
[SERMON NOTES]

In Conclusion - (*James 5:13-20, 1 Kings 17:24-18:46*)

_____ is only as legitimate as it's _____.

What is prayer? (*James 5:16b, 2 Corinthians 5:21*)

Prayer is having God's _____ so that He may have our _____.

Therefore, your prayer _____ projects the direction of your _____.

God is _____ concerned about the _____ of our prayers.

The Content of Our Prayers

#1 - Commitment to _____. (*1 Kings 18:42-45, James 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*)

#2 - Call of _____. (*James 5:15b-16a, Romans 10:10, Psalm 51*)

#3 - Commission to _____ the _____. (*James 5:20, 1 Kings 18:21,36-37*)

#4 - Character of _____. (*James 5:19, John 14:13, Galatians 2:20, John 3:30*)

#5 - Concerns of You _____ and the _____. (*James 5:13-15*)

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We believe in the power and the effectiveness of prayer - and we hope you do, too! With that said, I think if we were to ask most Christians this simple question, "*how's your prayer life?*" - a majority would answer with, "*I wish it was better.*" So, on a scale of 1 to 10 - *How's your prayer life?* (circle) the number you would give yourself.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Why did you circle the number you chose? And what is something that's holding you back from the next step or two up?

[DIGGING DEEPER]

Right before James talks about the power of prayer, he mentions the importance of *oaths* - by striving to keep your word (5:12). *What would you say is the difference between an "oath" and a "prayer"?*

Why is it important to approach God in prayer differently than an oath to another person?

In James 5:17-18, he references part of the prophet Elijah's story as an example of how the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective (see 1 Kings 17-18). Also, we learned about the 5 C's of the content of our prayers. From the 5 C's above - *which do you feel like you lean into the most? And which do you feel like you lean into the least? Explain your answers.*

Most:

Least:

There are a lot of good prayers to read, mimic, memorize, or just simply pray back to God all throughout Scripture. Spend time praying the following prayers. After you have read and prayed through them all, write out what "C" you noticed. Then, pick one prayer in particular about why it impacted you during this study.

Psalm 51

Matthew 6:9-13

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Numbers 6:24-26

1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:12

Ephesians 1:16-19

Psalm 39

[TAKING IT HOME]

Pick one of the prayers from the list above - or a different one! - and commit to praying that prayer every day for the next week. Pay attention to where the Spirit may lead you as you do.