

Matthew 18:18-20

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19** "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Some brothers in our prison fellowship were struggling spiritually. The Holy Spirit guided me to propose a new method of praying. In what I dubbed "round robin platform prayer," I explained that each would choose four loved ones to pray for.

After asking for forgiveness and cleansing and offering up praise and thanksgiving, we launched into the first "platform" level. I pleaded for the salvation of Tabatha, my 18-year-old daughter; then Reggie prayed for her, and finally Joey. On Reggie's turn, he prayed that someone would contact his father and invite him to church; Joey and I prayed for him as well. Joey then petitioned the Lord for his sister to contact him and become receptive to faith in Christ; we prayed for her also. Moving on to the next level, we continued until each of us had prayed for all 12 requests.

The next evening Reggie learned that his father had gone to church that same day! The following day, Joey got a letter from his sister—two prayers answered within the first 48 hours! Two more answers surfaced within the month. And the next week the fifth answer came: Tabatha had accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Praise Jesus!

James 5:16-20

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. **18** Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. **19** My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, **20** remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

What do we do now?" I asked my wife Katherine as I hung up the phone. Recently I'd received an offer for a lucrative new career position. The job required relocation to another state, which meant selling our home. I hadn't considered this a problem, since my friend sold real estate. But the phone call had revealed he was no longer in the business.

We were stuck. We had to get our house on the market quickly. And we knew no one else in real estate. Then I remembered how God honored the prayers of Elijah. So Katherine and I prayed, "Lord, if you're in this move, we need a good agent. And we need one fast!"

Twenty minutes later I heard a knock at the door.

"I hear that your wife does some tailoring, and I have a suit that needs some work." I invited the man in. While he waited to see my wife, he looked around and said, "Nice place you have here."

"Thanks," I said. "Actually, we're getting ready to put it on the market."

"I happen to be a real estate agent," the man said. "If you don't have your house listed yet, please consider me." We signed him as our agent, and God provided a buyer at just the right time.