

James 5:16

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

James’ roadmap to learning how to be the “righteous man” whose prayers accomplish much.

Chapter 1:

- 1:2-5: Rejoices in trials
- 1:6-8: Prays to God without doubting.
- 1:9-11: Rejoices in humility and embraces the humble state (see Luke 6:20-21).
- 1:12-18: Steadfast in temptations.
- 1:19-20: Quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to get angry (wrath).
- 1:12: Lays aside all filthiness, meekly receives God’s word.
- 1:22-25: Is a doer of the word and not a hearer only.
- 1:26: Bridles his tongue.
- 1:27: Religion (outward devotion to God) is pure and undefiled as he keeps himself unspotted from the world and cares for those who have urgent needs.

Chapter 2

- 2:1-13: Holds his faith in sincerity, not hypocritical or partial toward anyone.
- 2:14-26: His faith is living and complete, producing works evidence that it is alive in him.

Chapter 3

- 3:1-8: May teach, but more importantly works to constrain and control his tongue.
- 3:9-12: Reserves his speech for glorifying God and refrains from cursing his fellow man.
- 3:13-18: His conduct is characterized by the meekness of wisdom: He is meek, pure, peaceable, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits.

Chapter 4

- 4:1-6: Avoids worldliness (friendship with the world, see also 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).
- Makes himself a friend of God and not of the world.
- 4:5-7: Prioritizes God’s will over personal desires.
- 4: 8-10: Draws near to God and resists the devil.
- 4:11-12: Does not judge his brother but defers judgment to God (see also Matt. 7:1-5).
- 4:13-17: Is not boastful about plans for the future but acknowledges God in all his ways.

Chapter 5

- 5:1-6: Does not oppress or cheat those under his charge.
- 5:7-9: Is patient in perseverance, not grumbling or complaining about his brothers.
- 5:10-11: Endures hardship, patiently waiting for the Lord.
- 5:12: Shows integrity in his speech.
- 5:19-20: Proactively works for the salvation of his fellow man.