



UNLEASH GOD'S WILL ON EARTH

“1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. 11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. 12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? 13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

- James 4:1-17

Unleash God's Will on Earth

They that wait upon the Lord will have new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles They will run and not get weary. They will walk and not faint.

For many of us Prayer is like the national anthem before a sporting event It gets it started but has absolutely no connection to what's happening in our lives We do it because it's tradition. We're supposed to. It pays homage while being totally disconnected from the field of play of our lives and yet, it is one of the dominant themes of Scripture.

It is the dominant theme of James. In verses 13 through 18 you see the word pray or prayer in every verse. So for James, this is a big deal. I hope to explain in this discussion why God has a conditional will and an unconditional will. God's will is what he determines to happen But it can happen in one of two ways.

It can happen unconditionally or conditionally. God's unconditional will is when he determines what will happen irrespective of what anybody else does. That is, it's not conditioned on us or anybody else because He is going to decide that it happens, and he is going to cause it to happen without any human involvement. That is His unconditional will. It's not conditioned on our actions or non-actions because he sovereignly.

He decided to make it come to pass all by Himself. That is his unconditional will but God's conditional will is different. There are many things He has decided to not let happen until he gets cooperation from earth. There are many things that He has decided He will not bring from heaven into history unless there is human cooperation with his desire and design.

For example, the Bible says God desires all men to be saved. Yet men only get saved when they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. So, He has a will, but it's tied to a condition. Many things in your life and my life are tied to God's conditional will. So, things happen or don't happen based not on God's decision, but on our cooperation or lack thereof.

One of the primary mechanisms that God has established to determine much of what He does on earth and in your life and in my life is conditioned by the absence or presence of prayer.

James says in chapter 4 verses 1 to 3 you have not because you ask not or when you ask you ask with wrong motives. He says I wanted to give it to you, but you never came to me for it. So, you don't have it. It wasn't because I didn't want to give it. It was because you didn't cooperate with getting it because it was part of my conditional will.

Prayer is relational communication with God and the goal of prayer is to draw from heaven into history. The goal of prayer is to get eternity to make a statement in time. It is to make heaven visible on earth. It is to get God to touch humanity. The goal of prayer is that up there might do something, fix something, or change something down here.

When God makes a big deal about prayer, which he does throughout all of Scripture, we are asking God to release His will from heaven to earth. We're giving him an okay because we're cooperating because it is part of his conditional will.

Now the problem is you don't always know what's conditional and what's unconditional. Some things are clear, but other things you're not sure. That's why Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 you better pray without ceasing. You better bring it all to God, so you'll miss nothing because all the time it's not clear which way God is operating from. Without prayer you become limited to the physical. But the only reason you pray is to get the spiritual God to enter into the physical. The passport to leave the physical and into the spiritual is in one word in Scripture and that word is prayer.

Now let me explain Prayer does not get God to do something He doesn't want to do because you can't make God do something. But what prayer does is access what He already wants to do. That he has conditioned on your participation and mine.

I love Isaiah 65 verse 24 Isaiah 65 24 says before you call I have answered. Oh, did you follow that before you prayed. I have already answered the prayer. So, you are not praying to get God to do something but to pull down something He has already predetermined to do. Because if He has already done it before you ask for it, then why don't I have it because it has to be pulled down. Pulled from heaven into history and that is done through prayer. So, we're talking about something serious we're talking about drawing heaven into history.

So, let's break down this passage and by the end of this passage I Hope you have will have been ignited for a new fire regarding prayer and its power to take the kingdom of heaven and invade the kingdom of earth through the mechanism of prayer. Verse 13, "Is anyone among you suffering?" Suffering meant to be going through a difficult period of time. James says if you are hurting because of circumstances you must pray. Pain is always an invitation to prayer. Pain in whatever form it takes is always an invitation to pray. You say well, I'm hurting all the time. That means you should be praying all the time because pain is an invitation to pray. He must make contact with heaven in the midst of the pain. He must pray. He goes on in verse 13.

Notice what he says is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Now praise is an expression of value to the Lord. It is honoring the Lord physically and verbally. There's no such thing as silent praise. You can have silent worship, but you can't have silent praise. Praise is always visual and vocal. That's why he says sing praises to the Lord.

