Revive us Again – James 5:16 -18

**Focal Truth: The prayers of the righteous are powerfully effective**

Have you seen God answer your prayers?

How are your prayers connected with the will of God?

What kind of desires do you ask God to give to you?

Is praying just thoughts in your mind or a burden in your heart?

**Observations**

1. **Elijah prayed to God as a righteous man – 5:16**

*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much*

 a. Pagan prayer is repetitive words with no purpose

 b. Hypocritical prayer is praying to be heard by men not God

 c. Righteous prayer

 1. Prayer of the saved

 2. Prayer of faith in God

 3. Prayer for the will of God to be done on earth

 4. Prayer for those who won’t pray for themselves

 d. Examples of prayers of the righteous

 1. Abraham prayed for God to spare Sodom – Gen. 18:23 – Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

 2. Moses prayed for God to spare God’s sinful people

 3. Lord Jesus prayed for the church to glorify God on the earth

 4. Elijah prayed for God to judge the sinful nation of Israel

 e. Pr. 15:29 – The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous

 f. 1 John 5: 14 -15 – This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

2. **Elijah prayed earnestly to God – 5:17**

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain…*

 a. Elijah prayed earnestly – lit. “he prayed in prayer”

 His heart & mind prayed together to God

 b. Earnest prayer is sincere prayer

 c. Earnest prayer is convicted prayer

 d. Earnest prayer is heart – felt intense prayer

 e. Eph. 6:18 – with all prayer & petition pray at all times in the Spirit

 & with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance & petition for

 all the saints

 f. Ps 5:3 – in the morning, O Lord, you will hear my voice, in the morning I

 will order my prayer to you and eagerly watch

 f. 1 King 18:42, 45 – Elijah went to the top of Mt. Carmel & he crouched down on the earth & put His face between his knees…in a little while the sky grew black with clouds & wind & there was a heavy shower.

 g. Luke 22:44 – being in agony He was praying very fervently, and His sweat

 became like drops of blood, falling down on the ground

How earnest are your prayers?

3. **Elijah’s prayer was effective because God answered his prayer -5:17-18**

*he prayed earnestly that it would not rain & it did not rain on the earth for three years*

*and six months , then he prayed again & the sky poured rain & the earth produced its fruit*

a. 1 Kings 17:1 – as the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand,

 surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word

 b. 1 King 18:42, 45 – Elijah went to the top of Mt. Carmel & he crouched down on the earth & put His face between his knees…in a little while the sky grew black with clouds & wind & there was a heavy shower.

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4. **God answered Elijah’s prayer to accomplish His purposes – 5:16**

*the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much*

 a. 1 Kings 18:37, 38 – O Lord answer me, that this people may know that

 you, O Lord are God, and that you have turned their heart back again…

 then the fire of the Lord fell & consumed the burnt offering

 b. 1 Kings 22: 37 – 38 – so the king died and was brought to Samaria,

 & they buried the king in Samaria. They washed the chariot by the pool

 of Samaria, & the dogs licked up his blood, according to the word of the

 Lord which He spoke

 b. 2 Kings 9:33, 35 -36 – so they threw her down, & some of her blood was

 sprinkled on the wall and on the horses…they went to bury her, but they

 found nothing more than the skull & the feet & the palms of her hands…

 this is the word of the Lord which was spoken by His servant Elijah

**Things to Remember**

1. The righteous pray and God listens to them

2. Where there is great godly desire, there will be earnest prayer

3. The prayers of the righteous effect the activities of the world

4. God accomplishes His work as His people pray

5. The righteous work in prayer in secret while God accomplishes His work in the world

**Daily Use**

1. Pray in righteousness to God – He will hear & answer you

2. Pray asking God’s will be done – in you, in others, in the world

3. Pray with earnestness

4. Ask God to give you His desires as you pray