

Introduction to Effectual Prayer

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16b

1. The **NEED** for effectual prayer: the importance of praying according to its purpose.
 - 1.1. The sons of God call upon the LORD from the days of Enos on (Gen 4:26).
 - 1.2. Prayer is pleasing to God like sweet incense (Rev 5:8; 8:3-4).
 - 1.3. Effectual prayer goes directly into God’s presence (2 Chron 30:27).
 - 1.4. Effectual prayer has great influence on the health, wisdom, prosperity and safety of ourselves, our children, our church and our nation. Consider the 5 great men of prayer God mentions in Jeremiah 15:1 and Ezekiel 14:14.
 - 1.4.1. Moses’ prayers saved Israel many times (Psa 106:23; Ex 32:7-14; Num 11:1-3; 14:11-24; 16:19-26; 21:7-9; Deu 9:7-29).
 - 1.4.2. Samuel’s prayers delivered the nation often (1 Sam 7:7-12; 12:16-24)
 - 1.4.3. Noah obtained grace that saved his family (Gen 6:8-9).
 - 1.4.4. Daniel’s prayer for Israel lead to truth being revealed (Dan 6:10; 9).
 - 1.4.5. Job’s prayer for his foolish friends saved them (Job 42:7-10).
 - 1.5. But are your prayers effectual?
 - 1.5.1. The prophets of Baal called with zeal and personal pain to their gods but were not heard (1 Kings 18:21-29).
 - 1.5.2. You must ask to receive (Matt 7:7) but you must ask for appropriate things or you’ll not receive (Jam 4:2-3).
 - 1.5.3. Effectual prayer must be taught.
 - 1.5.3.1. For those who say, “I know how to pray!” are you wiser than the apostles who asked to be taught how to pray (Luke 11:1)?
 - 1.5.4. Consider the words of our verse:
 - 1.5.4.1. The activity- Prayer: a solemn and humble request to God.
 - 1.5.4.2. The nature- Effectual: that produces its intended effect; effective.
 - 1.5.4.3. The nature- Fervent: Of persons or actions: Ardent, intensely earnest.
 - 1.5.4.4. The actor- Righteous: Just, upright, virtuous; acting rightly or justly.
 - 1.6. Application: the result of the need for effectual prayer.
 - 1.6.1. Am I a praying person?
 - 1.6.2. Do I pray effectively?
 - 1.6.3. Do I want to improve and learn to be better?
2. The **EXAMPLES** of effectual prayer encourage us by the results obtained.
 - 2.1. A pregnant outcast slave was heard by God and helped (Gen 16:7-14). Hagar
 - 2.2. A despised brother coming home afraid had power with God (Gen 32:24-32) and favour with his brother (Gen 33:1,4). Jacob
 - 2.3. A meek man, who was threatened by presumptuous rebels, was defended by the LORD (Num 16:1-35). Moses
 - 2.4. A man busy doing the LORD’s work was granted extra time to complete a task (Jos 10:6-14). Joshua
 - 2.5. A taunted childless woman was granted a great son and many children (1 Sam 1; 2:20-21). Hannah
 - 2.6. An intimidated man was granted supreme capability and wealth when he asked for one thing from God: wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14). Solomon
 - 2.7. Outnumbered by professional and public opinion, a man publically triumphed gloriously for the LORD in his prayer (1 Kings 18:30-39). Elijah
 - 2.8. Bold to request a hard thing, this man excelled his predecessor in God’s power (2 Kings 2:9-12; 13:20-21). Elisha
 - 2.9. A man was healed of a terminal illness and given a miraculous sign (2 Kings 20:1-11). Hezekiah
 - 2.10. This man prayed for a simple, carefree life, and God granted it (1 Chron 4:9-10). Jabez
 - 2.11. A man prayed for victory and did not have to battle (2 Chron 20:1-25). Jehoshaphat

