

POWER IS AVAILABLE IN A GODLY MAN'S PRAYER

(James 5:16-18)

I. THE JUDGMENT COMING UPON THE OPPRESSIVE RICH (5:1-6)

II. THE APPEAL TO BE PATIENT IN SUFFERING (5:7-12)

III. THE APPEAL TO PRAY AND RELY ON GOD BY FAITH (5:13-18)

A. God's Prescription for Whatever Ails You (5:13-15)

B. Your Responsibility of Confession and Prayer (5:16-18)

1. In light of the possibility of spiritual and physical sickness following sin, believers should be quick to personally _____ for sinful grievances against other Christians. (v. 16a)

2. Pastor James commanded the entire congregation to _____ (*pres./imper.*) for one another, _____, consistently. (v. 16b)

* We know that personal sin can prevent a spiritual restoration to fellowship, but can it also prevent a physical healing (*iaomai*)? (v. 16c)

3. James provided a basis for his exhortations to pray (v. 16d)...

- a. It can be "*effective*" (*polus*), meaning, it is _____ or to a _____ degree.

- b. Prayer should also be "*ferveat*" (*energeo*), which causes a great deal of energy, _____ and _____ in the process.

- c. While the believer in Christ is _____ righteous (Rom. 5:19; 1 Pet. 3:12), when it comes to prayer it is also required that he/she be _____ righteous (*dikaios*) with sins confessed. (Matt. 6:14-15; 1 John 1:6-10)

- d. This scenario will “*avail much*” i.e., it will have _____, robust _____.
4. To illustrate the _____ of prayer, James referred to Elijah's experience (1 Kings 17:1; 18:1, 41-45); and he reminded his readers that the prophet was just an _____. _____ (v. 17a)
5. James informs us that Elijah prayed for both the _____ and the _____ (1 Kings 18:42) of the drought which lasted for 3.5 years. (vv. 17b-18)
6. Elijah’s miracles and exploits were so remarkable that he became one of the most popular and celebrated prophets in the entire OT; but what drew James’ interest was the _____ and _____ his prayer had on the _____ of life.

* Do you believe in the power of prayer, the kind of power that Elijah wielded?

* When you are going through difficult trials, whether physical or spiritual what are you to do? (Philip. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 5:6-7)

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life?