

Effective Prayer Basics –

We all want our prayers to be powerful and effective. We want to be righteous people who pray with great power that produces results.

Does it really matter how we pray - as long as we are praying?

- Vain repetition (Matt 6:7)
- The wish list (Matt 6:8)
- Worrying out loud (James 5:8)

We need to remember who we're talking to. Who we are, and our relation to Him.

Key verse: James 5:15-17

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

We have our part to play and God does the rest. Knowing our part is a pre requisite to effective prayer. Here are three key words from this passage that show our part:

Faith: (Heb 11: 6)

Righteous: (3 John 7; Gal 2:21, Rm 5:17)

Confess: (1 Jn 1:8, 9)

Are there things that can hinder your prayers?

Doubt and unbelief: (James 1:5-8; Heb 11:6)

Lack of love: (Proverbs 17:9 & 21:13)

Pride and selfishness: (James 4:3)

Unforgiveness: (Mark 11:25-26)

Lack of reconciliation: (Matthew 5:23-24)

Unconfessed sin: (Psalm 66:18 KJV)

Not God's will: (1 John 5:14)

Family relationships: (1 Peter 3: 7)

SUMMARY

Earnest prayer is important, we must make it a priority

The prayer of faith is super important

We don't have to be "super Christians" but sin in the life of the one praying can block prayer's effectiveness

Pray with persistence

God answers prayer

NOW LET'S LOOK AT WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT PRAYER Matt 6:9-14

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."