



James 5:13-20
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PRAYER IS POWERFUL

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NCCC

INTRO. Read [James 5:13-20](#).

There are 7 direct references to prayer- every verse has at least one- [13-18](#).

This passage wants to stir our faith, clear away our doubts and fire our imagination about the awesome privilege we have with God in prayer.

If there is one thing that James wants to instill deep in our soul its this:

The [prayer](#) of a [righteous person](#) is [powerful](#) and [effective](#).

FOCUS. [Purpose of Prayer.](#) [The Person who has Power.](#) [What kind of Power?](#)

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER.

[James 4:8](#) Come near to God and he will come near to you.

- ◇ Prayer is about coming near to God. It's about entering his presence.
- ◇ Prayer unites our will with God's will.
- ◇ When Jesus taught his disciples to pray- he taught them to begin with these words... ["Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.](#)
- ◇ Prayer is about discovering and surrendering to God's will.
- ◇ And in case we have any doubts... God's will is heaven on earth!
- ◇ Prayer is God's chosen means to bring heaven to earth.
- ◇ But at it's core- prayer is about submitting to God's will.

[James 4:](#) Submit yourselves, then, to God.

It takes humility to submit our will to God's.

["Abba, Father,"](#) he said, ["everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."](#) [Mark 14:36](#).

THE PERSON WHO HAS POWER IN PRAYER.

James qualifies that it's the [righteous person](#) who has power in prayer.
What does it mean to be righteous?

[James 2:24](#) ["You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do not by faith alone."](#)

A righteous person is someone who is devoted to DOING God's will... even when it's hard, when there are doubts and discouragement and when it doesn't make sense.

That's why James brings in Elijah to show us. [17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.](#)

TWO THINGS.

1. **Elijah was a human being- like you and me.** Meaning he wasn't perfect had all the limitations we have. He doubted... got discouraged!

Being righteous is not about being perfect or superhuman.

But even though things didn't turn out the way Elijah thought, even in the face of profound discouragement... he prayed and he clung to God's will.

2. **He prayed EARNESTLY.** He was praying for rain...

6 times he sent his servant to see if his prayer was answered. 6 times- Nothing. But on the 7th... there was a small cloud **"as small as a man's hand is rising"**

Our will is always **SOONER IS BETTER THAN LATER. BIGGER IS BETTER THAN SMALLER.**

The righteous person is willing to give up on their will before they give up on God. To pray earnestly is not about mustering emotion its about persevering and being patient in prayer until God's will is done.

The righteous are willing to let their will (expectations) die so that hope in God's will can rise.

WHAT KIND OF POWER IS JAMES TALKING ABOUT?

Elijah was able to persevere in prayer until God's power poured down because he had wisdom about what God wanted to do.

God's wisdom from above trains us to wield God's power from above.

1 Kings 18:1 **the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land."** 2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

The rain was God's will THEN it became Elijah's will.

God's wisdom from above trains us to recognize and live out God's will—

- ◇ To overcome temptation and evil desires— James 1:13
- ◇ To be slow to speak and slow to anger. James 1:19
- ◇ To care for the orphan, widow and vulnerable. James 1:27
- ◇ To take care of people in need. James 2:13
- ◇ To use our words to encourage and never to tear down. James 3:9
- ◇ To choose humility over arrogance. James 4:6
- ◇ To resist greed and patiently hope in Jesus' return. James 5:8

Prayer is the place where our will is transformed towards God's will.

"Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to

give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life.

PRAYER. T.Keller. 18.

- ◇ **Prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we desire most.**
- ◇ **Prayer makes us safe to be entrusted with God's power.**
- ◇ **GOD'S power is for doing God's will.**
- ◇ **Prayer matures us in using GOD's power in the face of:**
1. vs 13-14 Sickness. 2. Sin. 3. vs 19-20 Salvation.

No we don't always see people healed... or receive God's forgiveness...

But the righteous won't give up because we know God's will wins in the end.