

Welcome: We would like to welcome you here today for our worship service with our theme today **“The Prayers of a Righteous Person are Powerful and Effective and our text is Matthew 5:36-56.** **“Note” the messages each week are also available on podcast from the church web page www.lightofchristwi.org**

Sermon Outline

1. **When you are in a spiritual battle look up to the Lord in prayer because prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.** James 5:13-16. ¹³ *Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.*

2. As we move into the next part of our story Jesus asks His Father, *“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* Jesus prays this similar request three times. What is Jesus teaching us through this prayer? Think about that for a moment. **I believe...He wants to teach us to pray in faith, asking God, but trusting in His will above our request.** To pray with that kind of trust takes faith, which is trust in God’s promises.

3. **Men’s evil deeds don’t prevent God’s plan from happening.** ⁵⁵ *At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”* Matthew 5:55-56.

4. What verses caught your attention in the message today?

5. What are you hearing in the text and or message?

6. What is Jesus doing in your life right now as you respond to the message?

7. How is Jesus challenging you as you listened to today’s message?

8. What do you believe Jesus wants you to do this week?
