

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

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The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16b (NIV)

Prayer is...

Intimate communication with God.

Three Important Questions:

1. **WHO** should pray?

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. 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. **James 5:16b-18 (NIV)***

*Ahab told his wife Jezebel what Elijah had done and that he had killed the prophets. ² She sent a message to Elijah: "**You killed my prophets. Now I'm going to kill you!** I pray that the gods will punish me even more severely if I don't do it **by this time tomorrow.**" **1 Kings 19:1-2 (CEV)***

*³ Elijah was **afraid** when he got her message, and he **ran to the town** of Beersheba in Judah. He left his servant there, ⁴ then walked another whole day into the desert. Finally, he came to a large bush and sat down in its shade. He begged the Lord, "**I've had enough. Just let me die!**" **1 Kings 19:3-4a (CEV)***

2. **HOW** should we pray?

- **We must ASK.**

*You do not have because you do not **ask God**. **James 4:2c (NIV)***

- **We must ask with the right MOTIVE.**

*When you ask, you do not receive, because **you ask with wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on **your pleasures**. **James 4:3 (NIV)***

- **We must strive to live a clean LIFE.**

*The prayer of a **righteous person** is powerful and effective. **James 5:16b (NIV)***

If I had *ignored my sins*, the Lord would not have listened to me. ¹⁹ But God has indeed heard me; He has *listened to my prayer*. **Psalm 66:18-19 (GNT)**

- **We must ask in FAITH.**

But when you ask, *you must believe and not doubt*, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **James 1:6-7 (NIV)**

3. **WHEN** Should I Pray?

Is anyone among you *suffering*? Then he must pray. Is anyone *cheerful*? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you *sick*? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and *pray for one another* so that you may be healed. **James 5:13-16a (NASB)**

