

**Effective, Fervent Prayer**  
**(February 10, 2019 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

The title of the message is “Effective, Fervent Prayer.”

It is the first in probably a series of two messages on getting answers to our prayers...

I don't know about the rest of you, but I am serious about the Lord Jesus, as serious as I know how to be...

And the Kingdom of God is not just about saying nice things; it's about experiencing God's power...

An important part of experiencing God's power is getting answer to our prayers...

**Scripture 1: 1 Corinthians 4:20**

For the kingdom of God *is* not in word but in power.

We have to have a strong faith to receive from the Lord Jesus...

Christianity is for soldiers, not for whimps...

One time I heard the faith that is effective in the Kingdom of God called violent faith...

**Scripture 2: Matthew 11:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Thus, our prayers, to be answered, to be effective they have to be fervent...

They don't have to be fancy or loud...

But they do have to be heartfelt...

They should come from the core of our being...

**Scripture 3: James 5:13-18**

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him

up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> [i] Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, [k] fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

When we pray, we are literally creating a new reality...

**Scripture 4: 1 Kings 16:29-34, 17:1-7, 18:**

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. <sup>30</sup> Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. <sup>31</sup> And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. <sup>32</sup> Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. <sup>33</sup> And Ahab made a [i] wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. <sup>34</sup> In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation [i] with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

**CHAPTER 17**

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

<sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

## CHAPTER 18

And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

<sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was* a severe famine in Samaria. <sup>3</sup> And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was [a] in charge of *his* house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly. <sup>4</sup> For so it was, while Jezebel [b] massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) <sup>5</sup> And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock." <sup>6</sup> So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

<sup>7</sup> Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?"

<sup>8</sup> And he answered him, "*It is* I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.' "

<sup>9</sup> So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? <sup>10</sup> As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, '*He is not here,*' he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you. <sup>11</sup> And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here"'! <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass, *as soon as* I am gone from you,

that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. <sup>13</sup> Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? <sup>14</sup> And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah *is here*." ' He will kill me!"

<sup>15</sup> Then Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today."

<sup>16</sup> So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

<sup>17</sup> Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "*Is that* you, O troubler of Israel?"

<sup>18</sup> And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house *have*, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup> Now therefore, send *and* gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of [c]Asherah, who [d]eat at Jezebel's table."

### Elijah's Mount Carmel Victory

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men. <sup>23</sup> Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

So all the people answered and said, <sup>[e]</sup>“It is well spoken.”

<sup>25</sup> Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare *it* first, for you *are* many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under it*.”

<sup>26</sup> So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, “O Baal, <sup>[f]</sup>hear us!” But *there was* no voice; no one answered. Then they <sup>[g]</sup>leaped about the altar which they had made.

<sup>27</sup> And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Cry <sup>[h]</sup>aloud, for he *is* a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, *or* perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.” <sup>28</sup> So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with <sup>[i]</sup>knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. <sup>29</sup> And when midday was past, they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice. But *there was* no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down. <sup>31</sup> And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.” <sup>32</sup> Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup> And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid *it* on the wood, and said, “Fill four waterpots with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood.” <sup>34</sup> Then he said, “Do *it* a second time,” and they did *it* a second time; and he said, “Do *it* a third time,” and they did *it* a third time. <sup>35</sup> So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass, at *the time of* the offering of the *evenings* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel and I *am* Your servant, and *that* I have

done all these things at Your word. <sup>37</sup> Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back *to You* again."

<sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench. <sup>39</sup> Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He *is* God! The LORD, He *is* God!"

<sup>40</sup> And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

### The Drought Ends

<sup>41</sup> Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for *there is* the sound of abundance of rain." <sup>42</sup> So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, <sup>43</sup> and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea."

So he went up and looked, and said, "*There is* nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

<sup>44</sup> Then it came to pass the seventh *time*, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, <sup>[i]</sup> 'Prepare *your chariot*, and go down before the rain stops you.' "

<sup>45</sup> Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded<sup>[k]</sup> up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.