
James 5:16-18: In our text, James gives us a spiritual prerequisite to our prayers that will help them to be effectual, effective, and powerful with God!

That prerequisite is humility! But there is nothing about humility here in V16. There is, but you must look harder ~ deeper... Beginning with the words, "Confess your faults".

It takes humility or humbleness of mind to sincerely confess your sins and faults to someone whom you have hurt or offended.

When the Lord Jesus taught us to pray, He taught us to ASK the Father:

Luke 11:4: "Forgive us for our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us".

Now, THINK about this... IF YOU KNOW that YOU HAVE committed a fault or offense against your brother, sister, husband, wife, or friend, but you haven't put forth any effort to go and make it right, or to confess your wrong to them.....

How can you or I pray (with a clear conscience) or even confess our sins to God, when we haven't done what we know is right in the sight of God with our brother or sister?

Remember this whole section in (C5) is about PRAYER, James is teaching each of us that BEFORE you come to "Our Father" in prayer, FIRST go to the one that you offended, confess your fault to them, and ask them for forgiveness.

If you aren't confessing your faults and sins to one another, you are (in all likelihood) either refusing to acknowledge your faults and sins against them or you don't care about them, or that you've offended them.

The Lord Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount that if you know there is a problem between you and your brother, sister, or neighbor, go to them and get it right FIRST!

Matthew 5:21-24

When was the last time God convicted you of an offense or sin against your brother, sister, or friend, and you STOPPED praying or STOPPED your Bible devotions until you went and made sure that you confessed your fault to them and asked them to forgive you?

PRAYING TO GOD, my brethren should have THIS sanctifying effect on each of us! If anything will STOP you from effectual, effective, fervent, and earnest prayer, it's trying to PRAY, while holding and harboring sin in your heart toward another! Psalms 66:18

First: CONFESS your faults one to another... And then PRAY one for another that ye (and they) may be healed!

One of the best things that you can do for your brother or sister in Christ, or your friend or neighbor is NOT to speak evil of them or hold a grudge against them or hate them in your heart, but to pray for them that they might be healed. This healing applies either to physical or spiritual healing!

"THEN" ... when you have confessed your faults to your offended brother, sister, or friend and when you have begun to pray for them...

Then your spirit will be unburdened of that sin which would grieve the Holy Spirit and hinder you from praying with force and power!

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"

There is a working power or force (before God) in the praying of a righteous man or woman. Praying is likened to wrestling, pouring out your soul before God, continually coming to God with an importunity and shameless insistence that would irritate any of us.

Genesis 32:24-28, Luke 11:5-8, 18:1-2, 5-7

Proverbs 15:8, 29, 21:27, 1 John 5:14-15

James 5:17-18