

## **“When Is Prayer Effective?”**

I had one of my long winded epistles ready for this week, but wasn't satisfied with it, and didn't feel it was what the Lord wanted, so here's what I feel the Lord wants me to say. I'm really glad our Christian walk is a continual learning process, and I believe I've learned a little more about prayer this past month.

James 6:15 says: *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* That scripture pretty much says it all; the word also tells us to pray for one another, and to bear one another's burdens. I have always had a desire to pray for others, even in the early days of my Christian walk. One of my mentors encouraged me to pray out loud when I prayed, even in private, and it turned out to be a confidence builder in my personal prayer life, and especially when I prayed with others.

This past month, as I was praying for my friend Chuck, and later for his friends Becky and Molly, Brian and Sharon, and then my friend Trevor's Dad after his heart surgery, I told my prayer partner Carrie, “I think I'm beginning to understand what Paul meant when he said “pray continuously,” because I seem to be in an ongoing dialogue with the Lord as I'm interceding for all these needs!”

Imagine at any given time how many millions, maybe billions of prayers are being lifted up to the Lord? As the word says in 1 Peter 3:12: *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers,”* but here's the ones I think grab God's attention: **when we pray fervent prayers**. I believe when we pray, not out of a sense of **duty**, as I'm sure we're all guilty of occasionally, but when we pray out of a deep **burden** from our hearts - those kinds of prayers are effective! With so many needs to pray for, I have to admit I have prayed my share of “dutiful” prayers, but I'm finding God is giving me a burden to go deeper and press in closer to Him as I pray. Pray fervently, and watch God respond to your prayers! Amen!