

## How to Overcome the Adversary Part III

### Earnest Prayer Produces Results

#### 1) James 5:16 – 18 NKJV

Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- a. Why does confessing your trespasses to one another help our prayers be more effective?
- b. What does it mean to pray fervently and effectively?
- c. Why do the prayers of a righteous man avail much (produce results)?
- d. If Elijah was a man that was as messed up as we are, why were his prayers so effective?
- e. Can we pray for the weather?

#### 2) Matthew 6:9 – 10 NKJV

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

- a. What should be the primary focus of prayer?
- b. What was Jesus telling us here about the object of our prayers and our access to God?
- c. Jesus taught this prayer before the cross. Has anything already been fulfilled from this prayer? What does it mean then in the New Testament by “Thy kingdom come”?

#### 3) James 4:1 – 10 NLT

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask

God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

<sup>4</sup> You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. <sup>6</sup> And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. <sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

a. What are two reasons why people don't always have all of their needs met by God?

b. Why are motives important when we pray?

c. Who is supposed to resist the devil and what must we do first?

#### 4) Acts 3:1 – 10 NKJV

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; <sup>3</sup> who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup> And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

<sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. <sup>8</sup> So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup> Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

a. Was Peter's prayer here for the healing of the lame man one of asking God to heal or of exercising God's authority to heal? What does this mean for us?

## 5) Acts 4:18 – 31

<sup>18</sup> So they (the priests, captain of the temple, and the Sadducees) called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup> So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. <sup>22</sup> For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

<sup>23</sup> And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said:

“Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, <sup>25</sup> who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.’ <sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. <sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, <sup>30</sup> by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

a. The healing of the lame man created quite a stir in Jerusalem. Why? (See acts 4: 13 – 14)

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it”

b. Did the disciples exercise authority against the religious leaders or did they pray for God to move? Why?

c. What did the disciples pray about for themselves?