

Week 14
90/275

Transforming Daily
“... fervent prayer ...”
James 5:16

What does it mean to offer fervent prayer? Oversimplified, fervent prayer is the attitude of supplication. That is, praying with the attitude to see God move on behalf of others just as much, if not more so, than on behalf of one's self. Fervent prayer is well thought out and meaningful. The motive behind fervency is to see God glorified and others edified. Fervent prayer is offered from a mature faith, knowing that, “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

Fervent prayer is not for the double minded. The goal of fervent prayer is not prosperity and physical or financial gain. The will of God manifested on behalf of those praying and being prayed for is the central purpose of fervent prayer. Humility, submission, unity, obedience, patience and perseverance are key characteristics of fervent prayer. Fervent prayer can be intense groaning or it can be the slightest whisper in the ear of God. It can take all night, or several days associated with fasting, or it can be as fast as it takes to form the words, “in Jesus name.”

Fervent prayer is marked by a sense of continual, uninterrupted, communion with God. When in the presence of those who pray fervently, their prayers are informed, compassionate, responsible, reverent and without excuse. Their prayers sound as if they just picked back up where they left off before having been interrupted by some necessary responsibility of life. One who prays fervently draws others into their world of supplication, petition, intercession and thanksgiving to God. Furthermore, don't miss the context of righteousness on the part of the one offering fervent prayers.

Do you pray fervently? Do others recognize you as one who prays fervently? Have you evaluated your motive for praying? Is fervent praying what you do first, last or not at all? Are your prayers all about how you can get rich, get well, move to the next level, or get that material blessing that “you deserve?” That's not fervent praying if that's all your prayers are about? When was the last time you prayed for a lost soul?

Fervent praying includes lists of lost souls, people on missions at home and abroad, government officials, church leaders, those whom you lead in discipleship (or should be leading), etc., as well as for the physical, financial and family needs on the weekly church prayer guide. The old saying is that if you don't have a target, you will hit it. Fervent prayer is deliberate. Therefore, plan your prayers and pray your plans. Just keep this in mind, all prayer should be fervent prayer.