

# Relentless

Day 17



## Today's Passage

*And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

**James 5:15-16 NIV**

## Today's Thought

The fourth requirement for effective prayer is that the believer must have repented from all known sin. Jesus Christ taught his disciples to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Mat. 6:12).

A person who has received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior never needs to fear the wrath of God because the penalty of his sin has been paid by Jesus Christ through the shedding of his blood on the cross. The believer's relationship with God has been eternally established because he has been freed from the penalty of sin. However, the believer must, day-by-day, deal with the power of sin in his life, and this affects the believer's fellowship with God. "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:1-2).

After salvation, the Holy Spirit will convict the believer when he sins. If the believer ignores the conviction of the Holy Spirit and fails to repent, sin will begin to gain power over the believer. Satan can also use unrepented sin to obtain a foothold in the believer's life to create a spiritual bondage. Thus, the believer must repent of all known sin in his life. If there is any known unrepented sin in the believer's life, he should not expect God to answer his prayers. "If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear" (Ps. 66:18). God is holy and must be approached by believers who are obedient to the Holy Spirit in repenting of all known sin. However, sometimes grants the believer's prayer requests in spite of unrepented sin; but, sin is a definite hindrance to answered prayer.

There are some believers who merely say a general prayer each day, "Lord forgive me of all my sins." Unfortunately, this may not be sufficient. When the Holy Spirit convicts the believer generally, he can confess generally. However, where the Holy Spirit convicts the believer about specific actions, thoughts, or attitudes, these sins must be confessed specifically. Regular general confessions alone can sometimes be a sign of spiritual laziness and disobedience. The Holy Spirit often points out specific sins in the believer's life and expects a specific response.