



Praying With Power

James 5:13-18

Have you ever watched a runner near the end of a race? Every muscle strains with the athlete's desire to finish first. The moment is full of intensity and determination. This is the same kind of fervent desire God wants to see in the believer's prayer life. "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (James 5:16).

Believers sometimes use key phrases— "in Jesus' name" or "if it is Your will"—as if the expressions were enchanted. People convince themselves that if a certain phrase is used, God will surely be pleased and answer the petition. But strength is not found in the words we say because the Lord cannot be forced to do anything outside His will. The power of prayer is in God's reaction. He responds to petitions of the righteous by releasing His supernatural energy toward the object of their concern.

A prayer less person is a powerless person. Those Christians who devote little time to communicating with the heavenly Father can't expect to see dramatic results. God's power is released in response to our zealous desire for His intervention. A fervent petitioner, believing his Lord will intercede, falls on his knees, determined to pray through every barrier that Satan erects. He stops only when God answers or if the Father makes clear that the request is outside His will.

Wise believers devote time and energy to requests of great importance. Through our relationship with Christ, we have been made righteous, which means that we have the opportunity to tap the Lord's supernatural power through prayer.