

Fervent Prayer

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16 KJV

In the first part of this verse James has healing in mind. "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another".

Why? "That ye may be healed".

Verse 14 & 15 added conditions for healing for the body of Christ, are confession and prayer for one another.

In the last part of this verse, James is speaking to everyone and not just the body of Christ. "The effectual fervent pray of a righteous person availeth much"

This tells us that mere formal or routine prayers are of no avail; we must really pray. Pray from the heart, the heart of Christ in us.

So what is fervent prayer? This scripture gives us a mighty key that unlocks a realm that few enter. It teaches us how to pray, get answers and releases tremendous power into lives. Even Jesus' apostles did not know how to pray. They even asked the Lord to teach them how. We too must learn how to become effective in our prayer lives.

Not even saying prayers in a fervent way will do it if it's not fervent in your heart.

Your strength or tone of voice matters not with God.

Saying prayers but never really pray. Pray from the heart.

Some of us are little better than the man who got tired of repeating /reciting the Lord's Prayer, so he wrote in on a piece of paper and taped it to the wall over his bed. And at night before bed he would simply say "Lord, there's my sentiments" and with that he would get into bed and go to sleep.

Often spiritual and physical health are closely related.

If you could pray the way Jesus did, would you?

Jesus himself prayed fervently. The Word teaches us,

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard " (Hebrews 5:7 KJV).

Fervent Strong's G1754 – *energeō* ἐνεργέω *energeō*

Pronunciation = inner gay o [ENERGY]

1) to be operative, be at work, put forth power

a) to work for one, aid one

2) to effect

3) to display one's activity, show one's self operative

Noah Webster 1828 - Fervent

1-To be hot, to boil, to glow

2-Hot; boiling;

3- Ardent; very warm; earnest; excited; animated; glowing; as a fervent zeal;

Fervent in the spirit Romans 12:11 "...fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;"

This is how we pray over / for people.

The hot, boiling, glowing prayer of the righteous person availeth much.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of strong/sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7 KJV

Effectual fervent prayer of power, love and a strong mind.

Effectual fervent prayer of power, love and a sound mind.

Do you see now why a righteous persons prayer availeth much?

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much. James 5:16 KJV

Fervent = Hot, boiling, glowing

When we pray for someone can any of these words describe how we are praying?

HS – This prayer is hot with power, the love for the person just boils over and the mind of God glows in the joy over the one set free.

So how do we get a heart that can pray like Jesus?

Read a couple of scriptures

John 15:5, 7 & 9 (KJV)

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

John 14:12 (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Matthew 7:7-8 (KJV)

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 17:20-21 (KJV)

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Ephesians 6:17-19 (KJV)

take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)

Pray without ceasing.

1 Timothy 2:8 (KJV)

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

James 5:15 (KJV)

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

1 Peter 3:12 (KJV)

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:

of times Prayer is mention in the bible.

prayer 114x, pray 313x, prayed 65x, praying 20x =**512x**.

We need our prayers to be a pouring out of our hearts to God – like Jacob, prevailing by wrestling with the Lord. Genesis 32:28

If our prayer life is weak and ineffectual the root is most likely a lack of compassion or Christ's truths are mere ideas and not truths in our hearts.

Christ was moved by compassion

Compassion

Noah Webster Dictionary 1828

1. A suffering with another; painful sympathy; a sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another.

Is this what we feel when we are praying for someone else?

“Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he **loved** him! And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. “John 11:1-5; 11; 14; 34-36 & 43

“But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity...” Psalm 78:38 KJV

“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14 KJV

“Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.” Matthew 15:32 KJV

“So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.” Matthew 15:32 KJV

“And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.” Mark 1:41 KJV

“Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.” Mark 5:19 KJV

“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:34 KJV

Young man from Nain – dead “And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her,.. Luke 7:13 (KJV)

Effectual Prayers

- Abraham for Sodom / Lot
- Moses for his people when they repeatedly turned from God.
- Joshua called for the sun and moon to stand still
- Samuel, Hezekiah, Job, Daniel, Peter, Paul and many others

The Word is full of promises that the Lord will hear and answer real prayer.

“The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.” Psalm 145:18

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

“For prayer to be answered the man who prays must be a righteous man.”

Many have been made righteous in Christ. “So by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. “ Romans 5:19

The Lord will never consider anyone righteous apart from trusting and obeying Christ, and receiving new life through His shed blood.

When James speaks of a righteous man, he is speaking of one who is righteous in Christ – living a righteous life.

One who is constantly / conscientiously trying to live a life well-pleasing to the Lord.

*“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry”
Psalm 34:15*

“The prayer of the upright is his delight.” Proverbs 15:8

James himself was call “the righteous” History says that James prayed so much he had great calluses on his knees and was sometimes called “camel knees”,

A fervent prayer by a righteous man “availeth much” is of great power.

There is more power in that kind of prayer, by that kind of man, than there is in the wind, the waves, or the storm, because it moves the hand of God.

Prayer can be either a force or a farce; a mighty weapon, or an empty form.

A director at an orphanage in England, was a praying man. On one occasion he wanted to give all 200 orphans an apple. But he did not have the money for it so he prayed about it. Guess what happen a truck pulled up to the building the next day and unloaded not 200 but 400 apples.

The trucker explained that the apples had ripened and were about to spoil and needed to be eaten right away and that the owner directed him to give them to the orphanage.

Matthew 6:7 KJV

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

James 5:17 KJV *Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: And it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

He prayed for the ears of God not the ears of man.

*While Elijah was praying for others, the Lord was willing to do the miraculous for him, but as soon as he selfishly asked for that which is natural to all, he was refused. Let us not be selfish in our prayers, but ask for the salvation and blessing of others. **If we are more than Christ minded we are Christ hearted, we will not be greatly interested in material things, but more interested in spiritual blessing.***

As we pray so will we live. If we pray for self we will live for self; if we pray for other we will live for God to use us to minister and bless others.

Remember, fervent heartfelt prayer is the key to an effective prayer life and makes much of God's tremendous power available.

It is the power in prayer that will shake the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Additional Scriptures:

Mark 9:28-30 (KJV)

And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Matthew 21:21-22 (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 26:41 (KJV)

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 11:24 KJV

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Luke 18:1 (KJV)

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Hebrews 11:7 (KJV) "The Lord calls Abel righteous by faith."

Romans 8:25-27 (KJV)

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

James 5:14 KJV

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Elder – Strong’s G4245 presbus = A mature person in the Lord.

Hebrews 5 KJV

For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

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