

Experiencing Power Through Prayer

James 5:16b

“The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.” (James 5:16b)

THE BIG IDEA: The greatest force we have against the powers of evil in our world is found in our communication with God Almighty through prayer.

PRIDE PREVENTS PRAYING

- “After he had gone into the house, his disciples asked him privately, ‘Why couldn’t we drive it out?’ 29 And he told them, ‘This kind can come out by nothing but prayer.’” (Mark 9:28-29)
- **When we think we can manage our lives better than God, we see prayer as an inconvenience rather than a lifeline.**
- “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)
- **God has always intended for prayer to be the primary way we show our dependence on Him.**
- “The Lord is near all who call out to him, all who call out to him with integrity.” (Psalm 145:18)
- “I call on you, God, because you will answer me.” (Psalm 17:6)

DISLOYALTY DRIVES DISILLUSIONS

- **A lack of trusting God as the Source of all we are will lead us to looking everywhere else for solutions that only the Lord can provide.**
- “Ahaziah had fallen through the latticed window of his upstairs room in Samaria and was injured. So he sent messengers, instructing them, ‘Go inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from this injury.’ 3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, ‘Go and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? 4 Therefore, this is what the Lord says: You will not get up from your sickbed; you will certainly die.’ Then Elijah left.” (2 Kings 1:2-4)
- **One of the biggest deceptions of Satan is convincing Christians that all they need can be found apart from God,**

PRAYER PROVIDES POWER

- **Prayer is the most powerful resource the Christian has at their disposal.**
- “The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.” (James 5:16b)

- **For prayer to be powerful it must be done from a pure heart, with the right motives, and in accordance with God’s will.**
- “For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, 4 since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4a)
- **The greatest force we have against the powers of evil in our world is found in our communication with God Almighty through prayer.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Icebreaker:

- Describe a time in your life where you felt like you had strength above your normal day to day life. (Could be Emotional strength, Physical strength, etc.)

Start thinking:

- How did you first learn about prayer?
- Why do so many people seek solutions in other ways, and look to God as a last resort?
- What comes to mind when you think of “praying” with expectation?

Start sharing. Discuss in depth to create openness.

- What is meant by the phrase “The prayer of a righteous person” in James 5:16?
- What are some things that hinder our prayers? How can we overcome those obstacles to prayer?
- How does it make you feel knowing that you can go directly to God in prayer, and that He hears you?
- Why is prayer so vital to the life of the Christian?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

- Jesus, I realize that I need Your strength, Your direction, Your presence, Your forgiveness, and Your provision. I ask that You help me to develop a stronger and more committed prayer life realizing that my prayers do make a difference. Thank You for hearing my prayers.- Amen

Start digging. Read Scripture about acknowledging sin and godly grief.

Psalm 145:18

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Philippians 4:6-7

Matthew 6:5-8