

Developing a Faith That Works

How To Pray About Your Problems

JAMES 5:13-20

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (vs. 16b)

James 5:13-20

- 13 Is anyone of you suffering? He should keep on praying. Is anyone cheerful? He should keep reciting psalms.*
- 14 Is anyone of you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they should pray for him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.*
- 15 And the prayer offered in faith will save the person who is sick. The Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.*

James 5:13-20

- 16 Therefore, make it your habit to confess your sins to one another and to pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*
- 17 Elijah was a man just like us, and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the ground for three years and six months.*

James 5:13-20

- 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven sent rain, and the ground produced its crops.*
- 19 My brothers, if one of you wanders away from the truth and somebody brings him back,*
- 20 you may be sure that whoever brings a sinner back from his wrong path will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

I. When should I Pray?

1. When I am hurting emotionally

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray."

(13a)

Psalm 18:4 "In my distress I call unto the Lord."

"Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise."

(13b)

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

2. When I am hurting physically

"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. 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."

(vs. 14-15)

2. When I am hurting physically

Three Kinds of Sickness

(In the Greek,
sick literally means without strength)

*sickness for death (I John 5:16, John 11:4)

*sickness for discipline (I Corinthians 11:28-32)

*sickness for the glory of God (John 11:4)

Five Attitudes Toward Healing

1. The sensationalist
2. The confessinalists
3. The dispensatinalists
4. The rationalists
5. James would be a realist

What does James say to do when you are sick?

I Peter 5, Acts 20, and Titus 2
tell of the structure of the church

Oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit

Water is is a symbol of the burial

Communion, the juice is a symbol of blood

3. When I am hurting spiritually

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."
(vs. 16a)*

The principle of the circle of confession

Only confess as widely as it involves other people

Private sin- confession is between me and the Lord

Public sin-then I need to apologize to the whole church

Job *"A man needs his friend most when he is doubting God"*

II. What kind of a person can pray?

"Elijah was a man just like us ..." (vs.17a)

See 1 Kings 19:1-10; 18:42-45

III. How can I pray effectively?

1. I must ask

*"You do not have, because you do not ask God"
James 4:2*

2. I must have the right motive

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3

III. How can I pray effectively?

3. I must have a Clean life

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" James 5:16b

Ps. 66:18; "If I hide [regard, conceal] iniquity [sin] in my heart then the Lord will not hear."

Prov. 28:9; "He that turneth his back from the hearing of the law, even his prayers are an abomination."

Isa. 59:2 "Your sins have separated you between you. Your God has hid His face so He cannot hear."

III. How can I pray effectively?

4. I must ask in faith

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..." James 1:6

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you
through this message?

A suggested prayer to pray

Good Morning, Lord. It's *<Your Name>*

This is my situation.

This is how I am feeling at the moment.

This is how I need your help.

Lord, What should I do?

<Silence.>

A suggested prayer to pray

I am concerned about identify problem....

Because.....

What should I do?

< Silence. >

Lord, guide me in...

Thanks, Lord for listening.

I am counting on you.