

The Prayer of the Righteous (James 5:16, 18)

- James instructs his readers in these verses to bathe everything in prayer.
- Prayers when we are down, when we are up, prayers for each other (v.16)
- Transparency with prayerfully bearing one another's burdens (Gal 6: 2)

I. The Joy of the Righteous – its Power (vs.16)

- Joyous axiom: “the prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective”
- A righteous Christian with the imputed righteousness of Christ & lives it out
- Some physical aspect of healing may be in view, but its primary focus is the healing of the soul from righteous prayer (vs.17,18) (Matt 13:15; Jn 12:40)
- True Confession is to God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:5,6) but God does call us to “confess to each other,” but it's mutual confession
- Confession to one another destroys hypocrisy, breaks down barriers of autonomy
- Mutual Confession helps promote poverty of spirit which is acceptable to God
- Mutual confession not only enhances our prayer life but makes us accountable, too.
 - 1) Confession should be made to an individual, except when sin is against a group
 - 2) Confession must be to the person who was sinned against (Matt 5:23,24)
 - 3) If it is not against a person as such, we must confess it, seek mature council
 - 4) Confession needs to be concrete, no pie in sky (no hanging out dirty washing)
 - 5) Confessing to one another: not law, but divinely appointed help to grow in grace
- A confessing, praying church is packed with power (Isa 59:1,2; Ps.66:18)

II. The Prayer of Righteous Elijah (v17,18)

- Many felt that Elijah was the grandest and most romantic character of Israel
- Elijah's name was even connected with paving the way for the Messiah
- Elijah, for many, was as close to superhuman as you could get, yet James says:

‘Elijah Was a Man Just Like Us’ vs.17a

- What do we learn from Elijah? Passionate prayer: **he prayed fervently that it might not rain, & for 3 years & 6 months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, & heaven gave rain, & the earth bore its fruit.**
- God sovereignly delights to answer the passionate prayers of His righteous people
- Not fanaticism, but urgent, earnest passion: Elijah's heart: whirlwind of passion
- See also (1 Sam 1:14; Ezra 9:5,6; Neh 1:4; Rom 9:3; Heb 5:7; James 5:16)