

REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing; but it is the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time to pray.

S.D. GORDON

*Prayer does not prepare us for great works, it is the great work.
Oswald Chambers*

Prayer is not so much a method, but it is a vital relationship with God expressed in right living before Him.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much
James 5:16b

The force and effectiveness of prayer lies not so much in the practice of it, but in the life of the man or woman behind it.

Let us examine this Scripture by looking closely at the meaning of some words.

- **Effectual.** It comes from the Greek ENERGEIO: to be active, to have effect. The American Dictionary defines it as having adequate power (the power of the Holy Spirit) to produce the intended effect. The word “energy” means “life”. God by His Almighty energy called the universe into existence. Therefore, prayer that is effectual calls things that do not exist into existence.
- **Fervent.** The word fervency comes from the Greek ZELOS. Zelos is ardor of the heart (zeo=to be hot). God wants us either cold or hot. He cannot stand lukewarmness.
- **Righteousness.** The Greek word for righteousness is DIKAIOS, innocent, holy, just, right. The American Dictionary says that a righteous person is one who observes the divine commands in practice. So then prayer is not an occasional exercise, but a way of life.

- **Avail.** This word comes from the Greek ISCHUO which means “to exercise force or might” and it is defined: “to have sufficient force to accomplish the object.

In conclusion, prayer that will have adequate power or energy to bring about the intended effect must be heartfelt, earnest, offered in righteousness by men and women of integrity who live uprightly before God.

Laura Pedota