"The Effective, Fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man"

James 5:13-18

Introduction:
A. Prayer seems natural - especially during trouble.
   2. Even pagans pray to their gods.
B. Prayer is a part of Christianity.
   2. Makes many blessings depend on it. (cf. Jas. 4:2).
C. Prayer more than heart's desire. (cf. 1 Sam. 1:12,13; Rom. 10:1).
   1. God knows needs before we ask. (Matt. 6:8).
   2. God still wants us to ask. (John 14:13).
   3. God wants prayer to express hearts desire - not mere form. (cf. Mt. 7:6).
D. Prayer consists of various elements.
   1. Petition - a asking (sometimes "prayer"). (1 John 5:15).
   3. Intercession - on behalf of another. (1 Tim 2:1).
   4. Thanksgiving. (1 Tim. 4:4,5).
E. Prayer may be done everywhere for everything. (1 Tim. 2:8; Phil. 4:6).
   1. Publicly (1 Cor. 14:15).
F. Prayer in our text is effective for three reasons:

Discussion:

II. It Is Offered By A "Righteous Man".
A. Elijah was such a man. (v. 17).
B. Unrighteous men cannot pray effectively. (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; 28:9).
C. Does God hear sinners? (John 9:31).
   1. Not God's word but quotation of former blind man.
   2. Will not hear one actively sinning.
   3. Heard one before he was a Christian who wanted to do right. (Acts 10:31).
   4. Does not set aside law in answer to prayer.
         (1) God had a law of pardon. (Mark 16:15,16).
      b. Paul was praying, but had to obey. (Acts 22:16; 9:9-11).

III. It Is Done "Fervently" or "Earnestly".
A. Fervent in heart.
B. Fervent in effort. (Col. 4:12).

IV. It "Avails Much".
A. Results need not be miraculous.
   1. Miracles have served their purpose.
2. Elijah's prayer answered providentially nor miraculously. (cf. 1 Kings 18:41-45).

B. Results both inward and outward.
   1. Outward circumstances changed by God's providence.
   2. Inward circumstances changed. (Phil. 4:6-7).
   3. Inward sickness associated with illness may be point in v.15.
      a. Two words for sick (v. 14,15).
      b. Word in v. 15 - "KAMNO" = Weariness of mind.

Conclusion:
   A. If not Christian do not need to pray now, need to be baptized.
   B. If an erring Christ do need to pray after repenting. (Acts 8:22).
   C. If a faithful Christian need to "pray without ceasing."