

Earnest, Heartfelt, Continued Prayer

James 5:16 – The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Amp - The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

Effective (energeo) – to be at work, to do, accomplish, perform.

Accomplish - (energeo)

Much – (polus) – much, many, all, deep, earnestly, deep, heartily, large.

V. 17-18 - Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. And the he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops.

Luke 22:44 – And being in an agony [of mind], He prayed [all the] more earnestly and intently, and His sweat became like great clots of blood dropping down upon the ground.

Acts 12:5, 7, 12 – So Peter was kept in prison, but fervent prayer for him was persistently made to God by the church...and suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared...When Peter realized this was real and not a dream, he went to the house where a large number were assembled together and were praying.

V. 15-16 – When the maid told the people Peter was at the door, they said, “you are crazy!” But she persistently and strongly and confidently affirmed that it was the truth. Meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate and saw him, they were amazed.

Why were they amazed that their earnest prayer was being answered – even while they were praying?

Mark 11:23-24 – Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].

NASB - And Jesus answered saying to them, have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

Luke 18:1-8 – Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart and give up). V. 5-8 – Because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend and protect and avenge her lest she give me intolerable annoyance and wear me out by her continual coming or at the last she come and rail on me or assault me or strangle me. Then the Lord said, listen to what the unjust judge says! And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them and delay help on their behalf? I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?

Luke 11:8-13 – And He said to them, which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and will say to him, friend, lend me three loaves [of bread], for a friend of mine who is on a journey has just come, and I have nothing to put before him.; And he from within will answer, do not

disturb me; the door is now closed, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and supply you [with anything]? I tell you, although he will not get up and supply him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his shameless persistence and insistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

I say to you, ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek and keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone; or if he asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts [gifts that are to their advantage] to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!

Matthew 11:12 – And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize—a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion].

2 Chronicles 7:1-3, 14 – WHEN SOLOMON had finished praying, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. The priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. And when all the people of Israel saw how the fire came down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed with their faces upon the pavement and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever...If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble

themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

1 Kings 8:46-48 – If they sin against You—for there is no man who does not sin—and You are angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the enemy's land, far or near Yet if they think and consider in the land where they were carried captive, and repent and make supplication to You there, saying, we have sinned and have done perversely and wickedly; If they repent and turn to You with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your Name; then hear their prayer and their supplication in heaven, your dwelling place and defend their cause and maintain their right. And forgive your people, who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions against you, and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have pity and be merciful to them; for they are Your people and Your heritage, which You brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace. Let Your eyes be open to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, to hearken to them in all for which they call to You.

Psalm 107:4-6, 10-14, 17-20, 23-30

Some wandered in the wilderness in a solitary desert track; they found no city for habitation. Hungry and thirsty, they fainted; their lives were near to being extinguished. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. He led them forth by the straight and right way, that they might go to a city where they could establish their homes.

Some said in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and in irons, because they had rebelled

against the words of God and spurned the counsel of the Most High. Therefore He bowed down their hearts with hard labor; they stumbled and fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and He saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and broke apart the bonds that held them.

Some are fools (made ill) because of the way of their transgressions and are afflicted because of their iniquities. They loathe every kind of food, and they draw near to the gates of death. Then they cry to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivers them out of their distresses. He sends forth His Word and heals them and rescues them from the pit and destruction.

Some go down to the sea and travel over it in ships and do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep. For He commands and raises up the stormy wind which lifts up the waves of the sea. Those aboard mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the deeps; their courage melts away because of their plight. They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man and are at their wit's end (all their wisdom has come to nothing). Then they cry to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He hushes the storm to a calm and to a gentle whisper so that the waves of the sea are still. Then the men are glad because of the calm and He brings them to their desired haven.

Isaiah 38:1-2 – In those days King Hezekiah of Judah became ill and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said, thus says the Lord: Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord.

Earnest, Heartfelt Prayer

Earnestly – sincerely zealous; firm in purpose, serious.

Acts 12:5 – Fervent, extended, stretched, strained out (4335), fervent, without ceasing, constant, earnest.

Zeo (2204) – to boil; be hot, boil, glow, fervid (showing great warmth of feeling, intensely, emotional), fervent.

Used in Romans 12:11 and James 5:16.

Zelos (2205) – from zeo – heat, zeal.

Acts 18:25 – He had been instructed in the way of the Lord and burning with spiritual zeal, he spoke and taught diligently and accurately the things concerning Jesus...

Romans 12:11 – Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:7 – ...he told us of your yearning affection or how sorry you were and how eagerly you took my part...

James 5:16 – The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available (dynamic in its working).

Fervent – showing warmth of feeling, very earnest; hot, glowing, ardent, zealous.

NIV – The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

KJV – The effectual fervent prayer...availeth much.

V. 17 – Elijah prayed earnestly. (4335 – earnestly, implies persevering continuance in prayer with fervor)

Ephesians 6:18 – Praying always with all prayer (4335) and supplication.

James 5:16 – Prayer – deesis – a wanting, a need, then asking, entreaty, supplication.

Effectual – energeo – to put forth power, be operative, to work

Vine – Here the meaning may be in its inworking, in the effect produced in the praying man, bringing him into line with the will of God; suggests supplication combined with inward conformity to the will of God.

James 5:16 - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Effectual – energeo (1754) – to be at work, to work, to do, accomplish, brought about, effective.

Fervent – zelos (2205) – zeal, jealously, to boil, be hot, fervent.

Prayer - deesis (1162) – petition, prayer, request.

Availeth – schuo (2480) – to be effective, capable of producing results, of force, to have strong power, able, prevailing.

KJV – effectual, fervent prayer avails much.

NEB – A good man's prayer is powerful and effective.

Jerusalem – The heartfelt prayer of a good man works very powerfully.

Living – the earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonder results

RSV – The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

Amp – The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available - dynamic in its working.

Phillips – Tremendous power is made available through a good man's earnest prayer.

Williams – An upright man's prayer, when it keeps at work, is very powerful.

Worrel – A righteous man's inwrought supplication avails much.

Wuest – A prayer of a righteous person is able to do much as it operates.

Young – Very strong is a working supplication of a righteous man.