

Effectual Fervent Prayer, Part 5 - Prevailing Prayer

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

When Daniel went on his 21-day fast, God gave him a grand vision – every word was true, but it didn't all happen immediately!

Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

The Napoleonic Wars which stormed through Europe from 1792 to 1815 were waged in the name of megalomania. Napoleone Buonaparte was bent on establishing his very own empire. He had risen quickly through the ranks of the French army due to his natural talents for leadership and strategy. With age, his ambitions grew more lofty and by his late twenties Napoleon had forced all of France's continental opponents to submit.

Napoleon returned to France and launched a successful coup d'etat to overthrow the Republic. He then declared himself Consul for life. Then, eager to expand his burgeoning empire, Napoleon began by selling the territory of Louisiana to the U.S. to raise funds for future military campaigns, especially campaigns against France's oldest rival, Britain.

In the early 1800's, Emperor Napoleon proclaimed himself King of Italy, defeated Prussia, acquired the Kingdom of Westphalia, and made the Russian Czar Alexander I his ally. Despite these successes, Buonaparte was still unable to defeat Britain by conventional means. In 1806, Napoleon initiated economic warfare against that "nation of shopkeepers." Britain quickly retaliated with its own trade embargoes, and before long, American vessels and other neutral trading ships were embroiled in the European war. Both Britain and France began searching and seizing U.S. ships.

In 1812, Napoleon attacked Russia to punish it for abandoning their crucial economic alliance. This campaign ended with Napoleon's humiliating retreat from Moscow, and was the turning point in Napoleon's dream of total conquest in Europe. Napoleon abdicated in 1814 and was exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba.

And then, after a short-lived escape and return to power in March of 1815, Britain and its allies ultimately defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo a few months later.

From an original force of 678,000 men that entered Russian Territory in June 1812, only a force between 10,000 and 30,000 crossed the Nieman river into Kovno and left Russian territory to return home to France in December 1812. In the judgment of the majority of historians, it was not the skill of the Russian Army that was responsible for their defeat; it was simply that the Russians held out until the harsh Russian winters cut off Napoleon's supply lines. His army literally starved and froze to death

Charles Minard's famous graph – tan line showing how many marched into Russia, black line showing how many marched home to France, and recorded along with the temperatures they faced

The historical novel "Napoleon and Blücher" by Luise Mühlbach begins with these words ...

"It was a fine, warm day in May, 1812. The world was groaning under the yoke of Napoleon's tyranny."

But this was the year that Napoleon chose to lift his hand against Russia! Later in the book comes this dialogue between Napoleon's nemesis, the Prussian General Gebhard von Blücher, and one of his direct reports, General Scharnhorst, about the outcome of the Russian invasion ...

"Has [Napoleon] again obtained a great victory?"

"No, general," said Scharnhorst, solemnly, "God has obtained a victory!"

Blücher raised his head, and laid his clay pipe slowly on the table. "What do you mean, general?" he asked. "What do you mean by saying, 'God has obtained a victory?'"

"I mean to say that He has sent into the field troops whom even Napoleon is unable to defeat."

"What troops do you refer to?"

"I refer to the cold, the snow, the ice, the howling storm blowing from Siberia, like the angry voice of Heaven, striking down men and beasts alike."

"And these troops of God have defeated Napoleon?"

"They have, general!"

"Blücher uttered a cry, and, jumping up from his chair, drew himself up to his full height. "The troops of God have defeated Napoleon!" he exclaimed, solemnly. "I have always believed in divine justice – slow sometimes, but sure. Tell me every thing, my friend, tell me everything," he added, sinking back into the chair, quite overwhelmed by what he had heard.

This quote was later attributed to Czar Nicholas I of Russia ...

“Russia has two generals in whom she can confide – Generals Janvier and Fevrier.”

Isaiah 55:8-11 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

His word SHALL accomplish the thing for which He has sent it, as surely as the earth watered by rain and snow brings forth life on earth.

Rain and snow. We get rain. We understand that rain waters, nourishes, brings forth life. But snow?

Snow. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. Who wrote that song?! I thought snow killed everything. But the promise in the Word is that snow will bring forth, bud, and give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.

When it's brutally cold and there is a ton of snow on the ground, I'm not a huge fan of the weather man. But rain and snow BOTH bring forth God's purpose. Both seem destructive at times, but if you just wait around awhile, you'll figure out that we can't even exist without rain and snow.

Think about the seasons in your life when you feel cold, and numb in your heart, like there is a storm all around you. Even in that time God is still working! Just like snow preserves dormant seeds until spring, that's what God is doing in your life even when you can't see Him at work. If you'll stay steady, you'll see the seed spring forth after the winter.

Job 23:8-12 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

God's Word will NOT return (i.e. evaporation cycle) until it accomplishes what He sent it to do! So hold on to the WORD God has spoken to you – it is piling up like snow until it stops the devil dead in his tracks!