

# Praying Together

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I. Introduction. Text: Matthew 18:18-20.

II. Prayer has great authority.

A. Great power has to be thoroughly understood otherwise it is dangerous.

B. Prayer is an authority that operates in mystery.

1. Whatever one binds on earth will be bound in heaven. Whatever one looses on earth will be loose in heaven.

a. It is quite possible for a believer to exercise extraordinary power.

b. This does not mean that prayer is black magic.

c. Heaven is not to be thought of in terms of space or time—it is the invisible rule all around us. When we enter into the kingdom, we act on its realities.

d. Earth is the reality around us as experienced by the senses.

e. Jesus says that the determination of what takes place in heaven, which will take place in visible events, is made on earth in the heart of a praying Christian.

2. The captives of Babylon did not return until Daniel began to pray. We have not because we ask not. (James 1)

3. God has granted powers of binding and loosening to every believer, but nothing will happen until the believer acts on them.

4. None of us has an excuse not to be all that we can be because we have the Holy Spirit.

5. Others can also be helped through prayer.

C. Prayer is an authority that operates in unity.

1. There is a strange arithmetic to the number of people gathered in prayer—power comes exponentially. (Acts 12)

2. The purpose of prayer like this is that believers may agree together.

a. Prayer finds its authority when the Spirit agrees within two believers.

b. Unity gives a sense of direction.

D. Prayer is an authority that originates in personality.

1. True prayer is Christ working in the believer.
2. Christ is also the source of unity. The fullest expression of Christ is only in the church as a whole.
3. We can never learn how powerful Christ is unless we make demands upon His power.

**Application questions:**

1. Explain as best you can what it means to bind and loosen on heaven and earth.

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2. Why is prayer more effective with more people?

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3. How would you respond if your church group decided that all acts of corporate prayer should be done silently? Explain your answer.

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