

Prayer Works

Lessons from the Life of Elijah

2/16/14 – Rick Applegate

Text: James 5:13-18

Intro: In the six verses of this passage, James uses pray, prayed or prayer at least one time in each verse. Obviously prayer is not only an important, but necessary characteristic of a believer's life. However, from time to time we are all tempted and often fail to believe our prayers actually work.

Focus Point: *You should expect your prayers to work because God has ordained them to work.*

I. The Nature of Elijah

◇ Elijah – man of faith (1 Kings 17:1,17-23;18:22-24a,41-45)

◇ Elijah – man of fear (1 Kings 19:2-5,9b-18)

II. The Nature of God

◇ In response to our nature (James 5:16b)

◇ In response to His nature (James 5:15a)

Application: “[Elijah] was an ordinary person, he was right with God – or to put things in the sort of terminology that we find in James’ letter, his faith was active in his work (James 2:22-23). This is part of the wonder of the way of prayer. Those who by grace have been given the status of righteousness in God’s sight have been brought into the realm where effective prayer operates and have been given the right to exercise the ministry of prayer.” *Alec Motyer*