

Main Text: James 5:13-16

Main Point: To answer two questions:

- **A)** What makes a prayer effective?
- **B)** What makes a person righteous?

Introduction: (Opening greeting and thanks to our team) Story of Jonny and the wave pool/ocean. Today we are going to just “dip our toes in the shallow end” of the topic...and each week we will proceed further into the deep end.

At the end of Acts chapter 2 we see the 1st Century Church committing themselves to only a few things. You might call it the “Secret Sauce” to having a powerful and effective church. Those items in the recipe included:

- A) The Word of God (Apostles Teaching)
- B) To Each Other (The Fellowship)
- C) To Communion (Meals and the Lord’s Supper)
- D) To Prayer

For the next many weeks we will be focusing in on that forth ingredient: Prayer

We are going to talk about (*according to the Bible*)

- A) What prayer is and is not...
- B) The right and wrong ways to pray...
- C) How to pray through difficult seasons of life...
- D) The proper response towards to Lord when his answer is NO...

By the end of this series on prayer we will be at a better place of understanding not only how to pray, but how to enjoy an effective prayer life.

But today I just want to spend a little bit of time introducing us to the topic of *effective prayer*.

(SHOW GRAVITY CLIP) Let it never be said that Skypointe did not teach on prayer.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:13-16 (ESV)

A righteous person has great power in prayer. Their prayers are effective. Their prayers change things. Their prayers get God’s attention! So what makes a prayer effective? And What makes a person righteous?

- 1) **What makes a prayer effective?** Answer: An effective prayer is prayer through every season of life.

An effective prayer is prayer through times of suffering.

- *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.*

An effective prayer is prayer through times of satisfaction.

- *Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.*

An effective prayer is prayer through times of sickness.

- *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*
- Prayer is the gateway to physical and spiritual healing.

And prayer is most effective when we pray together.

- *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.*

- 2) **What makes a person Righteous? Answer:** A righteous person is a person who views their life continually through a Biblical Perspective. (You believe about yourself what the Bible believes about you.)

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (NLT)

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (NKJV)

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (KJV)

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 1 Cor. 1:30

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5:21

*This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
Rom. 3:22*

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. Rom. 3:22 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Rom. 5:1

We are righteous BECAUSE OF JESUS!
We are righteous BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID at the cross!

Remember what the Word of God tells us in 2 Chr. 7:14...IF MY PEOPLE who are CALLED BY MY NAME will HUMBLE THEMSELVES and PRAY and SEEK MY FACE...and TURN FROM THE WICKED WAYS...THEN I will hear from Heaven and HEAL their land.

A righteous person is a person who views their life continually through a Biblical Perspective.

for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, (Prov. 24: 16)

Conclusion: It is my prayer that no one in our church will find themselves at the end of their days not knowing how to pray. I have not done my job as a pastor if I do not teach you what it means to have a prayer life.

Want your prayers to be effective? Then you must pray through every season of life.

- Pray when you are suffering, satisfied, or sick
- Pray alone and pray together in the fellowship
- Pray with those who walk closely with God

Want to be a righteous person? Then you must give up trying and striving to be so in and of yourself and accept the FREE GIFT of Jesus Christ.