

Title: Who Are You Talking To?

Scripture: James 5:16-17

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James 5:16-17 / King James Version (KJV)

¹⁶ *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.*

¹⁷ *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

No one is better than their prayer life. Our prayer life should govern the rest of our life. We should be talking to God daily. We should be like the disciples, and our desire should be to know how to pray effectively and so that God can speak to us and so that we can speak to him. The church today needs to get together and realize that we are stronger when working together.

1. We need prayer to fellowship with God:

- a. (I John 1:7) The prayer we have is to communicate with God. In the Old Testament, the Law was created to show the sins of our lives. Today, we have the opportunity to have a personal relationship with God.

2. Through prayer comes power:

- a. No prayer is greater than the power of God. In the story of the tower of Babel, the people tried to build a tower to get closer to heaven. They wanted to be able to talk to God. However, God had other plans to show his power. Things today are the way they are because Christians aren't praying. We aren't talking to God. We aren't asking for him to show his power (Ephesians 3:13).
- b. We should be praying for God's spirit to come into our services, to be in our daily lives. Only through him can we accomplish the plans God has laid out for us. We should pray that God's spirit will come through us (James 5:16). Is our whole heart given to God? James says "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Fervent means *sincere*. Avaieth means *can accomplish*. Effectual means *effective*. It means that if we are sincere in our prayers, much can be accomplished.
- c. In our conversation we tend to downplay the power of prayer. We usually think of prayer as a little thing we do in the time of trouble. Prayer is the thing that changes situations and changes lives.

3. Prayer will give you boldness:

- a. Prayer will make our confidence grow, therefore giving us the ability to stand up for the things of God. Too many times we will be too cowardly to stand up. We compromise our beliefs with the world's views. When we begin to compromise, we are letting God down. We should pray for strength in all of our situations, big or small. All decisions we make should be made with God's power behind them.