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***“The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.”***  
**James 5:15b**

**God promises all believers that if we live righteously and pray fervently, our prayers will be effective and produce significant results. How do we treat a promise like this?** We might argue, “But I do pray, and nothing happens.” Our problem is that we do not hold ourselves accountable to the Scripture. God’s Word says that prayer ought to accomplish much. If our prayer life is not seeing no results, should we conclude that this promise is untrue? Should we excuse this Scripture as impractical and unrealistic? Or should we examine ourselves to see if we meet its conditions?

**James says that fervent prayer avails much. Could it be that we are not fervent in our praying as we should be? Fervent prayer means we do not quit easily.** Fervent prayer means we purposefully spend sufficient time in intercession. **Fervent prayer means we cry out to the Father, sometimes in tears, with our heart and soul.** Fervent prayer comes as the Holy Spirit assists us in praying with groanings too deep for words (Rom. 8:26).

**According to James, our righteousness will ensure effective prayer. God’s standard of righteousness is different from ours, for He looks beyond our actions, even beyond our thoughts, directly to our hearts.** How then should we hold ourselves accountable if our prayers are accomplishing little? If nothing happens when we pray, the problem is not with God. The problem is with us, for God’s Word is absolutely reliable. **If we adhere to what God requires, He will lead us to pray for things that align with His purpose, and God will answer our prayers in a mighty way. AMEN.**

Drs. Henry and Richard Blackaby

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

