

# "The Effective, Fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man"

James 5:13-18

## Introduction:

- A. Prayer seems natural - especially during trouble.
  - 1. Old Testament characters prayed.
  - 2. Even pagans pray to their gods.
- B. Prayer is a part of Christianity.
  - 1. Christ prayed and early Christians prayed.
  - 2. Makes many blessings depend on it. (cf. Jas. 4:2).
- C. Prayer more than heart's desire. (cf. 1 Sam. 1:12,13; Rom. 10:1).
  - 1. God knows needs before we ask. (Matt. 6:8).
  - 2. God still wants us to ask. (John 14:13).
  - 3. God wants prayer to express hearts desire - not mere form. (cf. Mt. 7:6).
- D. Prayer consists of various elements.
  - 1. Petition - a asking (sometimes "prayer"). (1 John 5:15).
  - 2. Supplication - a plea. (Eph. 6:18).
  - 3. Intercession - on behalf of another. (1 Tim 2:1).
  - 4. Thanksgiving. (1 Tim. 4:4,5).
- E. Prayer may be done everywhere for everything. (1 Tim. 2:8; Phil. 4:6).
  - 1. Publicly (1 Cor. 14:15).
  - 2. Privately. (Matt. 14:23).
- F. Prayer in our text is effective for three reasons:

## Discussion:

### II. It Is Offered By A "Righteous Man".

- A. Elijah was such a man. (v. 17).
- B. Unrighteous men cannot pray effectively. (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; 28:9).
- C. Does God hear sinners? (John 9:31).
  - 1. Not God's word but quotation of former blind man.
  - 2. Will not hear one actively sinning.
  - 3. Heard one before he was a Christian who wanted to do right. (Acts 10:31).
  - 4. Does not set aside law in answer to prayer.
    - a. Jesus prayed for forgiveness of enemies. (Luke 23:34).
      - (1) God had a law of pardon. (Mark 16:15,16).
      - (2) Enemies not forgiven until obeyed. (Acts 2:23,36,37-47).
    - b. Paul was praying, but had to obey. (Acts 22:16; 9:9-11).

### III. It Is Done "Fervently" or "Earnestly".

- A. Fervent in heart.
- B. Fervent in effort. (Col. 4:12).
  - 1. Constantly. (1 Thess. 5:17) - Does not mean every moment. (cf. Acts 5:42; 1 Thess 5:13).
  - 2. Persistently. (Luke 18:1-5).

### IV. It "Avails Much".

- A. Results need not be miraculous.
  - 1. Miracles have served their purpose.

2. Elijah's prayer answered providentially nor miraculously. (cf. 1 Kings 18:41-45).
- B. Results both inward and outward.
  1. Outward circumstances changed by God's providence.
  2. Inward circumstances changed. (Phil. 4:6-7).
  3. Inward sickness associated with illness may be point in v.15.
    - a. Two words for sick (v. 14,15).
    - b. Word in v. 15 - "KAMNO" = Weariness of mind.

Conclusion:

- A. If not Christian do not need to pray now, need to be baptized.
- B. If an erring Christ do need to pray after repenting. (Acts 8:22).
- C. If a faithful Christian need to "pray without ceasing."