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Praying Effectively

James 5:13-18

13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 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. 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Some Thoughts On Prayer:

- Effectual fervent prayer is the hardest kind of work there is to do.
- Our natural tendency is to shrink back when it comes to praying for the impossible.
- One problem with praying is that we rest the power of prayer too much upon ourselves.
- We should see ourselves as instruments in the Lord's hands for accomplishing his purposes through prayer.
- Prayer is an act of obedience and privilege for the believer.
- We are commanded to pray, but we are also invited to bring our needs before the Lord.

What Are the Essentials to Praying More Effectively?

A right relationship with God is essential to praying effectively.

v.16 The prayer of a righteous man

Having faith in God's ability to do whatever we ask is essential to praying effectively.

v.15 The prayer offered in faith

Sincerity in prayer is essential to praying effectively.

v.17 He prayed earnestly

Discipline in prayer is essential to praying effectively.

v.18. Again he prayed