



INGREDIENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE PRAYER

By Valleta Lanier

I recently taught from 1 Kings 18:41-45 with a look at Elijah's EFFECTIVE PRAYER that brought rain after 3 1/2 years! So much to learn from what he did... and James 5:17 reminds Believers that we are just like Elijah... except even more... we have ALL of God's power within us! The outline is below...

- 1. HEAR (verse 41)** Elijah HEARD the rain BEFORE it rained! A clear message to him from God that it was time for rain. He had FAITH in what he heard. Whatever "rain" you need, to pray an EFFECTIVE PRAYER, listen closely for God's direction. He will lead you about when and what to pray. Then have faith in what you HEAR as you pray.
- 2. EARNEST (verse 42)** Elijah crouched down to the earth, with his face between his knees. He was praying an EARNEST prayer. There are many different kinds of prayers, but an EFFECTIVE PRAYER is one that you put your whole heart and soul into.
- 3. FOCUS (verse 43)** Elijah never raised his head to see if the rain was coming. He sent his servant to look, while he stayed FOCUSED in prayer. The enemy of God will do everything he can to distract you from an EFFECTIVE PRAYER. Why? Because he knows it brings BIG results. Don't let ANYTHING or ANYONE keep you from your FOCUS for an EFFECTIVE PRAYER.
- 4. PERSISTENT (verse 44)** Seven times Elijah sent his servant to look for evidence of rain. Each time his servant said he saw nothing. Even so, Elijah did not stop praying. He did not stop to look himself, or quit after each time his servant reported nothing. He stayed PERSISTENT. So many times, when we don't see the evidence of "answered" prayer we quit. To see the results of an EFFECTIVE PRAYER, one that God has told us to pray, we need to be PERSISTENT.
- 5. PREPARE (verse 44)** Finally Elijah's servant saw a small cloud far in the distance, that appeared to be the size of a man's hand. When he reported that to Elijah, the EFFECTIVE PRAYER stopped! Was it raining? NO! Was it coming? YES! Elijah had all the report he needed! He knew it was time to PREPARE for the blessing that was coming. So he ordered his servant to tell Ahab to leave, before he was caught in HEAVY RAIN! That is PREPARING FOR & EXPECTING A MIRACLE! And before long, the sky was filled with black clouds and there was

heavy rain. An EFFECTIVE PRAYER delivers GOD'S POWER. Are you PREPARED for the blessings? God will bless the EFFECTIVE PRAYER!

The results of Elijah's prayer were obvious, as the dry land was quenched and burst forth with fruit. Plus, Elijah, after spending time in prayer was filled with SUPERNATURAL POWER to run! What need do you have today? God wants you to experience His SUPERNATURAL ABUNDANCE in your life. Perhaps He is calling you to a time of PRAYING AN EFFECTIVE PRAYER.

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