

“Gospel Talk”
Empowered Prayer that Won’t Quit
James 5:13-20

January 10, 2019

Answer me, O Lord, answer me that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back.” (1 Kings 18:37)

I. The Privilege of Prayer

- a. **To be a Christian without praying is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” – Harold Lindsay**
- b. For the size of the epistle, James says more about prayer than any other New Testament book.
- c. You have been given the special right to pray. Prayer is a high and holy privilege.
- d. The mature Christian is prayerful in the storms of life, instead of complaining they pray.
- e. Why has the Christian been given this awesome privilege to pray? Prayer empowers and is a spiritual release valve.
- f. Troubles of life do not come when we expect, but when we least expect it. Someone, somewhere is always suffering, sick, in need of deliverance, or in need of comfort.
 1. Consistency in prayer will not remove the trouble but it provides comfort and strength.
 2. Prayer keeps you in tune with God’s plan. Do you want to know what God is up to in real time? Pray
 3. Prayer as a witness - Others need to know that we communicate with God and so can they
- g. God will not hear and will not answer until we open our mouths. What delays our prayers?

II. Prayer is Your Anchor To Truth in Tough Times (vv.17-18)

- a. James cited Elijah as an example of *righteous man* whose prayer released power (v.16) (1 Kings 17-18)
- b. Elijah was no different than us today, he was not super-human, but he believed that the super-natural power of God would work *through* his prayers. Elijah was going through tough times!
- c. Elijah prayed in faith and God told him He would send the rain. Elijah not only believed in his praying, but he was persistent. *He prayed ...and prayed again.*
- d. *He prayed fervently* (earnestly) – the literal Greek translation means **he prayed in prayer.**
- e. Our prayer should not consist of lazy religious words, but our hearts must be in our prayers.
- f. Prayer is your greatest power. It is the greatest power in the world today. Plug into it.
- g. Elijah prayed for the nation and God rained *showers of blessings*. Won’t God do the same for us?
- h. God allows us to hear, see, and experience situations to *move* us to pray.
 1. Life is moving and active, therefore, our prayer life should be moving, active and vigilant.
 2. A prayer life that “won’t quit” constantly asks for the change while believing it will change.
 3. A prayer life that “won’t quit”, says Thy will be done and not my own.
- i. Tough times require resilient and disciplined intercession.

III. Practical Application for 2019 Challenges

- a. Do not negate your prayer privilege. The Christian who does not pray is like a mechanic attempting to work on a car without tools. The mechanic knows what to do, but is powerless to perform the assignment.
- b. Remember God first works on you before He works on the problem.
- c. We see the hurting, the suffering, the unsaved, the unchurched, the back slider, and other problems affecting our families, community and nation. Don’t just look at the problem(s) and remain powerless? Pick up your prayer tools and go to work on the problem.
- d. You may be one word away from the victory. That one word that is spoken, that one word that is heard. Keep your heart and ears open to what the Lord will say. Then act!