Wait a minute! Let's rewind, if you're in pain pray; if you're not in pain you're not sad, but you're glad, Praise. Well, hold it you're either one or the other. You're either in pain or you're cheerful. If you're in pain talk to God if you're not in pain praise God, which means that you are always communicate with God! Because you're either in pain or in praise. So, God wants to hear from you all day non-stop as a way of life. He wants you to thread him into every aspect of your day either in prayer or in praise because you're either in pain or you're in praise.

Verse 14 He says is anyone among you sick? Now the Greek word for sick means to be weary that's what the word means to be weary.

In verse 13 you are praying for you anyone suffering let him pray, but in verse 14 you need help because your prayers are not getting through in fact, you don't even feel like praying anymore. When life beats you down long enough deep enough you can get tired of dealing with God. So, he says go to the elders of the church that should represent the spiritual leadership of the church to get support for a breakthrough. You have not been able to get on your own that's why you're to be a part of a local church so that when you can't go on somebody else can keep you going on. You're not to be a lone ranger Christian. So, there must be spiritual people since they represent the church is talking about the environment

people who can carry you when you can't carry yourself. So, he says when you can't handle it yourself come to the church, call on the elders, get the ministry, the oil and you do what he says in the name of the Lord. Why? Because we're talking about kingdom prayer. We're talking about authority from heaven. The name means according to the character the attributes and the authority of Jesus Christ. You do it in Jesus's name because He's the one who okays the answers to prayer. Verse 15 and the prayer offered in faith who will restore the one who is sick. Hmm the prayer offered in faith. Here's a word.

I love this word. We need this word restores to restore something is to bring it back to its original intent. When something breaks you restore it. You try to bring it back to its original intent. God is a restoring God in the weariness is of life. He makes an astounding promise. He says God will restore. Now let me clarify. We know that everybody who gets physically sick doesn't always get well. Or they may get partially well, or they may be just a little better.

We know that perfect health is not always restored in every situation. We know it is sometimes, but it's not all the time. Sometimes God takes you out, but other times he walks with you through. Other times He walks beside you and He restores you emotionally. Even though you're waiting for him to restore you circumstantially or physically sometimes He does both. But the restore here is to remove the weariness while you still trust him for the solution.

He says the prayer of faith will heal the sick. It will remove the weariness, and the Lord will raise him up and if he has committed sins, because maybe he didn't, but if he has they will be forgiven him. Why do we pray for one another that our circumstances change and if necessary that sin get addressed? Because sin can keep you sick. All sin is not all sickness is not due to sin, but sickness can be caused by sin. 1st Corinthians 11 makes it clear many are sick and many are weak among you, why, because of unaddressed sin.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another. He says in verse 16 acknowledge the sin that's created the weariness for which you need to repent to the appropriate other. Now, how do you know who the appropriate other is? Because some people you cannot tell your stuff to. Okay, it'd be all over town. Okay How do you know who the other is when you need help out of weariness and you need victory over sin, but you need another. Who is the other? Can't just be any and everybody he actually tells you he says confess to one another and then he says

and pray for one another, so you only confess to somebody who's going to pray for you. Not talk about you.

So, the confessed who is the pray for? He says that you may be healed, that you may be delivered from or through whatever is taking place in your life. The Word if he has committed in the Greek is the perfect tense. The perfect tense means past action with abiding results. So, what does that mean? It is if he has committed a sin that he keeps on committing. In other words, this is a habit of sin that they haven't broken. So, they need to be delivered, healed delivered from this.

So, you get help from folks who going to pray and get to God with you and for you. Now He makes a summary statement in verse 16 the effective Prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. The effective word there means energized and energized prayer is a focused prayer. It is a prayer that is God-centered. It must be accompanied by righteousness the effective prayer of a righteous man, a Person who is living to please God. Nobody is perfect, but you can be righteous.

That is, you're living to please God the effective focused energized prayer can accomplish much. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man. He says can accomplish much and then He gives an illustration. He says in verse 17 and 18 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. Translation he wasn't from Krypton. He wasn't super profit. He was a regular ordinary flesh-and-blood individual. He didn't have any unique thing over any other human being ever made. He was a man with a like nature. So, whatever he's getting ready to say about Elijah is true about you because he just like you he just a man.

That's all he is. He says, however, this ordinary man was a prophet. It says he prayed earnestly. He wasn't being casual. So, let's go back and see what really happened in 1 Kings. Well, look at chapter 17 verse 1 now Elijah the Tishbite who was of the settlers of Gilead said to Ahab as the Lord the God of Israel lives before whom I stand. Surely there shall be neither dew nor rain. These years accepted my word. Verse 18, 1 now it happened after many days that the Word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year saying go show yourself to Ahab and I will send rain on the face of the earth.

Oh, in chapter 17 verse 1 God said it's not going to rain in chapter 18 verse 1 God said it is going to rain. So why do you need to know that? Because Elijah didn't just make this up. He was praying based on what God had said. God said it's not going to rain. God said it is going to rain. So, he prayed, watch this, based on God's Word. So, the first thing you need to know is you need to pray with your Bible open. You need to pray and say to God that He said this and I'm holding you to your Word that you said. I believe this so I am praying for it. The Bible is full of prayers that you should pray. When you're struggling there's Psalm 42 you pray Psalm 42, when you're repentant That's Psalm 51 you pray Psalm 51, when you are afraid There's Psalm 34 you pray Psalm 34 and you point God back to his Word because God has held his Word high above his name. So, you start with the Word of God about the situation that you faced.

All right, let's go on He goes on to say I hear the sound of a storm coming. In Verse 42 and Ahab went up to eat and drink but Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel and crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees. He took the posture of a pregnant woman who was in labor. The Bible calls it travail. He was in labor, and he said I need some rain I want some rain. I'm going to push and push and push till I get some rain.

Oh, You know what God wants you to do. He wants you to birth His will from heaven into history by calling it down. Drawing it down. Pushing it down until that baby of deliverance, that baby of healing, that baby of victory comes forth. This is serious praying. This is not casual praying.

This is crying out. Why do I have to work so hard because Satan is trying to block your prayer from getting through. It says he said to his servant go now look toward the sea. So he went and looked and said there is nothing. He said servant go to the sea and look for the storm. Servant went out and said Oh Elijah there's no storm out here. But wait a minute We just read Elijah heard the sound of a storm. But the servant went out and he didn't see a storm. See, that's why you got to be in touch with God. So, you hear stuff before you see stuff. Because faith is not what you see. Faith is what you don't see. But if you can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, if you can hear the voice of God, you can hear stuff. Before you see stuff God sometimes tells you before you see it. So, he told his servant to go back seven times (the number of completeness). He says I want you to go back seven times in verse 43. Whenever you see the word seven, it means something has been brought to completion. Sometimes

people say how long should I pray for something? How long should I talk to God? I've been praying about this for years and nothing has happened. How long should I pray? Well, let me explain something God only has three answers; yes, no, or wait. If he hadn't said yes, and he hadn't said no that means wait. So, what do you do while you wait you pray till you get a yes or no. You pray to completion. When he went out the seventh time he said I saw a cloud coming out of the sea like the size of a man's fist. You know how small a cloud that is. He said I just saw a little cloud. I don't see a storm. I just see a little fist size cloud. Elijah said after the seventh time and he saw the cloud Ahab prepare your chariot verse 44 and go down.

So, the heavy shower does not stop you He didn't let him see a shower. He let him see a cloud. See some time when God's ready to move he isn't going to let you see the whole thing. He just lets you see a little something-something to give you a taste. That's why the Bible says, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good." He may not give you the whole meal. He may just give you a sample plate. That means that the meal sometimes God gives you is an appetizer. He isn't ready to feed you the whole meal. He is just giving you something-something. So, that you know what you have to look forward to. So, he says we only got a fist but there's a shower. So, watch this now. He tells Ahab get in your chariot and go cuz this storm is going to get ready to break out. So, get in your chariot and go. That means a horse is pulling the chariot. So, he gets in a horse and go 15 miles from where he is to Jezreel. So, Ahab gets in there and he's riding his horse, but I don't want you to miss the end of verse 46. Then the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel. No, you didn't. Ahab is on a horse Ahab is riding a horse.

Oh, Elijah picks up his cloak. Ties it up. And he outruns a horse to Jezreel. I believe Isaiah put it this way that they wait upon the Lord. Will have new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get weary. They will walk and not faint. You ought to be willing to pray, you ought to be willing to pray out to God, you ought to be willing to touch heaven because the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much!