

Wanted: Fervent Prayers

Fervent and Effective Prayer

James 5:13-16

Pew Bible Page 1885

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. —James 5:16b NKJV

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. —James 5:16b NIV 1984

“*Very strong prayers of a righteous man are effective.*” Literal Greek word order

What is a fervent prayer?

What is a fervent pray-er?

Loud?

Long?

Poetic?

Written?

Extemporaneous?

Fervent Prayers or Fervent Prayers are strong and effective.

They get results.

We know them when we see/hear them.

Robert Sheffey, (July 4, 1820 – August 30, 1902) was a Methodist evangelist and circuit-riding preacher, renowned for his eccentricities and power in prayer.

Methodist preacher George C. Rankin recalled in his memoirs, although Sheffey “acted more like a crazy man than otherwise,” he “was wonderful in a meeting. He would stir the people, crowd the mourner’s bench with crying penitents and have genuine conversions by the score.”

How can we become more fervent in prayer?

1. Prayers of Faith

“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.” —James 5:15

- Simply believe God.
 - The Gift of faith.
 - The faith of a mustard seed can move mountains.
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- Prayers for Salvation
 - Prayers for Healing
 - Prayers must be offered.....You’ve got to pray.

2. Prayers of Confession

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” —James 5:16

“‘If you can?’” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes. Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

—Mark 9:23-24

- I do believe, help my unbelief....
- Self-reflection
- Righteous person...
- Relationship with God, nothing between.

3. Earnest prays.

“Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.” —James 5:17

Example, Elijah. Like us. Depressed, wanted to quit, wanted to die. Whined.
He prayed earnestly and it did not rain for 3 ½ years.
He prayed and it rained.

He prayed earnestly... In prayer, he prayed.
He prayed prayer[s].
Praying, He prayed.

Elijah prayed intensely. Elijah prayed earnestly...
“Seven times Elijah said, ‘Go back.’” —1 Kings 18:43

“This kind can come out only by prayer [and fasting.]” —Mark 9:29

Church-wide Fast, March 2—March 23.

21 Day Daniel Fast, Fruit, Vegetables, Water and Juice

Options: 3 Day fast, first 3 days, maybe more?
3 Day fast, last 3 days.
Complete fast for 1 day, 1 day each week.
Fast from a certain food item for 21 days.

1. Masterplan building plans, Ministry plans for 2012, outreach.

2. General/Jurisdictional Conferences, future of Methodism, election and moving a bishops.

3. Children, workers, outreach.

We have one month to prepare: intellectually, physically, and spiritually.

1. Knowledge—how a 21-day Daniel Fast works
2. Physically—bodies, groceries
3. Spiritually—how is God calling me to participate