

James 47 “Powerful And Effective Prayer” James 5:17-20

Prayer can work wonders in our lives and the lives of others but not necessarily if it comes from an unrighteous, impure heart in which it's simply insincere or superficial.

James' point here is that Elijah prayed and God answered his prayer and in the same way that Elijah prayed, we can pray in times of our suffering and God will answer our prayers too.

Elijah was not only a hero in his day; he was also a patriot who loved his Lord and his country and therefore, he willingly stepped forward to courageously face almost certain disaster for both.

While believers and unbelievers in this apostasy were wasting time through their unified rebellion, Elijah the believer and prophet of God redeemed his time on earth by offering the only prayer he could and then he walked away from the whole situation for three and a half years.

Our souls were saved at salvation and our souls now have the capacity for great things from God but we'll never know of these great things that He has for us if we rebel against Him; rebellion maligns God in several ways.

There is no greater demonstration of God's grace than when a believer is in the last stages of his life and he is dying before God's plan says that he should die and he repents and then recovers in total forgiveness, so that he is free once more to start choosing biblical truth every day!

Prayer is not designed to get us out of trouble but to express our helplessness, our humility, our total dependence on God rather than on ours or anyone else's human ability and power, it's our recognition and orientation to His grace and His mercy toward us.

When we pray for others, we enter into their ministry.

Prayer is based on two major doctrines of Scripture: 1. Our post-salvation spiritual life in harmonious intimacy or fellowship with God;

2. Our understanding of the integrity of God as the source of all answers to prayer on the one hand and the explanation why other prayers are not answered on the other.

Prayer is communication with God for the expression of our personal needs in accordance with His will as petitions and the function of intercession for the needs of others.

God actually knew and answered all our prayers in eternity past!

Effectiveness is not measured in terms of our eloquent words when praying in public but on the basis of our spiritual growth when praying in private.

Confidence in prayer is dependent upon knowledge of God's will and therefore, effectiveness of prayer must relate to our cognizance of the purpose of God.

We cannot impress people and God at the same time with our prayers.