

From the Pastor:

James 5:16 ended with the sentence “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (New International Version) Verses 17-18 continues, “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

Verses 17-18 give an example of the prayers of a righteous man. The first phrase is important to note. That phrase reads, “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours...” Elijah was nowhere near perfect, just like us. However, Elijah knew God and believed Him.

To live by faith does not mean that we are perfect – that we have no faults. But, it does mean that when we see and recognize our faults, we develop (and set in motion) a plan to overcome those faults.

We are righteous in God’s sight when we have a 100% commitment of heart to seeking to live by what He says is right. If you remember the beatitude in Matthew 5:6 recorded, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” That is God’s promise.

We read more in Matthew 5:48. The NKJV’s translation of Matthew 5:48 does not do justice to the Greek. And for that matter neither does the KJV. The KJV records, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect.” The NKJV records, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” The NKJV does show that the verb “to be” is indeed in the future tense by using “shall be.” But, by saying, “Therefore you shall be perfect...” implies that this is something that will happen to us (“you shall be perfect”) instead of being something we must be seeking (Become you therefore perfect...). We cannot become perfect without our active involvement.

Further, we cannot become perfect by human effort alone. We can only change – grow toward perfection – by learning to effectively use the power of God’s Holy Spirit to overcome our sins. We will not achieve perfection in this life. However, what God must see in us is that 100% conviction of heart to seeking to become like Him – to seeking to become like His Son.

Was Elijah fearful when he fled for his life from Jezebel after she said she would kill him (1 Kings 19:1-3)? The Bible doesn’t say. He may have felt a little sorry for himself. When asked by God at Mt. Horeb, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:9) Elijah answered, “I alone am left, and they seek to take my life.”

But, God told and showed him that he was not alone. Elijah then did what God told him to do. (1 Kings 19:15-21)

We must remember we are not alone either. God said He would never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:27pm	8:26pm	8:24pm
Sunset Friday 7-26	8:24pm	8:23pm	8:22pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



July 20, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards reproof will be honored.”
Proverbs 13:18

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 7/20	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 7/27	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. There will be a DVD in Victoria. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be on August 3.

Corpus Christi and Harlingen Speech Club: The first South Texas Speech Club meeting will be held Friday July 26th at the St. Paul United Church of Christ Meeting Hall. The meeting time is 6:00 pm --7:30 pm. A meal will follow at the Mendez Home at 8 pm. All are invited to the meal. See Janie Mendez for details about the meal.

Biblical Seminars: Harlingen and Corpus Christi will be hosting Noah's Ark and Early Man Seminars. The seminars will take place in Harlingen on the Sabbath of August 17th and the Corpus Christi Seminars will take place on the Sabbath of September 7th. The Noah's Ark seminar will take place from 10 am -12 noon. There will be a meal break and the Early Man Seminar will take place from 2-4 pm. Included in the presentations will be a question and answer session. For more information see the announcement link at:

<http://corpuschristi.cogwa.org/announcements/>