

nov 23, 2022

prayer that avails

"the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." james 5:16

no one wants to feel like they're just wasting their time. sadly, many feel that way when they're praying; like they're just talking to themselves or speaking hot air. (just a little side note here - i do believe it is important for one to pray out loud. silent prayer may appease some, but there i believe there is power in the spoken word - circumstances permitting.)

anyway, back to the current topic. i think you all know this ministry is called ministry of prayer. i didn't name it or start it. i was just drafted into it. to be completely honest, i never really was much of a pray-er. just give me church, fellowship, bible reading with occasional calls to God for something and that was sufficient for me.

james (the brother of Jesus) tells us about prayer in his book. do you know he lived with a famous name - camel knees? he earned that among his peers because his knees were said to have become calloused and hardened by the time he spent on them in prayer.

i have often thought about james and the struggle he must have endured to believe that a brother he grew up with was actually God who created everything. there's no mention of him being at the crucifixion but one would assume he knew about it and that his mother

shared with him. perhaps he thought Jesus was getting His just due for claiming to be God almighty. but then he had to deal with the resurrection and one could assume he worshipped before him as doubting thomas did, saying, "my Lord and my God."

and so james teaches us a little bit about prayer. he says our prayer should be fervent and us righteous. Jesus dealt with the righteous part, making us righteousness in Him. we only have to deal with the fervent part to be effective.

it is not the length of our prayers but the depth of our prayers that makes them effective. my prayers usually entail around twenty minutes, give or take. pray with passion and intensity. let Him have all your attention and you will have His. and if you really want to get serious, try some fasting. i don't know if it gets His attention more or ours. i just know it works.

God is still in the business of divinely intervening in the natural process He Himself established. God really does answer our prayers; sometimes immediately, sometimes with a delay while He is working other things together with it. and sometimes with a "no." other times maybe the answer is different than what we expected. He knows what is best - for us and His purposes. but the truth is, God always answers.

i think of simon peter as he attempted to walk on the water and began to sink. he cried out, "Lord, save me." luke 18:13 now that's intensity. cry out as though your very life depended on it. the day may be

coming when it really will. maranatha!