

Alderwood Community Church
July 15, 2018

The Power of Prayer

James: A Faith that Works – Part 14

James 5:13-18

(Page 1199 or 1219)

Big Idea: Effective Prayer has Three Requirements!

1. **EFFECTIVE PRAYER REQUIRES** _____ **v. 15** *“And the prayer offered **in faith**...”*

A. _____ **That You Have a “Yes” God.**

2 Corinthians 1:20 *“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.”*

Isaiah 37:20-22 *“Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his [Sennacherib’s] hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God.” 21 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **Because you have prayed** to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, 22 this is the word the LORD has spoken against him...”*

B. _____ **Like You Have a “Yes” God!**

“God always gives you what you would have asked for if you knew everything that He knows.”—Tim Keller

2. **EFFECTIVE PRAYER REQUIRES** _____ **v. 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.”*

NOTE: *God is more concerned about what He does “in” me than what he does “for” me!*

A. **Sin** _____ **Prayer**

- Answered prayer is a privilege of relationship. If you ignore God, He’ll ignore you. **Isaiah 59:1** *“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 **But your iniquities have separated you** from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*

- Answered prayer must match God's will. God won't give us what He doesn't want us to have. **1 John 5:14**, "*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*"
- Answered prayer must be prayed. Sinning Christians don't get many answers to prayer because they usually don't do much praying.

B. Righteousness _____ Prayer

2 Chronicles 16:9 "*For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*"

3. EFFECTIVE PRAYER REQUIRES _____ v. 17 "*Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly...*"

A. Urgency Flows from _____

"Lord save us from off-handed, flabby cheeked, brittle boned, weak-kneed, thin-skinned, pliable, plastic, spineless, effeminate, ossified, three karat Christianity."—**Billy Sunday**

B. Urgency Produces _____ v. 18 "*Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*"

1 Kings 18:42-44 "...Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and **put his face between his knees**. 43 'Go and look toward the sea,' he told his servant. And he went up and looked. 'There is nothing there,' he said. **Seven times Elijah said, 'Go back.'** 44 The seventh time the servant reported, 'A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea.' So Elijah said, 'Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'"

*I realize that some who hold a very high view of God's sovereignty might say that prayer doesn't change God, it only changes us. And there is a great deal of validity in that. God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable. His nature cannot be changed. But our sovereign God many times has said things such as, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3) This sounds very much as though God, in His sovereign wisdom, has so arranged reality that, although he might desire to do some things, He will not do them unless, and until, Christian people are obedient and faithful in their prayer lives. **C. Peter Wagner***