

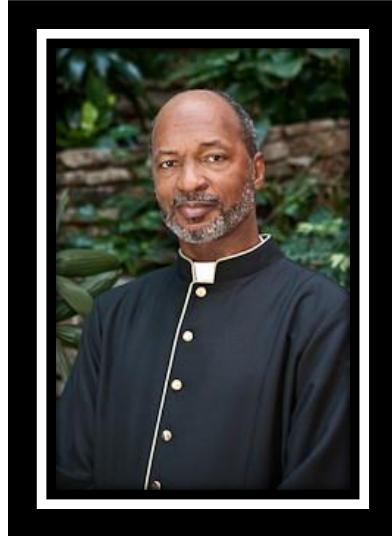
The Bishop's Corner

Effective Prayers

Praise the Lord Saints,

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 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 5:14-16)

The easiest thing we can do is pray, and it is the cheapest fix because it doesn't cost us anything. We like to talk about prayer, but we do not want to do it. I encourage everybody to pray at least 15 minutes each day. Faithful people pray, and prayer is not positive thinking. If you learn how to pray and seek God, you will know what to do when the devil comes. The devil trains every day for battle with the saints; therefore, we need to train our minds to pray each day.



It takes practice turning our mind toward God. We have to spend time in the Word of God and learn God through the Holy Spirit. When we have a good relationship with God, we sense when we need to come before God in prayer. Prayer establishes a strong relationship with God.

In the case of Hannah, she prayed to God often and made Him a vow if He would answer her prayer. "-O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but will give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head." (I Samuel 1:11)

Faith in prayer means expecting God to move. God will answer a righteous man's prayer because he will pray according to God's will. There are things God wants to perform on the earth, but He is waiting on us to ask Him so He can do it.

An effective prayer is believing that God is God, and we are praying according to His will. We have to pray from our spirit; this type of prayer takes time, and it refreshes us and brings relief. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, so when we pray, we must believe.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction