

THE MAIN LESSON	Effective praying _____ God's power. (See James 5:16-18)
--------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Effective praying requires...

1. A _____ to pray (v.41)

THE REASON	_____ helps eliminate _____ _____ from our prayers. (See Matt. 6:6)
---------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

2. A _____ on the Lord. (v. 42)

This position revealed a complete _____ of
heart before God. (See 1 Peter 5:5; John 15:5)

3. An _____ of an _____.
(v.43) (See Jeremiah 33:31)

4. _____ when _____
comes. (v.43-46)

THE POINT	One of the greatest tests of your faith will be your _____.
--------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

WHAT'S THE KEY



_____ (see James 5:16)

Getting to Know Each Other Better

1. What's the longest period of time (days, weeks, months), or a recent period of time, that you can remember consistently asking God for something? Or maybe you are in the middle of just such a time! Can you share with your friends what you were, or are now, praying for?

Observing and Understanding God's Word

Please Read 1 Kings 18:41-46 and James 5:16-18

The four principles for effective praying that we discover in this passage are—
 (1) Find a private place to pray; (2) Exhibit a humble dependence upon the LORD; (3) Expect an answer and (4) Persevere even when no answer comes.

2. Why should the bulk of our prayer lives be spent in private time with the Lord? What important insights come to us from Matthew 6:5-6?
3. Humility and successful prayer are fundamentally and irrevocably linked. Take a look at 1 Peter 5:5 and Luke 18:9-14 and discuss why it is that God is opposed to the proud but gives His grace to the humble.
4. How do you express your heart's humility and full dependence on the Lord in prayer?
5. Persevering in prayer can be one of the most difficult things that we do. Why is it sometimes difficult to pray about the same thing over a long period of time? Look up these passages and then discuss what you learn about, and how you are encouraged to engage in, persevering prayer: Matthew 7:7-10; Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; and any other verses/passages/biblical illustrations and examples you can think of which speak about persevering prayer!

Applying God's Word

6. Which of the four principles for effective prayer do you want to work on this week? Why?

November 1/2, 2008
Standing Alone Through Prayer
1 Kings 18: 41-46
Pastor Dennis Keating

MAIN LESSON: Effective praying releases God's power. (See James 5:16-18)

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." James 5:16

"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 5:17-18

Effective praying requires...

1. A private place to pray (v.41)

THE REASON: Solitude helps eliminate pride and distractions from our prayers. (See Matt. 6:6)

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

2. A humble dependence on the Lord. (v. 42)

This position revealed a complete submission and humility of heart before God. (See 1 Peter 5:5; John 15:5)

"...and all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, FOR GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 1 Peter 5:5

"...apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"Prayer is an unnatural activity. From birth we have been learning the rules of self reliance as we strain and struggle to achieve self sufficiency. Prayer flies in the face of those deep seated values. It is an assault on human autonomy, and indictment of independent living. To people in the fast lane determined to make it on their own, prayer is an embarrassing interruption. Prayer is alien to our proud human nature." - Pastor Bill Hybels

3. An expectation of an answer (v.43) (See Jeremiah 33:31)

"Call to me and I will answer you..." Jeremiah 33:3

4. Perseverance when no answer comes. (v.43-46)

THE POINT: One of the greatest tests of your faith will be your persevering in prayer.

WHAT'S THE KEY? Righteous Living (see James 5:16)

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." James 5:16