

How to Pray Up a Storm

(1 Kings 18:41-46)

**Catalyst: Becoming a Change Agent
in a “Couldn’t Care Less” Culture, No. 5**

1 Kings 18:41-42 (NIV)

**And Elijah said to Ahab,
“Go, eat and drink,
for there is the sound of a heavy rain.”
42 So Ahab went off to eat and drink,
but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel,
bent down to the ground
and put his face between his knees.**

How to Pray Up a Storm

- 1. Pray earnestly (1 Kings 19:41-42).**
- 2.**
- 3.**

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

by Sam Walter Foss

**“The proper way for a man to pray,”
Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,
“And the only proper attitude
Is down upon his knees.”**

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

by Sam Walter Foss

**“No, I should say the way to pray,”
Said Reverend Doctor Wise,
“Is standing straight with outstretched arms
And rapt and upturned eyes.”**

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

by Sam Walter Foss

**“Oh, no, no, no,” said Elder Slow,
Such posture is too proud.**

**“A man should pray with eyes fast-closed
And head contritely bowed.”**

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

by Sam Walter Foss

**“It seems to me his hands should be
Austerely clasped in front
With both thumbs pointing toward the
ground,”
Said Reverend Doctor Blunt.**

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

by Sam Walter Foss

**“Last year I fell in Hidgekin’s well
Headfirst,” said Cyrus Brown,
“With both my heels a-stickin’ up
And my head a-pointin’ down.**

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

by Sam Walter Foss

**“And I made a prayer right then and there,
The best prayer I ever said,
The prayingest prayer I ever prayed,
A-standin’ on my head.”**

James 4:3 (NIV)

**When you ask, you do not receive,
because you ask with wrong motives,
that you may spend what you get
on your pleasures.**

James 5:17 (NIV)

**Elijah was a man just like us.
He prayed earnestly
that it would not rain,
and it did not rain on the land
for three and a half years.**

—Thomas Brooks

**“God looks not
at the elegance of your prayers,
to see how neat they are;
nor yet at the geometry of your prayers,
to see how long they are;
nor yet at the arithmetic of your prayers,
to see how many they are;**

—Thomas Brooks

**nor yet at the music of your prayers,
nor yet at the sweetness of your voice,
nor yet at the logic of your prayers;
but at the sincerity of your prayers,
how hearty they are.”**

1 Kings 18:43 (NIV)

**“Go and look toward the sea,”
he told his servant.**

And he went up and looked.

“There is nothing there,” he said.

Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”

1 Kings 18:44 (NIV)

**The seventh time the servant reported,
“A cloud as small as a man’s hand
is rising from the sea.”**

**So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab,
‘Hitch up your chariot and go down
before the rain stops you.’”**

How to Pray Up a Storm

- 1. Pray earnestly (1 Kings 19:41-42).**
- 2. Pray expectantly (1 Kings 19:43-44).**
- 3.**

