



EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYER

Alabama Gulf Coast Christian Academy

Guest Speaker: Ray Reynolds (Gulf Shores, AL)



Thursday, May 2, 2013

TEXT: James 5:16

Introduction: Prayer can powerfully impact our lives and aid us in our spiritual walk with God. **James 5:13-18** reminds us not only of what prayer has done (Elijah), but what prayer can do for us now! We need to read great stories about prayer in the Bible. What can we learn from this text? Let's study it together.....

Discussion:

I. The "Process" of Effective Prayer

"Prayer" -- "petition of one indigent" (**I Samuel 1:12-15, Romans 10:1**).

"Person" -- *righteous one*, "one who observes law & is as they ought to be" (**Romans 5:7; I John 2:29**).

"Power" -- "is great in strength, force, extraordinary ability" (**Ephesians 3:20; I John 5:14-15**).

"Providence" -- How does prayer work today? Provisionally (**Matthew 5:45; 6:33; Mark 10:29-30**).

"Plan" -- **Matthew 7:7-11** - Our sovereign God answering prayer 5 different ways.

II. The "Power" of Effective Prayer

Consider *"...Elijah..."*

Great OT prophet and hero of the Jews (**Matthew 11:14; 16:14; 17:1-5; 7:47**).

Consider our *"...like passions..."*

In spite of his greatness, just like us...and look what his prayer did (**Acts 14:11-15**).

Consider the *"...rain..."*

God can be influenced to set the wheels of nature in motion to affect our lives positively.

Consider how *"...he prayed...prayed again..."* -

What's the point? He's talking about prayer...the power of prayer...the power of one man's, the right man's prayer. Paraphrased: "Folks, brethren, prayer really works!" (Dan Winkler)

III. The "Pleasure" of Effective Prayer

Think about the "Conflict" (**Matthew 5:43-44**).

Think about the "Cravings" (**Hebrews 4:14-16...2:17...9:24**).

Think about the "Crises" (**James 1:2-5; Philippians 4:4b-6**).

Think about the "Corruption" [That's what sin is!] (**I John 1:9**).

Conclusion: An old preacher once said, "Kneeling" will keep us in good "standing" with God!" **Hebrews 4:14-16** tells us to "Hold...and be bold!" Resting between the two...prayer! That is the only way we will find *"...mercy...grace...help"* when we need it. Do you need it? How can you get it? Can we pray together? Will you pray on your own?