

Theme: Intercessory prayer is a powerful way to support others.

I. Intro – Review

- A. Looking at four aspects to prayer
- B. Protection through prayer – in a spiritual war!
- C. Provision by prayer – God delights to answer us!
- D. Today – power from prayer - theme

II. Prayer Works Powerfully

- A. James is encouraging prayer (7x 13-18)
- B. Prayer works powerfully (v16)
 - 1. Several possible ways to read it
 - a. **Effective** fervent prayer (NASB; KJV)
 - b. Prayer has power **as it is working** (ESV)
 - c. Prayer is powerful & **effective** (NIV; RSV; NLT)
 - 2. My understanding: prayer works powerfully
- C. Last weeks verses on prayer

III. Examples of Prayer Working Powerfully

- A. Elijah (v 17-18; 1 Kings 17-18)
- B. Abraham (Genesis 18:23-32)

C. Moses (Exodus 32:9-14; Deut 9:18-20)

D. Jesus (Mark 11:20-24 – scripture reading)

IV. Power of Intercessory Prayer

A. Prayer and the will of God

1. Two extremes to be avoided

a. Prayer is magic – God must answer

i. Undercuts sovereignty of God

ii. Takes God's name in vain

b. Prayer is pointless – all is fate

iii. Undercuts human responsibility

iv. No point in praying – God will act regardless

v. Makes God's promises to be a lie

vi. Remember Moses

2. God delights to respond to prayer

a. This is why He gives great promises for prayer

b. Prayer does work powerfully!

B. The power of prayer for others

1. Note context – prayer for others (v14-16)

2. Note Elijah prayed for others – needed rain

3. Note Abraham & Moses prayed for others

V. Conclusion and Summary

A. Do we believe prayer works powerfully?

1. Is it just a duty, or is it a powerful weapon?
2. Stir up your faith – God answers prayer!

B. Do we pray for others?

1. Do we only pray for ourselves?
2. Are you regularly linked with others in prayer?
3. Sunday morning, prayer platoon, prayer groups
4. Who is your small group – your unit?

Power From Prayer

James 5:16-18
October 10, 2004
????????
Psalm 20:1-4

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. KJV

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The **effective** prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. NASV

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power **as it is working**. ESV

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**. NIV

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power **in its effects**. RSV

Confess your sins to each other & pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and **wonderful results**. NLT

Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? **24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city?** Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? **25 Far be it from you to do such a thing-- to kill the righteous with the wicked,** treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! **Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"** **26 The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."** ... 32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, **"For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."** Genesis 18:23-32

⁹ "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people." ¹⁰ **Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them.** Then I will make you into a great nation." ¹¹ **But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God.** "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² **Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth?'** **Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.** ¹³ **Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'**" ¹⁴ **Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.** Exodus 32:9-14

¹⁸ Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so provoking him to anger. ¹⁹ **I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the LORD listened to me.** ²⁰ And the LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I prayed for Aaron too. Deuteronomy 9:18-20

²⁰ In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.

²¹ Peter remembered and said to Jesus, **"Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"** ²² "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³ "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him." ²⁴ **Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.** Mark 11:20-24