

HOW TO GET GOD TO WORK IN OUR CHURCH

TEXT: James 5:16-17

Intro:

- I believe that the answer to the question, “How To Get God To Work In Our Church” is found in our passage.
- The answer is “Prayer”!
- I am not talking about any ordinary kind of praying.
- I am talking about prayer that is -
 - **Effectual** – Producing an effect, or the effect desire or intended; or having adequate power or force to produce the effect.
 - In other words prayer that has power that makes an impact!
- I am talking about prayer that is –
 - **Fervent** – Hot, boiling, ardent; very warm; earnest; excited, animated, glowing.
 - In other words prayer that has every ounce of your body, soul, and spirit connected to it.
- I am talking about prayer that –
 - **Avaieth Much** – Has great profit, benefit or results to it.
- I am talking about prayer that is –
 - **Earnest** – warmly, zealously, with urgent request, eagerly; with real desire.

- In other words prayer that means business with God!
- Prayer that produces blood, sweat, and tears!
- Prayer that has soaked the ground beneath your knees!
- It is said of our Lord in **Luke 22:44** – **“And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”**

I. Prerequisites To Prayer That Is Effectual, Fervent, Earnest, Avaieth Much

- I believe that before one can have a prayer life that is effectual, that is fervent, that is earnest, that avaieth much-
- However there are some prerequisites that must be met according to our passage.
 - **V. 16 – Confession to One Another**
 - We need to be right with each other in the church.
 - When we wrong one another then we need to go to the individual and confess that wrong.
 - A root of bitterness can destroy a church.
 - **See Ephesians 4:31-32.**
 - **See Colossians 3:13**

○ **V. 16 – Pray One For Another**

- Our prayers should always consider the needs of others first.
- How can you expect God to answer our prayers concerning ourselves if we do not first intercede for others.
- We need to be great intercessors for others.
- I believe that fewer pastors would fall to sin if the people were praying for them.
- I believe fewer Christians would fall to sin if we were praying one for another.
- We know at the present time the Lord Jesus Christ is interceding on our behalf before the Father for us.
- However, one of the greatest intercessor in the Bible was Moses.
- If it was not for Moses' interceding for the Nation of Israel when they sinned, God would have destroyed them.
- He did this time and time again.

○ **V. 16 – Results of Confessing our Faults and Praying for Each Other**

- **Healing!**
 - I believe not only physical healing but also spiritual healing or emotional healing.
 - When a root of bitterness is remove it not only effects you emotionally but also physically.
 - **See Proverbs 18:14**
 - **See Proverbs 15:13**
- **V. 17 – Rightousness (Being Right With God)**
 - Does not mean sinless.
 - The only sinless man that ever live was our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
 - Being right with God as a believer or a Christian means to when you have sinned to confess that sin to God and ask for forgiveness.
 - Being right with God means to have yielded yourself totally to the Holy Spirit.
 - This evident by the fact that you are producing the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit (**Gal. 5**).
 - Being right with God means before doing anything that you check with Him first with a honest searching heart.
 - Being right with God means that He first in your life.

II. Results of Effectual Prayer, Fervent Prayer, Earnest Prayer – “Availleth Much”

- **Vs. 17-18** – Elijah turned off the water and turned on the water.
- **V. 18 – “the earth brought forth her fruit”**
- Elijah prays **“availeth much”**
- Some of you may say but, “After all Elijah was a great man of God, a prophet of God.”
- Notice with me in verses 17 and 18 that none of these things are mentioned about Elijah.
- The only individual characteristic that is mentioned about Elijah is that he **“...was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**
- In other words Elijah was human being just like you and I.
- Elijah had the same feelings or desires that we have (fear, hope, joy, grief, love, and hatred)
- This is same man who ran from the threats of a woman.
- I believe what God is trying to tell you and I is that our prayers can availleth much just like Elijah’s did.
- However, we need to be right with one another and right with God first.

III. Conclusion

- If we as people at Evangelical Baptist Church want to see God saving souls and adding to the church.
- Then we need to be a people of prayer.
- We need to be a people that when pray that our prayers make an impact, produce results. – **“availeth much”**
- When we get down to prayer that we must meant it.
- We must put our whole body, soul, and spirit into it.
- We need to be passionate about prayer.
- Sometimes we need to come and soak the altar (be it at home or in the church) with tears and sweat and cry out to God like we have never done before.
- It is shame that our Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting is the least attended service.
- And it is shame that Sunday after Sunday the altar remains empty!
- My friend do you want a prayer life
 - That is effectual
 - That is fervent
 - That is earnest
 - That avaieth much
- A prayer life that will cause souls to be saved and the church to grow?

- Then won't you start this very day and do something about?