



76. Pray Like Elijah

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 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 earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit,” James 5:16-18.

Elijah accomplished much in prayer. Through his prayer, a 42-month drought

came. Then he prayed for rain and it poured rain. This prayer power was not an isolated event in Elijah's life. He prayed a widow's son back to life, 1 Kings 17. And on Mount Carmel, he prayed the fire of the Lord down to consume a sacrifice that had been drenched with 12 pitchers of water, 1 Kings 18. Elijah was a normal man ... a man with a nature like ours. So what made his prayers so effective? Elijah was righteous and he prayed earnestly. The prayers of the righteous are effective. Proverbs 15:8 says, *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight."* And Proverbs 28:9, *"The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the*

righteous.” A righteous man praying earnestly accomplishes much.

There are many prayer conditions but one of the most important ones is *righteousness*. The more obedient we are, the more effective our prayers are. And we must also pray earnestly ... with great devotion, Colossians 4:2 ... without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 ... persistently, Luke 11:5-10 ... and with great striving, Romans 15:30. Do you want to be a man or woman of effective prayer? Be righteous and pray earnestly.