

Date: 17 March 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Prophet of Fire: Effectual Prayer

Scripture text: 1 Kings 18:41-46

1. The first element of an effectual prayer is to be a righteous man in God's sight. Only those who have received Jesus Christ into his heart as his Lord and Saviour are children of God. The prayers of righteous men are heard and received by God because the righteousness of Christ is imputed upon them and God accepts their prayers for Jesus' sake and in Jesus' name. Praying is aligning our will with God's will and our prayers will only be effective when we pray according to God's will. If we pray to fulfill our own lusts, God will not hear our prayers (James 4:3).

2. The second element of an effectual prayer is walking righteously before God. If we desire our prayers to be answered, we must live a blameless and holy life before God. We must seek God with clean hands and pure hearts (Psalm 66:18). God will not hear the prayers of His children who have not repented of their sins or pray with sinful and selfish motives. Let us examine our lives and motives in light of God's Word that our prayers will not be hindered. Elijah walked in obedience to God's Word when he chose to follow only Jehovah and not Baal. Hence, the Lord answered his prayers and sent rain.

3. The third element of an effectual prayer is to pray in faith, and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Elijah prayed with expectation that the rain will come and bring an end to the famine in Samaria. Elijah had faith that the little cloud is a precursor of rain (1 Kings 18:44). We must learn to pray with a belief that God will answer our prayers according to His will. Prayers of faith is to persevere in seeking God. Elijah was devoted in his prayer (1 Kings 18:42) when he cast himself down before God even though his prayers were not answered instantly. Our faith in God will be proven and manifested when we trust in God. Let us receive God's answer to our prayers with joy and give all glory to God.