Weekly Devotional 4-15-2012 Effective Prayer

James 5:16 "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective!"

 Oh LORD help us to pray effectively, but most of all LORD may Your Will be done, for sometimes we do not know what to pray. The LORD hears your prayers if they seem unanswered remember everything happens in GOD's timing not ours! I have heard this so many times it still never sinks in completely though. When we are praying for the outcome of something we think that God is not listening if the prayer is not answered right away. I comment a lot on society and how it has turned us into a “NOW” generation. We need to remember the stories in the Bible where it took years, decades, and generations for prayers to be answered. Our ancestor’s in the Bible were patient waiting on the LORD most of the time. However, when they were not and tried taking things into their own hands it turned out disastrous. The LORD eventually made it right but it was a lesson for them to wait upon the LORD just as it is for us.

 When you pray you don’t need to use fancy language. When you pray you should keep in mind you are talking to your Father who loves you with an ever-lasting love. He wants only what is *best* for you and He knows what is best for you better than you know. Also, when we pray though we need to honor God as our Creator, we need to bring our request to Him in reverence and awe for who He is. Jesus told the disciples when you pray, pray like this “*The Our Father Prayer”* (Matthew 6:9-13).So if Jesus has given us instruction on how to pray then that is the most effective prayer you can pray.

 Sometimes prayers don’t work out the way we think they should. The most devastating prayers are the one’s for a loved one to survive. We never understand how come the LORD took our loved one. This has caused people to lose their faith. Remember Psalm 103 we are all born to die, we all have a time when we shall pass from this world to the next; death is a part of life. It is not the end it is the beginning of eternity. Death is so hard for us to comprehend but once we understand God’s wisdom in it we can begin to be at peace with it. Paul explains this in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. It is not that your prayer for your loved one is not answered it is that it was their time to leave.

 If you have lost a loved one my heart goes out to you. I lift you up in prayer right now for the peace of God to rest on your heart and give you understanding.

 My prayer for you is: LORD I lift up the person reading this right now. I ask You LORD to give them peace help them to understand that you do hear their prayers. I ask You LORD to understand when they don’t have words to speak and only tears to cry. I pray for you right now in this moment that the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will descend upon you and you will find your voice again to be able to talk to God and pray to Him with all the understanding that the LORD does hear your prayer. Then sit back and give thanks for all this is going to happen in your future, Amen Selah.

Blessings to all