

The Prayer of A Righteous Person – Part 2

Introduction and Review

- Last week we examined three situations when believers **need** to pray: suffering (v. 13a), cheerful (v. 13b), and sick (v. 14-16).
- We addressed the issue of sickness in great detail.
- A sick believer is to: request the presence of church elders (v. 14b) & confess any sin that is causing the illness (v. 15c-16a).
- The church elders (pastors) are to come to the sick person, pray for them & anoint them with oil (v. 14c-d). The prayer of faith is a prayer of certainty that it is God's will to restore the sick saint to health in a specific situation (v. 15a).

I. The Need for Prayer (v. 16)

A. Prayer & confession are essential (v. 16a)

*The word "Therefore" means that the conclusion of verses 13-15 is mutual **confession & prayer** – "one another". The purpose of confession & prayer is healing – spiritual & physical. The health of individual church members & the church collectively is dependent on confession & prayer. **The pastor leads the way in prayer for the sick, but all believers should also pray.***

B. Prayer is powerful & effective (16b)

A righteous person is someone who has believed in Christ for salvation & in a right relationship with Him. Prayer is the powerful means of addressing health issues & any other troubles in the believer's life. "great power" (πολύς ἰσχύω) indicates that no problem is too difficult for God. Prayer in faith is powerful for the pastor & any other believer (1:6-8).

II. The Example of Prayer (v. 17-18)

A. The person of prayer (v. 17a)

*Elijah was a righteous person with a powerful & effective prayer. Description: OT prophet (1Ki. 17-19), worked many miracles (oil for widow, raised the dead, called down fire from heaven, etc.) & spoke for God (prophecies, warnings, etc.). He also experienced hunger, fear (fled to save his life) & discouragement – **normal human weaknesses.***

B. The effectiveness of prayer (v. 17b-18)

The phrase "prayed fervently" literally means "prayed with prayer" & indicates that he prayed in faith & according to the will of God (requirements already taught by James). Drought was a life-threatening circumstance & impossible for man to remedy. God responded to one man's prayer to save the life of many.

III. The Response to Prayer (v. 19-20)

A. Loving those who wander (v. 19a)

James describes a church member who has accepted some form of false teaching & lifestyle – "wanders... [πλανᾶω – to be misled, deceived]". This is apostasy (Mt. 22:29 – wrong; 24:4-5; 1Co. 6:9-10). Believers must be spiritually observant of each other & intervene – church attendance, teaching, lifestyle, etc.

B. Pursuing those who wander (v. 19b-20)

*In some situations, apostates are to be pursued in hopes of bringing them to true conversion & repentance. True conversion will deliver them from faith in false teaching (save his soul) & from an ungodly lifestyle (cover a multitude of sins). In other situations, apostates will never repent, are to be excommunicated from the church & even avoided (Heb. 6:4-6; 1Tim. 1:18-20; 2Tim. 2:16-18). The Lord will give wisdom & guidance from the HS **as we pray** in faith & trust Him in obedience.*

ILL: Sometimes a movie will end with a cliffhanger – mystery, unresolved plot, or unresolved issue. You are forced to use your imagination or wait for the sequel to the movie.

APPL: In the life of a Christian, there are to be many cliffhangers because we live by faith. There are many unresolved issues in our own lives personally & in the lives of other people as we get involved. So we must be people who pray, trust & obey they Lord. There are no mysteries & unresolved issues with God; He knows the end of every situation from the beginning!

CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brother or sister you are this righteous person of which James is speaking & your prayer has great power as it is working. Your fervent prayer is effective as you pray in faith with godly motives, completely trusting God with the outcome. Your prayer has great power because you are calling upon God who has limitless power. He can solve any problem with suffering, sickness, finances, family, school, career, oppression, injustice, prejudice; fights & quarrels among believers; save any sinner & even bring the apostate to brokenness & repentance. Nothing is too hard for God; nothing is impossible for Him. The Lord will bring you peace & joy in your trial... But it will not happen without prayer; without you praying; without you being this righteous person who prays fervently & effectively. Will you be that person today my brother or sister? Will you be that person who prays without ceasing; calls upon God consistently & persistently? And will you be that person who also rejoicing consistently & persistently as you wait & when He answers?

If you are not a Christian, you should pray also. Ask Jesus to save you, give you a new heart & eternal life. Jesus has given His life to save you from the penalty of your sins. Will you trust Him today for salvation; will you believe...?

SUBJECT: [The Prayer of A Righteous Person - Part 2](#)

TEXT: [James 5:13-20](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [February 12, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [985](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX4](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)