven and to close, close, close the gates of hell in any area connected to our lives. We receive all the pure influences of heaven and reject all the evil influences of hell.

We want results. Our prayers can *avail much* (verse 16 above). As Elijah prayed and got results of rain after years of drought, we will pray until we get spiritual "rainlike" results in our lives. Praying like Elijah can even "restore all things" (Matthew 17:11). So, let's pray doubly hard, like Elijah, and see an open heaven around us.

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In early July, an Israeli group of 16 teenagers, along with 6 Revive Israel adult instructors traveled to France to participate in the "K'sharim Connections" camp, to serve local French youth and experience God in new ways. (We had done a similar trip previously, for the first time, just before COVID.)

The evening before the flight, we met at the Revive Israel Discipleship Center near Jerusalem, to get to know each other better. From the very first evening we felt the unity of the Lord, even as a diverse group from all around Israel. This was an opportunity to be a witness, to show the Lord's love to each other and experience it personally.

After arriving in France, we went out and stopped in a large park for a time of praise, prayer and encouragement from the Word of God. Yuval taught about God as our Father. One of the leaders of the French team shared his testimony.

Then one of the Israeli teens had a freak accident with his head due to a window and received medical treatment. This resulted in a miracle for him and a changed perspective on life and God. On two evenings we received stirring words of encouragement from a French brother with a prophetic gift.

One day we went for another field trip early in the morning, and learned the story of the teenage shepherdess Isabeau Vincent who began supernaturally prophesying in her sleep, and helped bring revival to France in the late 1600s. After that we went to a water park for most of the day. Then one of the Israeli girls shared with us how a believing friend from her studies, helped her change her approach to life and became a believer again.

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Another morning two Israeli counselors shared their testimonies. This led to prayer for the nations, and a number of Israeli and French youth asked for prayer. We then went to the downtown area of the city of Valence to share the Gospel through dance and to hand out uplifting cards. It was a special time because we had the opportunity to be a light to the Gentiles and encourage the weak. People responded with smiles. It was an amazing experience.

Testimonies from instructors and teens:

A.H. 33 years old – "This trip was full of grace, I felt like we were gliding in neutral, in the gear of grace. The Lord showed us his grace every morning anew."

"It is because of the LORD's great love that we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

A.K. 16 years old – "Before we flew I had pressures and worries about the camp, but God showed me that I can trust him in any situation. He is in control of everything."

S.M. 16 years old – "God showed me how much He loves me and helped me get out of my rut spiritually."

N.A. 13 years old – "God made me look back at all the miracles in my life."

D.P. 18 years old – "God showed me ways to get closer to him, and... helped me submit to him."

A.R. 13 years old – "God showed me the state I am in, and also filled me up again."

N.N. 15 years old - "God challenged me."













Shalom Dear Friends!

I am convinced that the growing unity between Israeli and Arab believers is one of the reasons we have seen breakthroughs in Israeli Arab relations and the Abraham Accords. These unity gatherings in Yeshua's name are still quite small and the world has not taken notice, yet they are significant in the spirit.

Israeli Asher Intrater and Egyptian-born David Demian have been cooperating closely for many years, along with their teams. Asher and Ariel Blumenthal have traveled to Muslim nations to pray with Arab believers. The Bible says that God commands His blessing when this type of unity is present (Psalm 133). I cannot overemphasize the importance of these gatherings in laying the groundwork for a move of God in both Israel and the Muslim world.

This coming November and December members of our Jerusalem base team, will be attending and helping spearhead two very special events taking place in Muslim nations – between Israeli Jewish believers and Arab believers. These brothers and sisters come from several nations around the Middle East. Both sides feel that something very significant and historic is being restored and declared. As the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael gather in His name, seeking His face together, the spiritual landscape is being altered. So much so that they are willing to take the risks involved.

Due to security issues, we cannot publish exactly where these gatherings will be held. But God continues to open up doors all along the "Isaiah 19 highway," building bridges of unity and worship; and prayer and fellowship between Jew and Arab.

What is the Isaiah 19 highway? It is a prophecy that Isaiah gave regarding worship in unity between Israel and her Arab neighbors:

In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria... The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance." (Isaiah 19:23-15)

And our Jerusalem base team is right in the middle of all that, together with additional members of the believing community in Israel. These are small, "under the radar" summit events by invitation only, with faith leaders from various Muslim lands.

We invite you to help make these events happen. They will each require several thousand dollars to take care of the practical costs involved, as well as prayer cover. We need to raise \$10,000. Your gift is going to have an impact in reaching Arabs and Jews for Yeshua!

To give specifically to this need please click $\left[\text{here} \right]$

With much appreciation for your kingdom partnership!

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