

✱ the effective prayer of a righteous person can accomplish much (James 5:16b-18)

1754 ἐνεργέω *energeo*  
= to be operative  
= to be effectually at work  
= to put forth power

✱ effective prayer, prayer that "works" means:

1. praying in Jesus' name
  - this is more than just saying "in Jesus' name" at the end of our prayers
  - we acknowledge Jesus as the only way we can approach the Father
  - we recognize Him as our high priest who intercedes for us
  - we come before God on Jesus' authority, not our own
  - our prayers and requests are consistent with His character, His ways and His will(Jn 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23; 1 John 5:14-15)

2. praying in the Spirit
  - in the power of, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit
  - to pray in concert with the Holy Spirit, according to the will of God
  - putting no confidence in the flesh(Eph 6:18; Ph 3:3)

3. praying in faith = a settled assurance
  - faith is not ever wishful thinking
  - faith is in God and in His Word
  - without faith, if there is doubt the prayer will not be answered(Mk 11:24; Ro 10:17; Ja 1:5-8)

4. praying according to the will of God
  - we can be confident God will answer when our prayer is according to a word or promise of Scripture
  - knowledge of Scripture is the basis of prayer – we can pray the Word of God
  - if the Bible doesn't speak about a particular issue we are praying about we must
    - a) ask God for understanding and wisdom
    - b) pray as it seems right to us but add "if it is Your will"(1 Jn 5:14-15; Mt 6:10; Acts 4:25-26; Ja 1:5-8)

5. praying with humility
  - reflects that we are aware that we are speaking to the God of the universe
  - humble prayer is exemplified in the prayer of the tax collector in Luke 18
  - humility before God leads to exaltation by God(Isa 57:15, 66:1-2; Ja 4:6; Lk 18:9-14; Ja 4:10)

6. praying with persistence (Lk 11:5-10; Lk 18:1-8)

335 ἀναίδεια *anaideia*  
= shamelessness, impudence  
= boldness, insolence  
= lack of sensitivity to what is proper

- a) Jesus commanded that we persistently keep on asking, seeking, knocking

- b) from Paul's epistles:

- Paul constantly prays night and day
- continue steadfastly in prayer
- devote yourselves to prayer
- pray at all times
- pray without ceasing

(2 Ti 1:3; Ro 12:12; Co 4:2; Eph 6:18; 1 Th 5:17)

- c) the early church

- were continually devoting themselves to prayer
- offered constant prayer for Peter in prison

(Acts 2:42, 12:5)

- d) before Jesus

- Daniel – persisted even though it meant the lions' den
- Nehemiah – prayed day and night for the sons of Israel
- Anna – served in the temple night and day with fastings and prayer

(Dan 6:10; Neh 1:6; Lk 2:36-38)