**Power of Prayer**

**The effectual fervent prayer
of a righteous man is powerful.
*(James 5:16)***

**A perfect example of the power of prayer is when a blizzard closes the schools on the day of a big exam. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**In Bangladesh, a religious leader led a national prayer asking for an end to a long drought and within a week, a devastating thunderstorm brought on a flash flood, killing nearly 500 people. *(Bill Flick, 1996)***

**The exercise of prayer, in those who habitually exert it, must be regarded by doctors as the most adequate and normal of all the pacifiers of the mind and calmers of the nerves. *(William James)***

**Just hours after the Rev. Billy Graham had blessed the newly constructed Charlotte (N.C.) Coliseum, the $3.1 million, 40,000-pound scoreboard crashed to the floor. No one was injured. *(Associated Press, 1988)***

**Prayer is a force as real as terrestrial gravity. As a physician, I have seen men after all other therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer. It is the only power in the world that seems to overcome the so-called laws of nature. The occasions on which prayer has dramatically done this have been termed miracles, but a constant, quieter miracle takes places hourly in the hearts of men and women who have discovered them with a steady flow. *(Dr. Alexis Carrell)***

**Tibetan Lamaism flourishes in spite of all the efforts of the Chinese communists to destroy it. With prayer wheels and prayer banners, Lamaists keep the awareness of God’s presence and power continually before them. *(James Dillet Freeman)***

 **Peter Pulaski went to church to pray for $5,000. He won $100,000 in the New York State lottery and told God: “You kind of overestimated my need.” *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 60)***

**When we think of world situations, we can speak a prayer for them, rather than condemnation of leaders or fear for the future. When there is a storm, whether it be a storm of nature or an emotional storm, we can immediately turn to the presence and invoke the power of peace. Peace will be there and the storm will die down. Maybe the velocity of the natural storm will continue on, even gain momentum, yet your prayerful reaction to it will be such that the effects will be minimized. This is praying without ceasing. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**The quieter the mind, the more powerful, the worthier, the deeper, the more telling and more perfect the prayer is. *(Meister Eckhart)***

**If you will persistently affirm truth, even though you do not believe it at first, you will find that your prayers have power. Affirm and yet affirm once more. Your persistent prayers will succeed. *(Charles Fillmore)***

**As a church usher, I greet parishioners arriving for Sunday services. Girl: “Heart! Spock is gonna be ok! The vet gave him a clean bill of health!” Heart: “Hah! Don’t ever underestimate the power of prayer, baby!” Girl: “I’ll second that!” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

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