

Great Power Working

3-15-26

James 5:16b (NIV)

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Literally: The prayer of a righteous person is great power working. **Amplified Version says:** The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen. **We see the prayers of a righteous person makes things happen. In Cor.5:21, we know through trusting Jesus our sins are forgiven and HE declares us righteous. Therefore, by trusting Jesus, we have access to the Throne of God, and our prayers are powerful and effective. Our prayers are powerful because we call upon the all-powerful God, the creator of the universe and nothing is impossible to HIM. God tells us why we should trust HIM, pray to HIM, and expect HIM to answer.**

Jeremiah 32:27 (ESV)

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

Like Jeremiah we must believe God is who HE says HE is for our prayers to be powerful and effective. God pleads with us to recognize HIM and come to HIM in prayer.

Jeremiah 33:2–3 (ESV)

² Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it—the LORD is his name:

³ Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

When we wholeheartedly believe this and trust in God alone our entire life changes. Therefore, God tells us to take prayer seriously.

Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

We pray and things happen. Therefore, we should be watchful and thankful because we have confidence that things are going to happen. Devote yourselves implies persistence and fervor. “Being watchful” literally means “keeping awake” suggesting constant spiritual alertness as things are happening all around us. “Being thankful” refers to the joyous assurance that God hears and is moving heaven and earth on our behalf. So that we don’t get all caught up in our own insecurities, and human weaknesses, God gives us an example of a regular man just like us.

James 5:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

James is assuming we already know the full account of Elijah. Elijah didn't have any superhuman powers; he was by nature a human being and nothing more. Since he is like us, any Christian has the same power. James assures us that such answers to prayer are within the reach of any believer. In 1Kings 18:1, we see that God spoke to Elijah and told him what to pray. A prayer of faith is hearing God and doing what HE says. So, the power is from Hearing God or discerning God's will which comes from the Bible, God's Word. Based on the foundation of the Bible, we have knowledge and our prayers come from that knowledge.

Also, based on the foundation of the Bible, the Holy Spirit will guide us, and use other believers, Pastors, Elders to give us insight. With wisdom, we devote ourselves to prayer being watchful.

We pray God into every situation and watch HIM work. In the OT, Exodus Chapter 17, we see this prayer at work. Joshua is fighting a battle against Israel's enemy, Amalek. Moses went with Aaron and Hur on top of a hill to pray.

Exodus 17:11–13 (ESV) NO/OH

¹¹ Whenever Moses held up his hand (in prayer), Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹² But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So, his hands were steady (in prayer) until the going down of the sun. ¹³ And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek.

When Moses held his hands up in prayer, things happened, they prevailed. When he dropped his hands, nothing happened. The enemy prevailed. This is a very clear example of powerful and effective prayer. Now through Jesus alone our life is one miracle and divine opportunity after another! Our prayers are great power working.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."