



Effective Prayer

James 5:16-17 (NASB®)

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

I. Power & Authority in Prayer

A. Authority Expressed

Luke 4:14-15 (NIV®)

¹⁴ **Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.
¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Luke 4:31-36 (NIV®)

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ³² **They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.**

³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!"
³⁵ "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. ³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? **With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!**"

B. Necessary Component: authority accepted

Luke 7:6-10 (NIV®)

⁶ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ **For I myself am a man under authority**, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

II. Not My Initiative/Agenda

John 5:30 (NIV®)

³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for **I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.**

John 6:38 (NIV®)

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

John 8:28-29 (NASB®)

²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and **I do nothing on My own initiative**, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. ²⁹ "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

John 12:49 (NASB®)

⁴⁹ "For **I did not speak on My own initiative**, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to what to say and what to speak.*"

John 14:10 (NASB®)

¹⁰ "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? **The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative**, but the Father abiding in Me does His works."

III. Expressions of Authority

A. Healing . . . persecution

Acts 4:8-10 (NASB®)

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, ⁹ if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health.

B. Deliverance . . . persecution

Acts 16:16-24 (NIV®)

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by **a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future**. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. ¹⁹ When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." ²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³ **After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.** ²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

C. Ephesian Revival . . . persecution

Acts 19:8-12 (NIV®)

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ **This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.** ¹¹ **God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.**

Acts 19:23-27 (NIV®)

²³ About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. ²⁴ A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. ²⁵ He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. ²⁶ And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia."

Prayer

Heavenly Father teach us to pray. Grant us an awareness of Your presence and majesty. We offer ourselves for Your purposes. We choose to lay aside our will and our demands to accept Your purposes for our lives. We delight in the Lord our God. You have delivered us from darkness, opened our hearts to Your Kingdom and set us on a path of victory. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Let the name of Jesus be lifted high throughout all creation, amen.

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