
SERMON NOTES September 27, 2020

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

James 5:16-18
The Great Power of Prayer
Pastor Mike

I. The _____ of prayer

II. The _____ of prayer

KEY QUESTION: What does it mean to be a _____

a. We are _____ with God;

Our relationship is _____

b. We _____ to God;

Our relationship is _____

c. We are _____ with God;

Any _____ to relationship are _____

Righteousness is not established by our _____ or _____,

but by our _____ and our _____

III. A _____ of Prayer

IV. The _____ of Prayer

V. A _____ to pray

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In verses 13-18 of chapter 5 James' point is clear; prayer changes things. Through prayer we tap into God's power, and for God the miraculous should be the ordinary.
 - a. While most of us would affirm the concept of the importance and power of prayer, most Christians don't make prayer priority in their lives. Why is this?
 - b. Do you believe that God still works miracles? What is the greatest answer to prayer you have ever seen?
2. When God answers prayer, it can encourage us to pray more, or it can make us feel content leading to a decrease in prayer. In the same way when we do not see God answer our prayers we can become more persistent in prayer or we can become discouraged and give up.
 - a. How do you respond when you pray and your requests are not answered? As you think through your past, has it caused you to pray more or less? How has it impacted the way you pray?
 - b. How do you respond when you pray and your requests are answered? As you think through your past, has it caused you to pray more or less? How has it impacted the way you pray?
3. When you pray are you more likely to pray for God to give you strength to accomplish tasks, or to pray that God would out of your weakness make his strength known. Using the illustration from this morning, are you more likely to ask him to give you strength to carry the buckets, or to ask him to bring rain?
4. Most Christians *know* that prayer is both important and powerful. We know Jesus' promises, such as "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it," (John 16:14), and "if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer," (Matthew 21:22), and "I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. But in spite of what we know about prayer, most Christians, when they are honest, will admit that they pray very little."
 - a. How can we know that prayer is among the most important and impactful thing we can do, and yet in practice we seldom pray?
 - b. Does a lack of pray in our lives reveal that we really don't believe what we claim to know about the importance and power of prayer? Why or why not?
5. On Saturday September 26th Franklin Graham led a prayer march in Washington D.C. In speaking about his motives for this event, he said that the dire problems besetting the country are ones that only God can solve, and time is short, and that our greatest hope in this time is prayer.
 - a. Many would agree that our country is at a tipping point, but do you agree that that the problems are primarily spiritual, and ones that only God can solve? Why or why not?
 - b. How important is prayer in this battle? Does the amount of time you actually pray reflect your beliefs about the importance of prayer? If not, why not?
 - c. Are you willing to commit to the "Pray Another Minute" challenge? If not, what is keeping you from doing so?