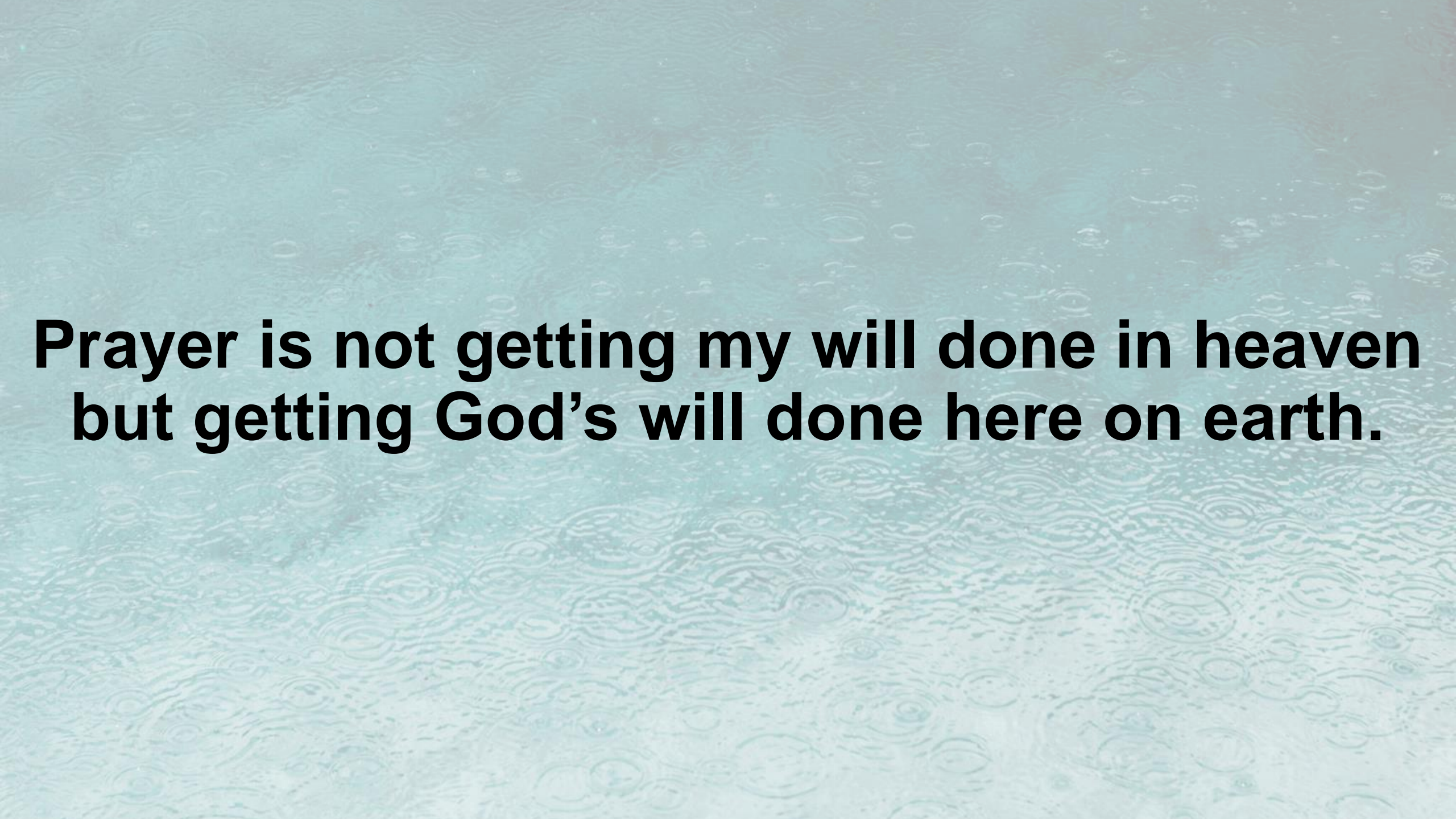
1 Kings 18:45-46 (NIV)

**Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds,
the wind rose, a heavy rain came on
and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.**

**⁴⁶ The power of the LORD came upon Elijah
and, tucking his cloak into his belt,
he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.**

How to Pray Up a Storm

- 1. Pray earnestly (1 Kings 19:41-42).**
- 2. Pray expectantly (1 Kings 19:43-44).**
- 3. Pray effectively (1 Kings 19:45-46).**

The background of the image consists of a close-up, top-down view of water with numerous small, concentric ripples. The water has a light teal or mint green hue. The ripples are densely packed and vary in size, creating a textured, shimmering effect across the entire frame.

**Prayer is not getting my will done in heaven
but getting God's will done here on earth.**

Prayer for Salvation of Others

- 1. We pray for the light of gospel to be revealed to them (Acts 9:3).**
- 2. We pray the Lord would open their heart to respond positively to the message of salvation (Acts 16:14).**
- 3. We pray for the opening of the eyes—
a turning from darkness to light (Acts 26:18).**

Prayer Script: **If the storm doesn't come...**

(1) God may say. "No."

(2)

**—*Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*
by Tim Keller**

**“But as I look back, God was saying,
‘Son, when a child of mine makes a request,
I always give that person
what he or she would have asked for
if they knew everything I know.’”**

—Unknown Confederate Soldier

**“I asked God for strength
that I might achieve.**

I was made weak

that I might learn humbly to obey.

—Unknown Confederate Soldier

**I asked God for health
that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity
that I might do better things.**

—Unknown Confederate Soldier

**I asked for riches
that I might be happy.
I was given poverty
that I might be wise.**

—Unknown Confederate Soldier

I asked for power

that I might have the praise of men.

I was given weakness

that I might feel the need of God.

—Unknown Confederate Soldier

**I asked for all things
that I might enjoy life.
I was given life
that I might enjoy all things.**

—Unknown Confederate Soldier

**I got nothing that I asked for,
but everything I had hoped for...
Almost despite myself
my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.”**

Prayer Script: **If the storm doesn't come...**

- (1) God may say, "No."**
- (2) God may say, "Wait."**

Unanswered Prayer

- 1) You are not ready.**
- 2) “It” is not ready.**
- 3) There is more involved than you realize.**

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