

The Prayer of the Righteous

[Jas 5:16 ESV] 16 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.

I. Intro

- A. Words matter, and understanding words and the purpose behind them matters.
- B. Words that must be a thing, but are not used:
 - 1. Chalant...nonchalant
 - 2. Whelmed...overwhelmed
 - 3. Gruntled...disgruntled
 - 4. Ruth...ruthless
 - 5. Stitious...superstitious
- C. We need to understand God's message to us today regarding confession and Christian fellowship and responsibility
 - 1. Confession and repentance are not the same thing
 - 2. Righteous and self-righteous are not in the same ball park
- D. There is power in prayer, and praying together with the saints has real power.

II. Text

- A. Therefore
 - 1. This identifies a summary statement
 - 2. So, pay attention to everything that has been shared in the previous few verses and apply the truth properly.
- B. Confess your sins to one another
 - 1. Confession is a liberating exercise for the believer.
 - 2. Confession is for a purpose: restoration of right fellowship
- C. And pray for one another
 - 1. We show our devotion to Christ and His body when we pray for one another
 - 2. We show our love and concern for others when we share burdens.
- D. That you may be healed
 - 1. As we have discussed in previous weeks:
 - 2. Physical healing is possible, for God's purpose
 - 3. Spiritual healing is possible, also for God's purpose
- E. The prayer of a righteous person
 - 1. The communication with God from a blood bought believer
 - 2. Righteousness only comes through the forgiveness of sin provided by Holy God through the sacrifice of His son.
- F. Has great power in its working
 - 1. The word great here is "polys" for many or much
 - 2. Working is "energeo" seems to point to active work
 - 3. Prayer has much active work when given in faith and belief in Christ

III. Point

- A. Confess and Pray
 - 1. When we confess our sin:
 - a) We are affirming that sin is a problem
 - b) We are affirming that we agree with God regarding our sin
 - c) We are affirming that we need accountability in order to recover
 - d) We are affirming our dependence on God and the body.
 - 2. When we pray together:
 - a) We join as a body in unity
 - b) We join as a unified body recognizing the power of God
 - c) We join as a powerful, unified body looking to God for provision, healing, direction
 - 3. We state with unity: Your will be done in us

4. Praying for others in the body builds the effectiveness of the body
 - a) We pray for one another to build up the body
 - b) We pray for one another to correct the body
 - c) We pray for one another to direct the body
5. Our hearts, minds, and spirits unite with Christ and transform us into the vessel God will use for His work.

B. Righteous Person

1. A person is made righteous by forgiveness of sin
2. Forgiveness of sin is possible because of the sacrifice of Jesus
3. The sacrifice of Jesus has been made, and remains the only sacrifice that could pay for our sin.
4. A person is not made righteous by his works, but righteous is proven by the fruit of works.
5. Spiritual discipline is important in our faith journey, but you can never have enough discipline to be made righteous.
6. The best of our righteousness: filthy rags
 - a) [Isa 64:4-8 NKJV] 4 For since the beginning of the world [Men] have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him. 5 You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, [Who] remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned--In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved. 6 But we are all like an unclean [thing], And all our righteousnesses [are] like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. 7 And [there is] no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities. 8 But now, O LORD, You [are] our Father; We [are] the clay, and You our potter; And all we [are] the work of Your hand.
 - b) The best we can offer is still unclean
7. Are you righteous? Are you displaying the growing fruit of righteousness in your life?
8. The enemy of righteousness:
 - a) Immorality and self righteousness...both are examples of the same thing from different perspectives
 - b) We must believe in Jesus and His righteousness will be given to us?
 - c) [Mat 6:33 ESV] 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

C. Great Power

1. We have the POWER God has granted to us!
2. We are not defeated, we are empowered.
3. Remember the word here is different than some usages of the word power in scripture:
 - a) Dunamas power is that active explosive power
 - b) This is polys energeo meaning "multiplied working" or many works
 - c) We can do a lot!
 - d) But nothing outside of the power of God.
4. Great Power in its working: prayer multiplies the effectiveness of God's work.

IV. Close