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Powerful Prayer

1 Kings 8

At the dedication of the temple, Solomon prays a prayer that extends for 30 verses in our Bibles (8:23-52). That's quite the prayer! God was intentional in including this prayer, however, and he wants to teach us important lessons about the kinds of things he is looking for in our prayer lives. Today, we will discover five principles for powerful prayer from this chapter in Solomon's life.

I. Powerful prayer begins by exalting God.

- A. Solomon praised God as unique (v 23a).
- B. Solomon praised God as faithful (vv 23b-24).
- C. Solomon praised God as all-powerful (v 27).

II. Powerful prayer prays in line with God's will.

- A. Solomon prayed that God would do what he promised (vv 25-26).
- B. Solomon prayed that God would behave consistent with his character (vv 31-32).
- C. Solomon prayed that God would be glorified among the nations (vv 41-43; 40).

III. Powerful prayer demonstrates humility.

- A. Solomon remembered who he was before God – a servant.
- B. Solomon recognized his and his people’s sinfulness.
- C. Solomon asked that God would hear him.

IV. Powerful prayer seeks God’s mercy (vv 33-40; 46-51).

- A. Solomon realized the threat of sin.
- B. Solomon anticipated the punishment of sin.
- C. Solomon asked for mercy for sin.

V. Powerful prayer accomplishes much (v 46-51; cf 2 Kings 25:27-30).

The end of Solomon’s prayer sets up the end of the books of Kings. God hears Solomon’s prayer and honors it, giving hope that the rest of his prayer will be answered as well (vv 33-34; 48-50).

God heard Solomon’s prayer, and he can and will hear your prayers, too. But a careful study of Solomon’s prayers show us the type of prayers that God hears: prayers that exalt him, line up with his will, approach him humbly and seek his mercy. These are the types of prayers that God graciously chooses to answer and bless.