



SERIES: FEBRUARY – MARCH FAITH IN REAL LIFE

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 03/31/2022

Scripture: James 5:16b-18

TITLE: Powerful Prayer

At a birthday party, my son’s friend came up to me asking if he could have another piece of cake. I said, “I don’t know. Ask your parent and then let me know what they said.” The kid didn’t come back. After a bit, another kid came over and asked for some cash for some games. I said, “Sorry, bud, you’ll have to ask your parent for some more money.”

But my son came up to me and asked for more cake. “Sure, bud. It’s your day.” He snarfed it up and then asked for some cash to win some tickets. “Sure,” I told him. And gave him my cash.

What’s the point? The relationship between the child and the parent was the difference between asking and receiving. This is a lot like the power in prayer. What do I mean? This is what James writes about prayer in James 5:16b-18 (CSB).

The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months, it did not rain on the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the land produced its fruit.

As we’ve been finishing up the book of James, James has been talking about prayer, confession, and healing. Today, James gives us an illustration of the power of prayer and the refreshment it brought.

Recently I was in the deserts of Arizona. A desert is a beautiful place full of drought, and life is in the midst of it. I think this is a lot like us. Today, many of you are feeling parched. You are feeling alone in a desert with just enough spiritual water to get you through tomorrow. So you pray.

Friend, this is exactly what you should do. James says, “*the prayer of a righteous person is very powerful and effective.*” Who is the “righteous person?” Anyone who is a follower of Christ. The person who has repented of their sin and turned to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in faith is the righteous person. It’s not the Bible Teacher or Pastor. It’s not the person with the name on the brick. It’s all people saved by grace through faith. Your prayers are powerful.

According to Hebrews 4:16, we can approach the throne of grace with confidence because of who we are in Christ.

James uses the illustration of Elijah. Elijah experienced hunger, fear, and depression. Yet, he prayed earnestly. When he did, amazing things happened. His prayers both created and ended a three-and-a-half-year drought.

This perfectly illustrates what God will do for us. He will pour out the spiritual blessing on the dry and parched souls of His children. This is a powerful prayer.

So here's my challenge for you today: pray with confidence. Pray with boldness. You are God's child whom He loves dearly. He will give you His best even if it's not what we're asking for. But ask with boldness and confidence. Pray for refreshment for your soul, and He will provide it. You will be like the giant cactus in the sea of sand.

When we pray with power to the One who can answer, we will win the day.