



Prayer that Gets the Job Done

James 5:16-20

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“A man whose life is a holy life, whose life is consumed with the desire to love and serve God, who walks with and lives for God, will have power in prayer.” – Dr. Jimmy Draper

Admit Sin to a Strong Believer (James 5:16a)

- Proverbs 28:13, “He that covers his sins shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.”
- 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins to God He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- “Don’t confess sin beyond the circle of that sin’s influence. Private sin requires private confession; public sin requires public confession. It is wrong for Christians to hang dirty wash in public, for such confession might do more harm than the original sin.”¹

ASK God as a Steadfast Believer (James 5:16-18)

- “effectual” (Gk. Energeo) from which we get the word “energy”
- “prayer” (Gk. Deesis) refers to asking for a specific need.
- Elijah prayed that God would shut off the rain, based upon Deut. 11:16-17, where Moses had warned Israel that if they turned away from God and began worshipping idols, “He would shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit.”

APPEAL lovingly to a Stumbling Believer (James 5:19-20)

- 1 Peter 4:8 (NASB), “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”
- Proverbs 10:12, “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.”
- “When we restore a stumbling believer, we don’t get our own sins forgiven; what we get is the joy of knowing that the pattern of sin in our brother’s life has been stopped!”²
- While this statement is basically directed toward wandering believers, or backsliders, it could be applied toward a lost person as well. “If a wandering believer loses his life, he at least goes to heaven, but the lost sinner is condemned to an eternal hell.”³
- Proverbs 11:30, “he that wins souls is wise.” [literally translated: “catches souls”, like a hunter.] Similarly, Jesus compared winning souls to catching fish (Mark 1:17).

How to Pray Effectively:

- 1) **Be Biblical** - Know Scripture so you pray according to God’s will.
- 2) **Be Specific** – Don’t be generic and general in your request. Ask with specific desired results.
- 3) **Be Humble** - Trust that His answer will be best.
- 4) **Be Persistent** – 1 Kings 18:43 says Elijah prayed seven times for rain and he kept sending his servant to look for the rain clouds.
- 5) **Be Expectant** - Thank God for the answer before He answers.

¹ Johnny Hunt, *James, An Archive of Exegetical Sermon Notes* (Woodstock, GA: 3H Publishers, 2011), 349.

² David Jeremiah, *What to Do When You Don’t Know What To Do* (Colorado Springs, CO: David Cook, 2015), 288.

³ Warren Wiersbe, *Be Mature* (Colorado Springs, CO: David Cook, 1978), 181.