

# Ingredients of Effective Prayer

## I. Introduction

- A. Scripture teaches that proper prayer is “powerfully effective.” Consider some truths about *God* that makes such a blessing possible, and some things needed from *us* for our prayers to have this effectiveness. **James 5:16**

## II. God’s Power

- A. The foremost “ingredient” of effective prayer is the power God supplies. A key motivation for praying as we should is remembrance of His omnipotence. **Ephesians 3:20**

## III. God’s Omnipresence

- A. Given His limitless power, God is able to see and hear everyone at all times. No matter where we are, what time of day it is, or how many others are praying to Him, God is able to see, hear, and understand us perfectly. **Matthew 6:6**

## IV. God’s Care

- A. Not only does God have this *ability*, but He *wants* to hear from us and help us. The privilege of prayer is better appreciated when we consider His care for us. **1 Peter 5:7; Song 62, verse 3**

## V. God’s Wisdom

- A. The effectiveness of prayer is also a result of God’s perfect wisdom and His faithfulness to answer prayer according to *His* understanding. **Romans 11:33; 2 Corinthians 12:8-9**

## VI. Divine Intercession

- A. The Father is not the only member of the Godhead to assist us through prayer. “Divine intercession” provides additional help. **Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:26-27**

## VII. Righteous Living

- A. While God supplies the power in His answers to prayers, there are things He demands of us for our prayers to be effective. For instance, we must supply the “ingredient” of righteous living. **James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:12**

## VIII. Doing Our Part

- A. When we ask for God to help us in our service to Him, we must be willing to do our part in carrying out that service. **Matthew 6:12, 14-15; James 1:5**

## IX. Praying Faithfully

- A. Moreover, for our prayer to be powerfully effective, we must pray faithfully. Our prayers will be ineffective if we pray without faith. **James 1:6-7**
- B. We must also pray faithfully in the sense that we do so continuously, persistently, and frequently. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

## X. Pure Motives

- A. God also teaches that prayers will be ineffective if we pray with wrong motives. **James 4:3**

## XI. Sincerity of Heart

- A. One application of praying with wrong motives is seen in the hypocritical prayers condemned by Jesus in His sermon on the mount. This passage demonstrates the need to pray sincerely from the heart. **Matthew 6:5-7**

## XII. Pursuit of God’s Will

- A. All of our prayers to God should be underscored by a genuine desire for His will to be done. **Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42**