

The Power of Prayer

Touching the Heart of God

1. **Praying for Power – Praying Through**
2. **Praying for Prodigals – Praying for Lost People**
3. **Praying for People – Praying for One Another**
4. **Praying for Presence – Praying in Worship**

Praying Through



And he said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince you have power with God and with men, and have prevailed.

Genesis 32:28

The Story of Jacob – Genesis 32:24-31

24. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27. The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. 28. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

Praying Through to Victory

"Jacob prevailed with God."

1. **The Problem – Jacob's Troubles**
2. **The Trouble – Our Troubles**
3. **The Solution – Call, Cry Out**

Genesis 32:28 And he said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince you have power with God and with men, and have prevailed.

I. The Problem – Jacob's Troubles

Jacob
 "conniver" cheat
Israel
 "prevailer" winner



The Powerless Church

So I am bold to name the threads out of which this inner veil is woven. It is woven of the fine threads of the self-life, the hyphenated sins of the human spirit. They are not something we do, they are something we are, and therein lies both their subtlety and their power.

To be specific, the self-sins are these: self-righteousness, self-pity, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self-love and a host of others like them. – A.W. Tozer

II. The Trouble – Our Troubles

1. Job
2. David
3. Jeremiah
4. Paul

Job 5:7 "Man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward."

Psalms 42:3 Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer.

Psalms 142:4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

Lamentations 3:8 Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. 9. He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked.



III. The Solution – Call - Cry Out

Jeremiah 33:2-3

2. "This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: 3. Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things you do not know."

Genesis 32:28 And he said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and have prevailed.



Jacob

"You have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

The Solution – Your Heart-Cry

Jeremiah 29

11. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

12. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14. I will be found by you," declares the LORD.



But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The Promise

"A praying church is not playing church."

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, *My way is hidden from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?* 28 Have you not known? have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29 He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. – Isaiah 40:27-31

The Challenge

"Touch your people once again."

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Lamentations 2:19

Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin: pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street.



Conclusion: My People Pray!

"Touch your people once again."

1. When to Pray Through?

When troubles overwhelm the soul

2. How to Pray Through?

Worship, Confess, Wait

3. Where to Pray Through?

on your bed, in the night, in the wilderness, on a mountain alone



Touch Your People Once Again

By Steve Green

*We need wisdom we need power
And true love for each other
We have had so many big but empty words
So we come before Your face
Asking for Your grace
Bring Your people to a state of kingdom life
Restore Your church again*

Chorus:

*Touch Your people once again
With Your precious holy hand, we pray
Let Your kingdom shine upon this earth
Through a living glorious church
Not for temporary deeds
But to restore authority – and power*

*Let a mighty rushing wind blow in
Touch your people once again*

*Lord You see Your tired servants
And the broken wounded soldiers
Oh how much we need
Your precious healing hand
We need the power of the cross
As the only source for us
When we stand up facing final battle cry
Restore your church again*

Chorus:

*Touch Your people once again
With Your precious holy hand, we pray
Let Your kingdom shine upon this earth
Through a living glorious church
Not for temporary deeds
But to restore authority – and power*

*Let a mighty rushing wind blow in
Touch your people once again*