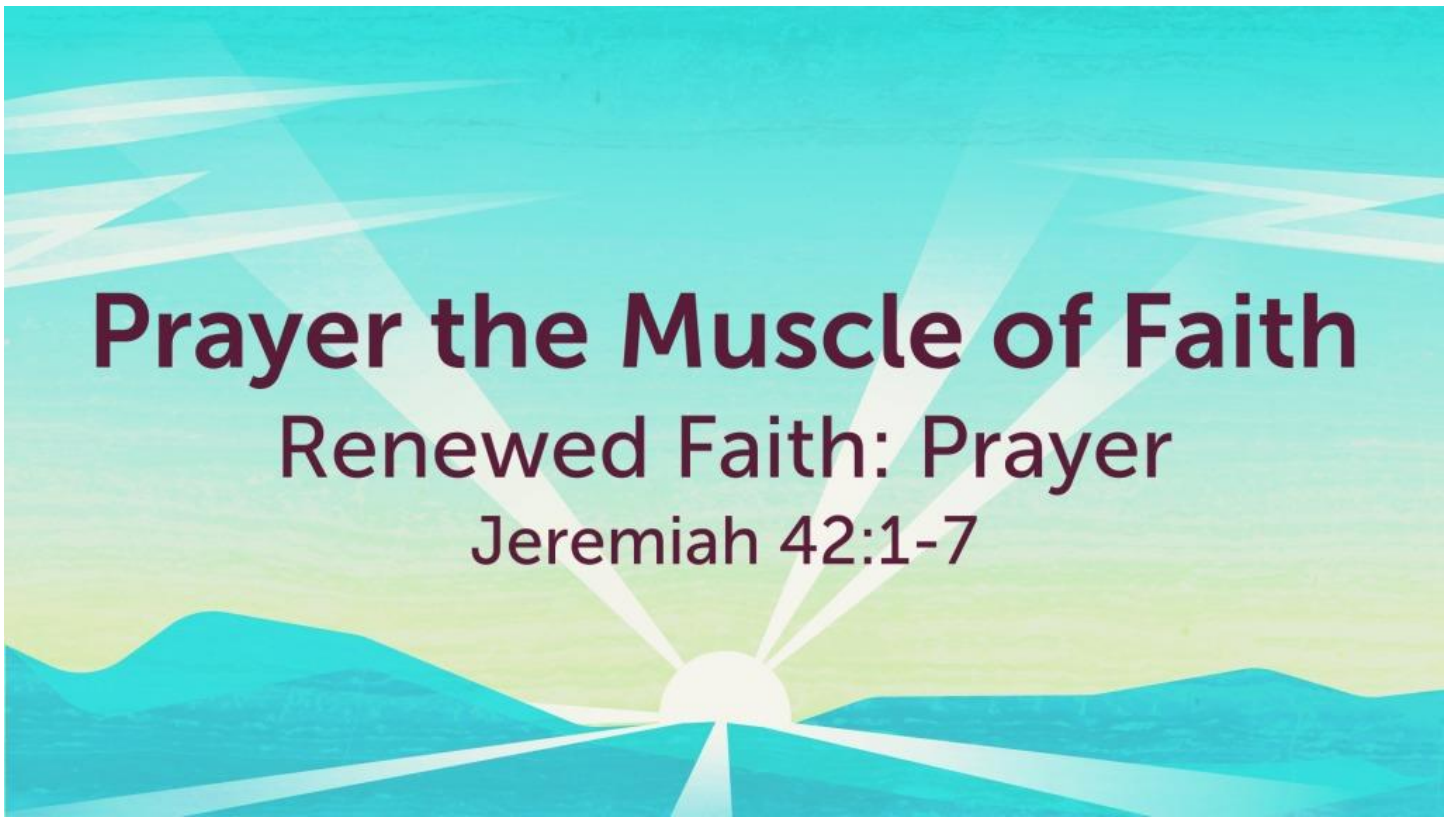


PRAYER THE MUSCLE OF FAITH

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Renewed Faith: Prayer / Prayer; Faith / Jeremiah 42:1-6

Continuous prayer pays tremendous benefits to Christians while also building faith.



Jeremiah 42:1-6 ESV

¹ Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, came near ² and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Let our plea for mercy come before you, and pray to the LORD your God for us, for all this remnant—because we are left with but a few, as your eyes see us— ³ that the LORD your God may show us the way we should go, and the thing that we should do.” ⁴ Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you. Behold, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your request, and whatever the LORD answers you I will tell you. I will keep nothing back from you.” ⁵ Then they said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to all the word with which the LORD your God sends you to us. ⁶ Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God

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to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.”

James 1:5-8 ESV

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Jeremiah 42:7 ESV

⁷ At the end of ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

Waiting is Good Discipline, call it Weight Training

Isaiah 40:27-31 ESV

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

We may not be Ready to Understand God's Will Yet

Jeremiah 42:8-17 ESV

⁸ Then he summoned Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest, ⁹ and said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea for mercy before him: ¹⁰ If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you. ¹¹ Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the LORD, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand. ¹² I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land. ¹³ But if you say, ‘We will not remain in

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this land,' disobeying the voice of the LORD your God ¹⁴ and saying, 'No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there,' ¹⁵ then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there, ¹⁶ then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die. ¹⁷ All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. They shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I will bring upon them.

Wait Training in Prayer Reveals the Quality of our Faith

- James says, "I will show you my faith by my works" in James 2:18. When we read this, we usually think of good works as those things done to help others in a holy and dedicated lifestyle. But "prayer" is a faith exercise that builds spiritual muscle is good work.
- An excellent example of this is Paul's constant prayer to God to remove "a thorn in the flesh" that he was suffering from (II Corinthians 12:7). We never find out what the thorn was, and until that moment, Paul says that God had not answered his prayer. However, Paul's persistent prayer had helped him build muscle in faith to the point where he was ready to suffer from his thorn regardless of God's answer.

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear
Romans 10:17

Believe
John 8:24

Repent
2 Peter 3:9

Confess
Romans 10:9

Be Baptized
Acts 2:38

Remain Faithful
Revelation 2:10