

Doing Our Part

I. Introduction

- A. Proper prayer is a privilege that Scripture teaches is “powerfully effective.” **James 5:16b**
- B. The strength behind this is supplied by God, but He requires things from us in order for our prayers to have this effectiveness...

II. In Our Prayer Lives

- A. The most immediate thing that is required of us for our prayers to be powerfully effective is for us to be devoted to prayer. This is something each of us has a personal responsibility to pursue. **Matthew 7:7-8**
- B. “Doing our part” as it applies directly to prayer also means praying with faith and persistence. **James 1:6-7; Luke 18:1ff**
- C. For our prayers to be powerfully effective, we must also have our hearts right while praying. We must pray sincerely, and we must pray with right motives. **Matthew 6:5-6; James 4:3**

III. Living Righteously

- A. God’s Word also shows the need for us to “do our part” in our conduct outside of prayer for our prayers to be powerfully effective. We must be living righteously in general for our prayers to have the effectiveness God makes possible. **James 5:16; 1 John 3:22; 1 Peter 3:12**

IV. Wisdom

- A. With any specific area in which we ask for God to help us in our service to Him, there’s also a need to do our part in carrying out that service. For instance, praying for wisdom is a good thing. Wisdom won’t come, though, without us adding diligent study of God’s Word to this fervent prayer. **James 1:5; Psalm 19:7; 2 Timothy 3:15**

V. Open Doors

- A. The principle of doing our part with any service we ask God for help with is also exemplified through our efforts to seek the lost. Praying for doors of opportunity to be opened is key, but so too is looking for and going through those open doors. **Colossians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9**

VI. Love

- A. This principle is also exemplified with the characteristic of love. The Holy Spirit through Paul shows us that love is a good thing to pray for. **Philippians 1:9**
- B. Love is not something that comes *only* through prayer though. Love is something we must learn and deliberately pursue. **Colossians 3:14; 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 5:3**