# PATH TO Sourcessond PRAYER

Higher Aim

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## The Path To Powerful Prayer

Part 1 | James 5:13-17

## INTRODUCTION **NOTES** Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to look at the path to powerful prayer. Specifically, we're going to hone in on one specific phrase from our key Scripture passage in James that says, "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Maybe you're wondering what that statement means or how that applies to your own walk with Jesus. Well, that's exactly what we're going to look at in this mini-series. **KEY POINTS** What will it take for our prayers to become powerful and effective? 1. A Connection To A Burden Is there something in your life that is burdening you? You might have a wayward friend, a wayward child, or a poor relationship in your marriage. The kinds of prayers that God answers are those connected to a burden. God wants you to live a life that is sensitive. Wherever the burden is in your heart, run there. Now, if the burden you're facing isn't one that is listed above, you might be wondering how you find a burden. Well, usually, you don't have to look for a burden, rather the burden finds you. If you have to think about it, then you have no burden. You have no heaviness. If you are living life without a burden, you are just existing. The burden finds you, and it finds you when you start walking with God. You need to allow the Spirit of God to probe your heart as you ask yourself a question. Why don't you have a burden? You might have a concern, and you may have some sympathy, but why don't you have a burden? Here is the answer. You are not spending enough time with God! That's what Elijah did, and maybe that's all Elijah needed to do. He spent time alone with God. The way you will connect with the burden is to spend time alone with God. When you become sensitive enough to Him, you will become burdened with those things that burden Him.

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## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1.	Is there something that is burdening you in your life right now? If so, what is it?
2.	If nothing is burdening you, why do you think that is?
3.	How much time did you spend with God last week? Can you make room in your schedule to spend more time with Him this upcoming week and ask Him to burden your heart with what burdens His?

## The Path To Powerful Prayer

Part 2 | James 5:13-17

## INTRODUCTION **NOTES** Do you believe God answers prayer? Maybe that's an easy question. Of course He answers them. However, the difficult part about answering that question is that, sometimes, the answer we get is not the answer we want. Sometimes, the answer is "No." By the way, "No" is an answer. Just because God doesn't give you what you want in the time that you want, it doesn't mean that He doesn't answer prayer. He does! Sometimes, the answer is "Wait, not yet." Either the situation is not right, you are not right, or the timing is out of line with His perfect will. Therefore, "Wait" is an answer. And then, of course, "Yes" is an answer! When everything lines up – you, the situation, God's will, and the request – and the answer is "Yes," then go. We need to remember that God answers prayer. With this in mind, there are several principles in play to help us find the path toward powerful praying. We began looking at that concept last week. Today, we will continue this same study in James chapter five. **KEY POINTS** What will it take for our prayers to become powerful and effective? 1. A Connection To A Burden Is there something in your life that is burdening you? You might have a wayward friend, a wayward child, or a poor relationship in your marriage. The kinds of prayers that God answers are those connected to a burden. God wants you to live a life that is sensitive. Wherever the burden is in your heart, run there. Now, if the burden you're facing isn't one that is listed above, you might be wondering how you find a burden. Well, usually, you don't have to look for a burden, rather the burden finds you. If you have to think about it, then you have no burden. You have no heaviness. If you are living life without a burden, you are just existing. The burden finds you, and it finds you when you start walking with God. You need to allow the Spirit of God to probe your heart as you ask yourself a question. Why don't you have a burden? You might have a concern, and you may have some sympathy, but why don't

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#### 2. A Confidence To Hold

If you want confidence to know what God is going to do, it will only come out of extended time alone with God. You can have peace in your heart about God's plans. There are times when God will give you confidence as you pray the very first time about a burden. He could speak to you immediately. But He could also take His time. And when we have spent a lot of time in the presence of the Father, we can confidently trust Him and His timing, regardless of how He chooses to answer our prayers.

#### 3. A Call To Follow

As you pray and spend time with the Lord, He will not give you this confidence to hold onto and then just let you go. Sometimes, we misunderstand that intercession is just for us. In reality, God is planning to use the intercessor to take a step, to be part of the resolution of the burden.

That is what God did with Elijah. Remember, God rarely calls someone to pray without asking him to follow. Don't think that prayer is just an activity that you do and then you are finished. Most of the time, God calls intercessors into action. So if we're asking God to do something in our lives, we need to be humble, bold, and willing enough to realize that we might be part of His answer to our prayers.

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## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- 1. Are you spending enough time with God to develop a confident trust in Him and His plan? If not, what changes can you make to give yourself more time to spend with Him?
- 2. When was a time God answered your prayer differently than what you wanted? What did you learn from the outcome of that situation?

3.	Has God ever used you to answer your own prayer? Can you sense that He might be wanting to do that again with what you're praying for right now?