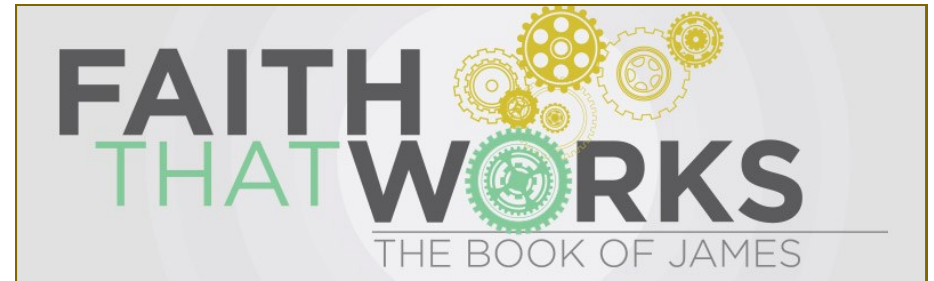


**Reflection Questions:** Since Elijah is James' example of how I'm to pray, how can I grow as a person who prays powerfully? Do I really believe in prayer? Does my prayers reflect what I really believe? Elijah took a stand and made a difference. Am I faithful to take a stand on the truths of God and leave the results to Him?

How can we pray for others and our church this week?



#27 Powerful Prayer (5:16-18)

*Sermon* *Notes* September 29, 2019

## 1. The Promise

### Quotes to Ponder

*Human prayer, divine results.*

Alec Moyter

*Elijah's prayers did not arise from arrogance or a selfish desire to prove a point; rather, they came from trust and confidence in God.*

Craig L. Blomberg

*Elijah's petition had lasted less than a minute but produced spectacular results. The difference lay in the One addressed.*

Richard D. Patterson

*When it is hardest to pray, pray the hardest.*

Gabe Fluhrer

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours: This being true, we then can be men with the power of prayer like him.*

David Guzik

*That lone man, of heroic soul, stemmed the fearful torrent of idolatry, and like a rock in mid-current, firmly stood his ground. He, alone and single-handed, was more than a match for all the priests of the palace and the groves, even as one lion scatters a flock of sheep.*

*Elijah failed in the very point at which he was strongest, and that is where most men fail. In Scripture, it is the wisest man who proves himself to be the greatest fool; just as the meekest man, Moses, spoke hasty and bitter words. Abraham failed in his faith, and Job in his patience; so, he who was the most courageous of all men, fled from an angry woman.*

Charles Spurgeon

*Prayer can do anything that God can do.*

E.M. Bounds

## 2. The Example

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you?  
Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. What is the promise of *James 5:16c*? What is the condition?

Is this promise a blank check to the Christian? Why or why not?

What does *righteous* mean?

3. How is Elijah described in *James 5:17*?

How are we like Elijah?

4. What do the following verses tell us about Elijah?

*1 Kings 17:11* —

*1 Kings 19:4, 10* —

*1 Kings 18:17-19* —

*2 Kings 2:11* —

*1 Kings 18:36-40* —

*Malachi 4:5* —

*1 Kings 19:3* —

*Luke 9:30* —

5. Why did Elijah forget God's provision and previous answers to prayer  
and run for his life from Queen Jezebel (*1 Kings 19:1-4*)?

6. How did the Lord respond to Elijah's discouragement and fear (*1 Kings  
19:5-8; 11-18*)?

7. *James 5:17* says Elijah *prayed earnestly that it would not rain*. Where is  
this prayer recorded in the Old Testament?

8. *James 5:18* tells us Elijah *prayed again, and the sky poured rain*. What  
details do *1 Kings 18:42-45* tell us about this?

What does this teach us about prayer?

9. Why does James use this example of Elijah's praying rather than one of  
the others (*1 Kings 17:17-24; 1 Kings 18:16-40*, etc.)?

10. Could it be that we do not have because we do not ask (*James 4:2*)?

11. Do we truly believe the promise of *Ephesians 3:20*? Do we pray like  
we believe it? Why or why not?

12. If God has already ordained the outcome of all things, how can our  
prayers change anything?

13. What does *Matthew 6:8* tell us about God?

If this is true, why do we pray?