

*"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16 KJV*



We are all sick with sin. Fortunately, for the believer, it isn't terminal. When we sin, we sin "willfully after the flesh." We choose disobedience over obedience, and separate ourselves from God and His power in our lives. "If we confess (admit) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Only then, can we expect our prayers to be effective when we pray for others. How often have you said, "We'll be praying for you!" and never given it another thought? "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." We should confess our unfaithfulness, so our prayers will be effective for others. We can't expect God to answer prayer as long as we allow sin to hold a place in our hearts. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Bitterness, anger, jealousy, and carnal desire are all iniquity. Carnal desire can be as simple as poor eating habits. God does not rate sin on a scale. There are no "lesser" sins. How many worms does an apple have to have before you will not eat it? Is it any wonder that the heavens seem brass when we pray? We must pray daily for one another as the Lord brings us to each other's thoughts. If you're thinking about a brother or sister in the Lord, it is no coincidence. God is prompting you to pray for them, and more than that, it's a prompt to search for unconfessed sin. Sin must be confessed and cleansed before you can pray effectively for another. The only effective prayer we can pray for the unbeliever is that God will bring them to a place of repentance. Repentance is obedience to God's Word. God uses misfortune and loss to bring a man to repentance, because "what doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." We can't honestly pray for a person to repent, if we haven't given them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been commanded to "preach the gospel to every creature." Like any good father, God isn't going to grant any request to disobedient children.

Another's burden I must share,  
And take it to my Lord in prayer,  
Of my own sin I must beware,  
Or Father will not meet me there. ~CGP

We must be right with the Father before He can grant our requests. God wants to bless and provide for us. "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will (expressed in the written Word) ,He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him. My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Why would He make so many promises if He never intended to honor them? He wants to heal us, and have fellowship with us! What parent doesn't delight in spending time with an obedient child? Our Heavenly Father is no different. Obedient children can bask in His delight! When He is delighted with us, He will grant our requests. We may not get every piece of candy we request, but we will get ice cream from time to time if we spend our days with God, because God is His own reward!

*"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24 KJV*