

The Prayer of a Righteous Person is Powerful and Effective - James 5:16b

James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 6 January 2013

Introduction

- What has James been talking about since James 5:13?

i The prayer...

- What is prayer?
- What does the word which James uses for “prayer” mean precisely?
- What four verses speak about our weakness as Christians?

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

- Give a few examples of what we cannot therefore do.
- How should that make us view prayer?

ii ...of a righteous person...

- When James speaks about the righteous here, does he mean super-righteous Christians?
- If not, what does he mean?
- Which verse speaks about the Lord Jesus Christ taking our sin away and making righteousness available to us?

- What do you need to do if you have never come to the Lord?
- What does that mean for us, ordinary Christians in an ordinary church, in terms of prayer?

iii ...is powerful and effective

- What does the word translated “powerful” actually mean?
- How strong is prayer according to James (note that the NIV does not translate what James says here)?
- What else does James say about prayer?
- How does prayer sometimes seem?
- What is the reality of the situation, though?
- Why is prayer so mighty?
- Give a few examples of spectacularly answered prayers.

Conclusion

- What does all this mean for our week of prayer?