

## PRAYER THAT PRODUCES RESULTS.

*Prayer is vital.*  
*Sal. a relationship, a fellowship*

Text: James 5:13-20; key verse: 16: "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

*Keeps it alive.*  
INTRODUCTION: Prayer is the life line of Christianity. It is the alpha and omega of the Christian's earthly life. Christian activity, devotion, and achievement are all measured by the Christian's prayer life. One of the weakest links in the chain of Christian activity is found in our failure to sense the privilege and power of prayer. There can be no real Holy Spirit, Heaven sent Revival until God's people agonize in prayer. There has never been, and never will be. I have seen great revivals without much preaching. I have seen great revivals without much preparation. I have seen great revivals without much advertisement. But I have never seen a great revival without much prayer. The law of revival is, no prayer, no power; much prayer, much power. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3). Revival is rocked in the cradle of prayer.

*our failures are all prayer failures*

*Prayer is not a duty  
"Continue in prayer"  
"never stop praying"  
always to pray"*

② But how many of us really pray? How many hours have we spent in prayer? Our most lamentable ignorance is in regard to prayer. "We know not what we should pray for as we ought." No difficulty in human life is more common than perplexity arising from unanswered prayer.

③ The Apostle James strikes at the very crux of the matter and prescribes the kind of prayer that produces results in the words of our text. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

*Prayer under all circumstances*

### I. EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS SPECIFIC. Read verse 13-19-

Much prayer is without value because it is without any specific object--it is aimed at no mark in particular. Some people pray, "Save the lost." That is like going into a super-market and telling the clerk, "I want groceries!" Our praying ought to be specific.

*James  
called "Jaguar"  
praying name  
1. lack of faith  
2. lack of understanding*

*Anything in the life of man is a concern of God.*  
1. The Prayer Object of Affliction--  
"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray."

*Talk to God  
as you would  
your father  
specific prayer  
requires more faith*

That this means something different than physical illness is evident from the reference to sickness in the next verse.

(1) A common affliction is discouragement. Perhaps no more effective weapon has been forged by Satan to defeat God's children than discouragement.

Illustration: Elijah: great man of faith...sits under a tree asking God to kill him. Afraid of a woman. If he had really wanted to die, Jezebel would have obliged him!

(2) Affliction of temptation. Psalm 23:4  
(3) Numerous other afflictions

2. The Prayer Object of Physical Sickness. <sup>v 14</sup>  
(James 5:14a) "Is any sick among you? ...and let them pray."

James recommends that the ill person assume the initiative in calling the elders to pray for him. How different is this procedure from that of so many faith healers.

The "oil" was a common treatment for the sick in ancient times. They hardly went anywhere without carrying oil as a means of healing. Here God desires them to use natural means while looking to God for special blessing.

3. The Prayer Object of Moral Fault. <sup>v 16</sup>  
"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed..."

Here we are commanded to pray for one another when we fail, not criticize. Confess one to another. this can only occur where there is a bond of brotherly love.

4. The Prayer Object of Natural Phenomena.  
(James 5:17,18)

5. The Prayer Object of Spiritual Revival.  
(James 5:19,20) "Brethern, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall <sup>save</sup> ~~save~~ from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

*Relate to us 16*

Here the Bible explicitly teaches that some sicknesses are the result of sin and backslidings, and that unless revival comes to that individual he may die!

Worthy as the foregoing objects of prayer may be, the object of spiritual revival transcends them all.

III. EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS EMOTIONAL. — *Not emotionalism*  
"Fervent prayer..."

*Church must travail in prayer for souls —*

The word fervent means "boiling hot, seething with fermentation."

*"Dry Eyes"*

When Christ saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion. That is emotion.

Paul prayed day and night with tears. That is emotion.

*Jacob John*

*Sign on Church in Dayton — the prayer that Paul*

Ill -- Praying Hyde of India. Prayed all night... first to win one soul every day that year. He did. Then two souls every day the next year. He did... up to four a day. He was fervent in his prayers.

Ill - Van Cliburn, young pianist, after operation on

an abcess tooth, practiced from midnight until 7:00 A.M. the next morning! Have we ever prayed like that.

*we need a Revival of Conscience*

*sin, hell, judgment, etc.*

Until the reality of the situation lays hold of the consciousness of the Church, prayer will be devoid of any moving force. When the salvation of a soul from sin's ruinous power, or the repentance of derelict brother or sister, son or daughter is realized to hinge upon the effectiveness of one's petitions, an emotional reaction will be produced giving power to prayer.

Prayers, without fervor are like cold lead without ignited powder. They have no driving force.

*vs 16 - Confess faults - only when we are genuine can we be righteous.*

*John 9:31 - It must be confessed before prayer*

III. EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS CONDITIONED BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE PETITIONER.

"...of a righteous man.."

*vs 16 - Confess faults - a definite relationship between fellowship & answered prayer*

Psalm 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me."

John 9:31- "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

Any measure of personal guilt, rebellion against the will of God, hypocrisy or insincerity will destroy confidence in God and shear the petitioner's prayer of its faith and effectiveness.

Prayers from unrighteous and impenitent hearts never rise to the throne of God. God never put a praying knee and a dancing foot on the same leg! A specific condition for answered prayer is that the petitioner be in right relationship with God and man.

*Prayer belongs to God & we can't stop His resources only by prayer*

EFFECTIVE PRAYER PRODUCES RESULTS.

*Elijah, a man like Passions Acts 14:15 - Paul at Lystra*

"Availeth much..."

Elijah's prayer sealed heaven's moisture for three years from the earth. His prayer reopened the heavens and gave rain.

Abraham prayed and saved Lot from God's wrath.

Moses prayed and saved a whole nation from extinction by the wrath of God.

*God doesn't want us to be any less than these!*

Pentecost was conceived in prayer and born in power.

Finney and Father Nash, Fulton St. prayer meeting, Welsh Revival....products of effective prayer. Are you willing to meet God's conditions for effective prayer? If so, it will transform your life and bring Revival.