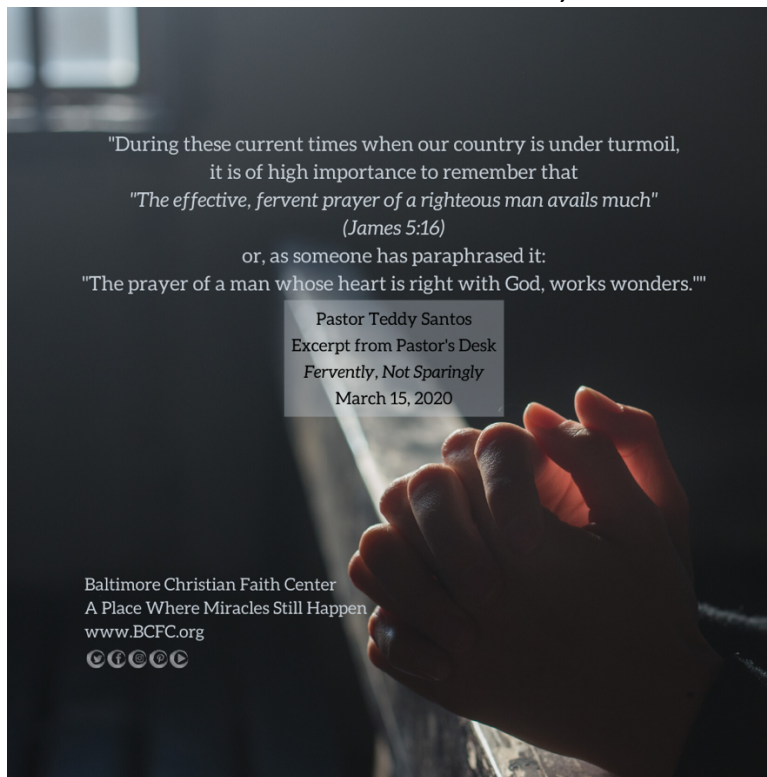


Fervently, Not Sparingly

Pastor's Desk – March 15, 2020



James 5:17 *“Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently....”*

When we read that Elijah was a man subject to the same passion as ourselves, we are apt to suppose that we have a clue to the driving force of his life. However, Scripture demonstrates that the results of his incredible career were achieved, not by his passion, **but by his prayers!** Elijah, though capable of the same intense earnestness with which we are all capable of, refused to accomplish his life-work by the employment of lowered standards, but set himself to obtain the results he desired, **through prayer**. He was a man of like passions with ourselves, but he prayed earnestly. He turned his passion into prayer.

Tremendous power is made available through a good man's earnest prayer. Elijah was a man like us, but he earnestly prayed that it should not rain. And not a drop fell on the land for three and a half years. Then he prayed again; and the heavens gave rain.

The example of Elijah acts as an encouragement for us to pray for our nation and for those who have wandered away from the Lord. During these current times when our country is under turmoil, it is of high importance to remember that *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"* (**James 5:16**) or, as someone has paraphrased it: "The prayer of a man whose heart is right with God works wonders."

James reminds us that Elijah was a man with the same kind of frail flesh. He was a mere man, subject to the same weaknesses as other men. We are no different than the people of old. Let us seek God's face, and let us call upon the name of the Lord because He promised in **2Ch 7:14**, *"if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*
Amen.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos