

James 5: 13-20

“Effectual Prayer”

Effectual >: en-erg-eh-o; to be active, efficient, fervent, to be mighty in

Righteous >: dik-ah-yos; equitable in character or act, by implication innocent, holy or just, meet, right - Just or Righteous before God, to be made righteous, to establish as right, or to set or put right; it denotes being in a right relationship with God rather than receiving a mere legal, judicial declaration. God forgives the repentant sinner, whom He had pronounced guilty through the law and condemned to eternal death, restores him to divine favor, and sets him in a right relationship (fellowship) with Himself and His will.

Back Ground Scripture: [II Chronicles 7:14-16]; Although originally given to Israel, applies equally to His people of any generation who meet the following four (4) conditions:

Humble themselves: God’s people must recognize their failures, manifest sorrow for their sin, and renew their commitment to do God’s will, humbling oneself before God and His word means recognizing one’s spiritual poverty .

Pray: God’s people must cry out to Him in desperation for mercy, and must completely depend upon Him and trust Him for His intervention. the prayer must be earnest and sustained until God answers from heaven [Luke 11:1-13; James 5:17-18].

Seek My Face: God’s people must diligently turn to God with the whole heart and long for His presence and not just try to escape from adversity

Turn from their wicked ways: God’s people must genuinely repent by turning from specific sins and all forms of idolatry, renounce conformity to the world, and draw near to God for mercy, forgiveness, and cleansing

Then will I hear

When God’s four conditions for revival and restoration are met, then God’s threefold promise of revival will be fulfilled

God will turn His anger away from His people, listen to their desperate cry, and be attentive to their prayer. In other words, the first evidence of revival is that God begins to hear and answer from heaven and to show compassion to His people.

God will forgive His people, cleanse them from their sins, and restore His favor, presence, peace, truth, righteousness, and power among them.

God will heal His people and their land by again pouring out rain i.e., physical awakening blessing among the covenant people and upon the lost.

Text

James 5:13> when you are experiencing poverty, affliction, or distress, scripture invites you to seek strength from God. Through prayer, draw near to your mediator, Jesus Christ.

He will represent you before God, make intercession for you [Hebrews 7:25], and give mercy and grace to help in the time of need [Hebrews 4:16]. Take seriously God’s word casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you, if we are happy in the Lord, must sing songs of praise to Him.

James 5:15> James is speaking of physical sickness, we may deal with illness by sending for the elders or leaders of the church.

It is the duty of pastors and elders to pray for the sick and anoint them with oil, [note] that the responsibility to pray the prayer of faith is on them, not on the sick person. The N.T. places the major burden for healing on the church and its leaders.

The oil probably represents the healing power of the Holy Spirit and was used as an aid to faith; it is prayer that James emphasizes as most important.

Effective prayer must be offered in faith if the sick are to be healed, the Lord will give faith according to His will [**Mathew 17:20**], True faith is not a belief in faith as a force or power, but is a faith in God (**Mark 11:22**), People may or may not always be healed; nevertheless, God promises to with all those who cry unto Him in fervent prayer.

James also recognizes that sickness may be due to sin hence, whenever sickness occurs, one should examine himself before the Lord in prayer to determine if his sickness is due to personal sin, the word “if” makes it clear that sickness is not always the result of personal sin.

James 5:16 > {compare with **II Chronicles 7: 14 humble, pray, seek, turn**} this verse gives us an important reason why healing is often lacking in the Christian community sin must be confessed and fervent prayer for one another made unto God. Sin in the church hinder the prayers of believers and blocks the healing power of God from being manifested in the congregation.

The prayer of a man who is righteous accomplishes much, Elijah was a man who had faith his prayers to God would accomplish much, and even to the point of God’s intervention in the course of nature. He believed that prayer by a righteous man does change things and circumstances.

Scripture teaches us that God deals with His children, not through absolute determinism, but by divine providence, whereby He interacts with and responds to the prayers of the righteous, our prayers and faith in God do cause many good things to happen which would otherwise not occur.

I John 5:14-15 > And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us, and if we know He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

Note: In our prayers we must submit to God and pray that His will may be done in our lives [**John 14:13**], we know God’s will in many instances because it is revealed in scripture, at other times it becomes clear only a we earnestly seek His will.

Once we know His will about any given issue, then we can ask in confidence and faith, when we do this, we know that He hears us and that His purposes for us will be accomplished.

John 14:13 > Payer in the name of Jesus involves at least two things:

Praying in harmony with His person, character, and will

Praying with faith in Him and His authority, and with the desire to glorify both the Father and the Son [**Acts 3:16**], praying in the name of Jesus, therefore, means that Jesus will honor any payer that He would have prayed Himself. there is no limit to the power of prayer when addressed to Jesus and the Father in faith according to His desires.