"THE EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYER ..." (James 5:16)

(Ephesians 6:10 - 18)

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Psalms, David cried out to God and confidently declared that God "heard" him: (Psalms 3:4; 18:6; 34:4; 66:19; 118:21; 120:1)

Just as God heard the prayers of His servant David, we may be certain that God will hear us; however, there are some divinely mandated conditions that are to be met for effective prayer.

1. STRIVE FOR "CLEAN HANDS"

David expressed it: (Psalms 24:3 – 5; 66:18 – 19)
The prophet Isaiah admonishes the same: (Isaiah 1:15 – 16; 59:1 – 2)
Apostle Paul wrote: (1 Timothy 2:8)

2. STRIVE FOR CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

(1 John 5:14-15) "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him ..." (Mark 11:24)" ... when you pray, believe that you receive them ..." (James 1:5-7)" ... But let him ask in faith, with no doubting ..."

3. STRIVE TO BE CORRECT

(Colossians 3:17) "... do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God ... "
(John 4:23-24) "... must worship in spirit and truth." (note John 17:17)
When we give our worship to God in prayer, it must be according to His word.

4. STRIVE TO BE CONTRITE IN HEART

(Psalm 51:17) " ... a broken and contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise" (2 Kings 22:19) "because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, ... I also have heard you, says the Lord."

5. STRIVE TO BE CONSISTENT IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

(Matthew 6:12-14) It is inconsistent to ask forgiveness of God and not give it to others. (1 John 4:20-21) It is inconsistent to say you love God and not love one another.

6. STRIVE TO CONTINUE IN PRAYER

(Romans 12:12) "... continuing steadfastly in prayer" (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; Matthew 7:7-8)

7. STRIVE TO BE CHARITABLE

(Proverbs 21:13; 1 Timothy 6:17 - 19; Ephesians 4:28)