

A person is seen from behind, standing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. Their arms are raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a soft-focus landscape with more grass and a hint of a horizon under a pale sky.

Before prayer
changes
others, it first
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-BILLY GRAHAM



Effective Praying– James 5:16

Effective Praying

- There are some Scriptures that are/were difficult to understand with our American mind
 - **Mark 10:25 ESV**, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”
 - Idiom like, “It’s raining cats and dogs”
 - Imagine in 2,000 years some finds these word and trying to translate for understanding

Effective Praying

- There are some Scriptures that are/were difficult to understand with our American mind
 - **Luke 14:25 ESV**, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”
 - **1st Corinthians 15:29 ESV**, “Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?”

Effective Praying

- Let me give you one that has been on my list for a long time
 - **James 5:16b literally**, “very strong is a working supplication of a righteous man”
 - This verse does not translate easily or well into English which is why the Bible translations vary some trying to get the who understanding of what James is trying to communicate

Effective Praying

- Let me give you one that has been on my list for a long time
 - **KJV**, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
 - Effectual - successful in producing a desired result or an intended effect
 - Fervent - having or showing very strong, sincere, and intense feelings, enthusiasm, or zeal
 - Avaieth - is effective, has power, or produces results

Effective Praying

- Let me give you one that has been on my list for a long time
 - **NIV**, “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”
 - **NASB**, “A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about (*granted by God*), can accomplish much”
 - Linguist William Verner, “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” or better
 - “The prayer of a righteous person has great power when God is in it [tremendous power].”

Scripture

- **James 5:16b AMP**, “The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].”

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- Opening a door takes two important elements
 - Hinges that should easily open the door
 - Actual strength outside of the door itself to actually open it
 - If either one of them is lacking, the door is a pain to open
- In prayer, the righteous person is the hinge while God is the strength
 - **AMP**, “the prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much”

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- Your prayers matter and can be extremely powerful as a righteous person
 - What is a righteous person?
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:21 ESV**, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”
 - In the Bible, a righteous person is someone who is in a right relationship with God and living their lives in a way that reflects Jesus

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- Your prayers matter and can be extremely powerful as a righteous person
 - What is a righteous person?
 - This righteousness is not about being completely sinless
 - But about trusting God, seeking His forgiveness when failing, and trying to live with justice, mercy, and integrity toward others
 - The first part of **verse 16** is about “confessing your sins to one another”

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- Your prayers matter and can be extremely powerful as a righteous person
 - What is a righteous person?
 - It is much like taking the Lord's Supper
 - **1st Corinthians 11:28 NIV**, Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
 - A righteous person desires the will of God above all else

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- Your prayers matter and can be extremely powerful as a righteous person
 - William Verner, “The prayer of a righteous person has great power when God is in it”
 - **James 4:2b-3 ESV**, You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- God is the power that opens the door of your prayers
 - **AMP**, “the prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God]
 - Or “when God is in it”

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- God is the power that opens the door of your prayers
 - In the Bible, the power of prayer does not come from special words, rituals, or human effort
 - The power belongs entirely to God, who hears, cares, and changes things according to His will as He changes us
 - Prayer connects people to an all-powerful God

Notice an effective prayer hinges upon a righteous person but rests upon the power of God

- God is the power that opens the door of your prayers
 - God listens and hears His people when they cry out to Him for help
 - Powerful prayers align with what God desires and brings glory to Him
 - Prayer takes away worry and replaces it with God's peace

Notice effective prayers must be heartfelt and persistent

- Fervent - having or showing very strong, sincere, and intense feelings, enthusiasm, or zeal
 - You must be invested emotionally
- Prayer is not a performance or a tool to get God's attention
 - Jesus taught that God already knows what you need before you ask (*Matt. 6:8*)
 - Prayer is a personal talk with a loving Father who already listens, rather than a way to wake up a distant or sleeping God
 - This is not trying to get God to know how important your prayer is or trying to get His attention

Notice effective prayers must be heartfelt and persistent

- Prayer is not a performance or a tool to get God's attention
 - It is to keep our mind focused and in tune to seek and accept God's will
 - Seeking, Grasping, Accepting, Applying
 - It's not that God forgets and must be reminded
 - If God already knows why even pray?

Notice effective prayers must be heartfelt and persistent

- Prayer is not a performance or a tool to get God's attention
 - **Daniel 10:12-14 ESV**, 12 Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.
 - 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

Notice effective prayers must be heartfelt and persistent

- Prayer is not a performance or a tool to get God's attention
 - **Ephesians 6:12 ESV**, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
 - **2nd Corinthians 10:4 ESV**, “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds”

Your prayers is the most powerful tool in fighting the darkness of sin

- **AMP**, “The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].”
 - Dynamic - means constantly changing, growing, or active describing someone or something full of energy and potential
 - **Matthew 17:20 ESV**, “For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Your prayers can be the most powerful tool in fighting the darkness of sin

- Where does faith come from?
 - Faith is a gift from God that comes through grace, by way of the Holy Spirit and hearing God's word
 - Your faith has the potential to move mountains when God is in it

Your prayers can be the most powerful tool in fighting the darkness of sin

- There are a few primary reasons we do not see this kind of power today
 - Sin in the lives of God's children
 - Complacency in God's children
 - Illiteracy of the whole counsel of God's Word
 - Failing to grasp who we are in Christ Jesus
 - Listening to other voices instead of God and His Word

Effective Praying

- Well Randy, I'm no Moses, Paul, Billy Graham, no great person of faith. I can't even keep my life in order for Him."
 - "I'm just a lowly sinner saved by grace"
 - That is a true statement, but it is not who you are in Christ Jesus
- **James 5:17-18 ESV**, 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

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