

A HEART FOR PRAYER

JAMES 5:13-20

Text:

Introduction:

One of the most important areas in which to develop a heart for God is prayer. Having a heart for God is not possible without prayer. It seems that everyone's perception of prayer is a little different.

1. THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

James 5:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A. Pray for the afflicted – suffering evil or hardship

James 5:13 (KJV)

¹³ Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

B. Pray for the sick

James 5:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ Is any sick among you? 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: ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the

Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

C. Pray for confession of sin

James 5:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

2. THE PERSISTENCY OF PRAYER

James 5:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A. Effectual prayer – (unceasing prayer)

William Carey said, “Prayer – secret, fervent, believing prayer – lies at the root of godliness.

B. Persistent prayer

Illustrations of this type of praying

Acts 12:5 (KJV)

⁵ Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Luke 22:44 (KJV)

⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

3. THE PREREQUISITE OF PRAYER

James 5:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A. Positional righteousness

We obtain this when we accept Chris as our Savior.

Romans 10:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 4:25 (KJV)

²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

B. Practical righteousness

1 Peter 1:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 John 3:22 (KJV)

²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Psalms 66:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

Close:

Prayer is essential. To be little with God is to be little for God.

