



# First Prayer

**Prayer Ministry  
First Baptist Church**

Ministry Update  
June 24, 2009

*Pray that FBC Ministries will lead people to focus on  
Knowing Christ, Becoming Like Christ and Making Christ Known.*

## The Power Of Short Prayers, by Greg Stier

I remember hearing the story of the famous evangelist D.L. Moody at a revival. The man who was closing the service in prayer was going on and on, showing off his supplication skills in front of the large crowd. After several minutes of waxing eloquent D.L. Moody approached the pulpit where the wordy-would-be prayer warrior was flexing his prayerful prowess. Putting his arm around the unsuspecting man D.L. Moody spoke loudly over him, "While our dear brother finishes his prayer, let's close in a hymn!" With that Moody led the crowd in a rousing closing chorus.

You see D.L. Moody knew that prayers that worked most effectively weren't necessarily the long ones. And he knew that the purpose of prayer was not to show off one's eloquence to the audience but to pour out our hearts to our Daddy.

Remember the showdown at Mt. Carmel Corral between the 450 prophets of Baal and the lone prophet/ranger Elijah? This was a contest between Baal and Yahweh to see which God would answer by fire first. Each would make a sacrifice and pray for that divine bolt of fire to turn their killed bull into barbecued beef.

Being the lone ranger/prophet/gentlemen that he was, Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. Lighting up the sacrifice should have been an easy one for Baal. He supposedly lived on Mt. Carmel which means that he had home field advantage. He was the god of fertility, rode clouds regularly and chucked lightning bolts for fun.

The P.O.B. prayed for like six hours with skin slashing intensity. That's the equivalent of 2,700 man hours of prayer! The result of their prayers? Flies, not fire on their sacrificed bull.

So after Elijah gets tired of taunting and waiting (six hours is a long prayer service, even for a prophet of God) he rebuilds the altar, makes a sacrifice, drenches it three times with water (just to rub it in) and then prays this simple prayer,

*"O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" | Kings 18:36-37.*

Crack! Boom! Bang!

The fire falls from heaven and burns up the sacrifice, wood, water and altar!

2,700 man hours of labor intensive, vocal straining prayer to the wrong God can't stand up to a less-than-sixty-seconds prayer given in the right way to the right God. In the words of Charles Spurgeon, "Some brethren pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight-not length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length."

The prayers of the P.O.B. were focused on the wrong God whereas Elijah's prayer were focused on the right God, connected with the right sacrifice and done for the right reasons ("so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God....")

In the same way when we recalibrate our minds on the true and living God, offer our prayers in faith based on the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ and are praying with the right motives we can be sure that, like Elijah, our prayers will be answered...no matter how long or short our prayers happen to be!

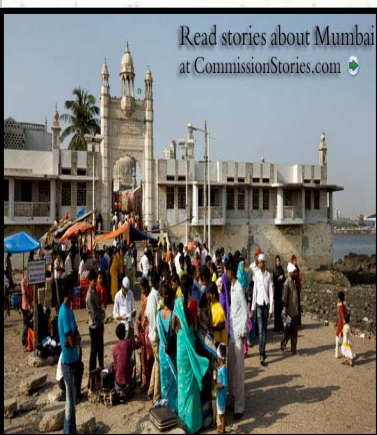
So pray short prayers throughout the day. Pray while you are driving (but keep your eyes open please). Pray at your cubicle. Pray in your yard. Pray in the midst of boring conversations. Pray short, hard and for the right reasons. I guarantee you that, as you get into this habit, your extended times of prayer will have more punch too!



*Prayer* is the first and most important contribution you can make to impact the people of Africa and South Asia.



*..first of all, supplications, prayer, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men. | Timothy 2:1*



Read stories about Mumbai at [CommissionStories.com](http://CommissionStories.com)

## INTERNET ADDRESSES FOR PRAYER REQUESTS:

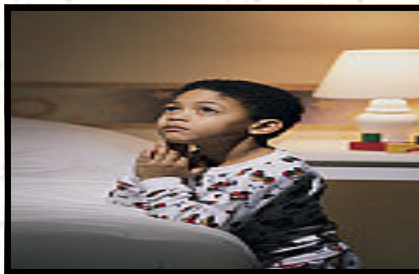
To send a prayer request to FBC . . . [prayer@fbct.org](mailto:prayer@fbct.org)

**Bill Graham**  
Associate Pastor of Missions  
and Ministry 931-245-0015  
[graham@fbct.org](mailto:graham@fbct.org)



### Bro. Roger's Prayer List FBC Members

- ◆ Holiness
- ◆ A Spirit of Repentance
- ◆ Morality
- ◆ Revival In Our Church
- ◆ Prayer Ministry
- ◆ Men's Accountability Groups
- ◆ Exit One Church Plant
- ◆ Missions Giving
- ◆ Young Family Outreach
- ◆ Every Member Visitation
- ◆ Greeter Ministry on Sunday
- ◆ “Prayer Awakening” sermon series, Fall, 2009
- ◆ Debt-Paid on Children's/ Youth Building



**“If you are strangers to prayer you are strangers to power.”**

**Billy Sunday**



### **Pray for Specific Prayer Requests from Worship Communication Cards and Prayer Room Cards**

(names are excluded to protect privacy)

- \* A **4 year old boy** injured in a lawnmower accident, for vision, internal healing; a man starting chemo treatments for lung cancer; FBC mission trip to New York
- \* Pray for a safe summer for Barksdale School **students, faculty, staff, & parents; mission team** going to Belarus for a week long camp for children w/special needs
- \* A **grandmother** recovery from amputation of her leg/her rehabilitation; a **father/mother/daughter** under spiritual attacks; a **woman** having breast cancer surgery
- \* A **mom** with water retention, heart & kidney health issues; a **son** to use wisdom in the care of his **3 young children**; safe travel for **those** on vacations
- \* A **sister** who can't walk due to MS & is in & out of Vanderbilt; a **family** in need; a 92-year old uncle w/fractured hip; a **husband's** healing from depression/physical
- \* A **4-year old girl** healing from bone marrow transplant; the **family** of the boy who drowned in a swimming pool in Bowling Green, KY; **families** reunion
- \* A **thirteen year old girl** in the hospital due to anorexia; an **aunt** who has a spot on her lung; strength to overcome the loss of a Mother; a **son** doing research in a hospital in India, for his safety & he can bring the word of Jesus there
- \* A **woman** whose husband passed away and she is having a hard time dealing with it
- \* Pray for a **couple** to make wise decision for the care of the **wife's mother** & protection for the **couples children** to not accept the temptation of the world
- \* A **brother** who is very sick; a **couple expecting twins** July 14th; a **daughter** to quit drinking; a **12 year old special needs boy** who has brain cancer
- \* Pray for **those** suffering with allergies; **couples'** strength & trust in marriage
- \* A **woman** receiving radiation treatments at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; Pray for **those** seeking employment and God's direction for their lives
- \* Pray for a **couple** torn between two churches where they each serve, that they can attend church together; a **90-year old mother** in nursing home w/no appetite
- \* A **great-grandson who is 5 years old** in Florence, SC hospital with brain injury; a **couple** going through a divorce, for guidance and direction; **unspoken requests**
- \* Pray for a **pastor and his family** as they serve the Lord in New York; Pray for **missionaries** throughout the world, for their safety and provisions
- \* Pray for our unsaved **families and friends** for their salvation; a **teenage girl** who is experiencing a lot of peer pressure and turmoil in her home life
- \* **Families** with financial troubles that are losing their jobs, need help paying bills
- \* Pray for **America** and those that are in leadership, and for our economy