

*The Letter to the
12 Tribes*

James

Jas. 5:17-20



17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.



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a. Elijah and his passions, 5:17a “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”

(See 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1, 41-45)

b. Elijah and his prayers, 5:17b-18

(1) His first prayer answered, 5:17b “...and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.”



Original Word: προσευχή

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: proseuché

Short Definition: prayer, a place for prayer

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4335.htm>

Original Word: προσεύχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: proseuchomai

Definition: I pray, pray for, offer prayer.

Literally, to *interact with* the Lord by switching human *wishes* (ideas) for *His wishes* as He imparts faith ("divine *persuasion*").

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4336.htm>



Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Besides being in fellowship with Christ, the key ingredient for effective praying is knowing the will of God.

1 Jn. 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

"When the Scriptural teaching that prayer is a definite means of working with God is apprehended, we feel that this is fully in keeping with His gracious character. God yearns to take His sons into His confidence and let them share with Him in the accomplishment of His purposes. He has so arranged this world that there is a definite place for answered prayer in the divine government. He deliberately so constituted things that His believing children may have, and are invited to have, a definite share in the fulfillment of His saving purpose with mankind through intercessory prayer. The Scriptures are replete with illustrations of how the cause of the Lord was furthered as God answered the prayers of His people."

D. Edmond Hiebert, *Working With God: Scriptural Studies in Intercession*, pp. 12-13.



(2) His further prayer answered, 5:18 “And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”

1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

3 **Get thee hence**, and turn thee eastward, **and hide thyself** by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

1 Kings 18:1 And it came to pass *after* many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, **Go, shew thyself** unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.



1 Kings 18:42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, ... 45 And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

Deut. 28:15 But it shall come to pass, **if thou wilt not hearken** unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: ...

23 And thy heaven that *is* over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee *shall be* iron.

24 **The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust:** from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

...

45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; **because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God**, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

D. The burden for people, 5:19-20

1. The careless backslider, 5:19a “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth...”

Original Word: πλανάω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: planaó

Definition: I lead astray, deceive, cause to wander.

planáō – properly, go astray, get off-course; to *deviate* from the correct path (circuit, course), *roaming* into error, *wandering*; (passive) be misled.

Mt. 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.**

Jas. 1:16 **Do not err**, my beloved brethren.

The focus of the erring is in regard to the truth.

Psa. 95:10 Forty years long was I grieved with *this* generation, and said, **It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:**

Psa. 119:21 Thou hast rebuked the proud *that are* cursed, which do **err from thy commandments.** ...

Prov. 19:27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction *that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*

Jer. 23:13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and **caused my people Israel to err.**

Hos. 4:12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for **the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.**

Prov. 14:14 The **backslider in heart** shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself.

2. The concerned believer, 5:19b “...and one convert him;”

Ezek. 33:1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: 3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;
4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.
5 **He heard** the sound of the trumpet, and **took not warning; his blood shall be upon him.** But **he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.**

6 But if the watchman see the sword come, **and blow not the trumpet**, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take *and* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at the watchman's hand**.

7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt **hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me**.

8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked *man*, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at thine hand**.

9 Nevertheless, **if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity**; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

3. The consequent benediction, 5:20

Jas. 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

1 Cor. 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Jn. 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. **There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.**

Mt. 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Conclusion

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;**

considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 For **if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**

4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5 For **every man shall bear his own burden.**

