

PRAYER THAT MOVES THE HAND OF GOD

James 5:13-18
1 Kings 18:1, 41-46

Point 1

God involves His people in His work.

A man with a nature like ours

(James 5:17-18 ESV) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

A bold statement

(1 Kin 17:1 ESV) Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”

God uses People

- Noah built an ark to save mankind from the flood
- Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt
- The judges delivered the Children of Israel from oppressors
- Prophets were sent to the people to speak to them on God's behalf

Far more abundantly

(Eph 3:20 ESV) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

Point 2

Look for results from your prayers.

Expect results

(1 Kin 18:43-44 ESV) And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.' "

Pray and expect results

- Pray for sick, ask: how are you doing?
- Pray for someone's salvation, ask: is God doing anything in your life
- Pray for healing, test it out

Point 3

We should be persistent in our prayers.

He prayed with prayers

*(James 5:17-18 ESV) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed **fervently** that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

Seven times

*(1 Kin 18:43 ESV) And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," **seven times.***

Pray and not lose heart

(Luke 18:1-4 ESV)

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Give me justice against my adversary." 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man,

Don't give up!

(Luke 18:5-8 ESV)

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’ ” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Point 4

Prayer needs to be coupled with action .

Go up!

(1 Kin 18:44 ESV) And at the seventh time he said, “Behold, a little cloud like a man’s hand is rising from the sea.” And he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’ ”

Take a step of faith

*(1 Sam 14:6 ESV) Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. **It may be that the Lord will work for us**, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few."*

Conclusion