



A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much.
James 5:16, NASB

Effective Prayer

1 Kings 17 – 19; James 5:13-18; Selected Scriptures
#2 in the series *Elijah—A Man Like Us*

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Theme: **Seeking God's will is the foundation of effective prayer.**

Elijah's effective prayer.

1. Prayer for no rain. (1 Kings 17:1; Luke 4:25; James 5:17)
2. Prayer for child to be raised back to life. (1 Kings 17:17-24)
3. Prayer for fire and renewal. (1 Kings 18:36-39)
4. Prayer for rain. (1 Kings 18:41-46; James 5:18)
5. Prayer for death. (1 Kings 19:1-18)

Qualifications for effective pray - ers.

1. In a right relationship with God.
 - a. Righteous. (Proverbs 15:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21; James 5:16)
 - b. Fellowship. (John 15:7)
 - c. Sin confessed. (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 1:1-15; 59:1-2)
 - d. Obedient. (John 14:23; 1 John 2:5; 3:21-222)
 - e. Delighting in God. (Psalm 37:4)
2. In right relationship with others.
 - a. Understanding. (1 Peter 3:7)
 - b. Forgiving. (Mark 11:25)

Qualifications for effective prayers.

1. Lines up with God.
 - a. With God's will. (Matthew 6:10; 1 John 5:14-15)
 - b. With God's word. (John 15:7)
2. Offered in faith. (Mark 11:23-24; James 5:15)
3. Offered in the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20; Romans 8:26-27)
4. Offered with right motives. (Matthew 6:1-6; James 4:3)
5. Offered earnestly. (James 5:17)

In My Life This Week

Monday. Review the five examples of Elijah's effective prayer listed in the outline. Why is his prayer for death included? We cannot come close to fully understanding how our prayers fit into God's sovereign will and plan, but they do. Do you really believe God wants you to have, and you can have effective prayer? Elijah, a man just like you, had a unique call and ministry. So, don't allow the specifics of his rain/no rain, raising a boy back to life, fire from God prayers obscure the possibility and reality of you praying effectively.

Tuesday. Sunday we looked at some of the qualifications for effective pray-ers. People who pray effectively are in a right relationship with God. What is the basis, the starting point and foundation of that relationship? Take a close look at the pattern of your life over the last few weeks from the perspective of the five qualities and actions listed in the outline. What do you see? Are there specific things and/or general patterns that are not as they should be? If so, they negatively affect your prayer life.

Wednesday. Effective pray-ers not only are in a right relationship with God, but also with others. You cannot control what someone else thinks or how they relate to you, but you can through the Holy Spirit control what you think and how you relate to them (see Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:1-32, etc.). The two qualities of a right relationship we looked at Sunday were understanding and forgiving. Remember, understanding does not mean agreeing or condoning, and forgiving does not mean trusting. Think through your relationships in terms of understanding and forgiving. Determine to allow God to change and shape your attitude and actions, your relationships toward others.

Thursday. The Bible states a number of qualifications for effective prayers. Walk through the five we touched on last Sunday. Clarify what each one is. Remember, it is not *pick and choose* — they all go together. Now evaluate your prayers by them. Are some changes needed to some of your prayers?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday Pastor Lyle will continue this series with *Where, When and How to Hide*. Read 1 Kings 17:1-24 and 19:1-18 as part of your preparation for out time together.