

**James - Living Out Your Faith
"The Power Of Effective Kneeling"**

James 5: 13-20

The Prayer of Faith

¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is 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. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶Therefore 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.

¹⁷Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. ¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

(James 5:13-20 NIV)

I. James the Pray-er

II. Step by Step with James (5:13-18)

A. When in trouble: Pray (13a)

B. When happy: Sing (13b)

C. When sick: Pray (14-15)

1. The sick person is to take initiative to call on spiritual leaders of the church to come to him.
2. The sick person allows leaders to first anoint him with oil, then pray for him.

3. The sick person then leaves the results up to the Lord.
"In the name of the Lord" = refers to the will of God.

D. When impacted by sin: Pray (16)

E. When there is a specific need: Pray (16-18)

How can our prayer be more effective?

- pray in line to Scriptural truth; do not ignore nor pray outside of Bible truths
- pray specifically - as we consider situations, people, things, results, etc.
- pray in faith - no wavering, but confident that God of all creation not only hears but answers our prayer. A no or wait is an answer just as yes is an answer.

III. Principles for Preparing to Pray

Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. This week, don't just study about prayer, DO IT! Today, apply one of the principles you have learned in our message time and do it! Eg. If you are sick, call on the church leaders to come, etc. Pray specifically. If you are dealing with sin, pray accordingly.
2. The account of Elijah that James refers to is found in 1 Kings 17 & 18. Read through this historical account. After reading, answer:
 - Do the prayers of Elijah really alter nature? Yes or no?
 - What part does prayer play in the working of Gods hand?
3. James 5:16 teaches us about communication in 2 directions: horizontal (confess ... to each other) and vertical (pray for each other). How would you describe these 2 directions in your personal communications to God? Within the Body of Christ?