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- 2.12. Another man ran from God, fell into great trouble, but was delivered by prayer (Jonah 2:1-10). Jonah
 - 2.13. An aged widow was blessed to see Jesus because of her prayer (Luke 2:36-38). Anna
 - 2.14. A criminal suffering for his crimes was blessed to be with the LORD because of his prayer (Luke 23:42-43). The thief on the cross
 - 2.15. A good but ignorant man was blessed with the gospel at his prayer (Acts 10:1-6). Cornelius
 - 2.16. A church prayer meeting delivered a man from prison and death (Acts 12:1-19) Peter
 - 2.17. This man’s prayer stopped and started the rain for a nation (Jam 5:17-18). Elijah
3. The **PROMISES** of effectual prayer should motivate us to do it.
 - 3.1. Consider our text: effectual prayer works with God in making things happen.
 - 3.2. Jesus taught that to receive you have to first ask (Matt 7:7; Jam 4:2).
 - 3.3. Jesus taught that a Good God knows how to outdo earthly fathers (Matt 7:9-11).
 - 3.4. God hears, no matter your age (Ex 22:22-24) or economic status (Ex 22:25-27).
 - 3.5. God preserves nations when His people repent in humility and prayer (2 Chron 7:14).
 - 3.6. David often spoke of God hearing prayer (Psa 65:2; 4:3; 10:17; 38:15; 55:17; 102:17-20; 145:18-19).
 - 3.7. Paul reminds that God can do exceedingly abundantly above our requests (Eph 3:20-21).
 - 3.8. See Jeremiah’s similar promise of “things which thou knowest not” (Jer 33:2-3).
 4. The **OBJECTS** of effectual prayer, or what we should pray for.
 - 4.1. Our government: for our freedom and rest (1 Tim 2:1-2).
 - 4.1.1. “Pray for the peace of Babylon,” God told Israel through Jeremiah (Jer 29:7)
 - 4.1.2. Darius appreciated prayers on his behalf (Ezra 6:10-12)
 - 4.2. Our daily bread: and so acknowledge our dependence on God (Matt 6:11).
 - 4.2.1. God feeds ravens (Ps 147:9) and young lions (Ps 104:21) when they cry to Him
 - 4.2.2. Christ’s example prayer calls on this as worthy of prayer (Matt 6:11)
 - 4.3. Wisdom (Jam 1:5).
 - 4.3.1. One of the requirements for understanding and wisdom is to ask for it (Pro 2:3,5-6)
 - 4.3.2. Effectual prayer includes reminding God to be liberal in giving it (Jam 1:5)
 - 4.4. Our children and families: remember righteous Job’s example (Job 1:1-5).
 - 4.4.1. Should we pray for conversion? Regeneration? Election?
 - 4.4.2. Since we don’t know what God’s will is (2 Sam 12:22) pray for all things.
 - 4.5. Deliverance from the Devil’s wiles
 - 4.5.1. Our offensive action in God’s armour is to pray (Eph 6:8).
 - 4.5.2. He is seeking whom he may devour, so be vigilant (1 Pet 5:8-9).
 - 4.6. Evangelism: the spread of God’s gospel
 - 4.6.1. Paul sought prayer for ability and boldness (Eph 6:19-20).
 - 4.6.2. Paul sought prayer for doors of opportunity (Col 4:3-4).
 - 4.7. The peace of Jerusalem: God’s church here and else where
 - 4.7.1. We will prosper as we pray and love God’s Jerusalem (Ps 122:6).
 - 4.7.2. David prayed for Zion’s walls to be built (Ps 51:18), so should we.
 - 4.8. God’s Holy Spirit in our lives
 - 4.8.1. This is THE good gift the Father gives to those who ask (Luke 11:13).
 - 4.8.2. This is the gift that Jesus mentions to the woman at the well (John 4:10).
 - 4.9. God to search our lives for sin
 - 4.9.1. Search our heart and thoughts (Ps 139:23-24)
 - 4.9.2. Examine and prove me (Ps 26:2)