

Pray For One Another

James 5:13-20

August 13, 2023 | Ken Lewis, Legacy Pastor

Big Idea: We are called to pray for one another.

1 Samuel 12:23 | Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

Pray for one another because...

I. Prayer is a wonderful gospel privilege (1:5; 5:13-15)

1. Prayer is a privilege of grace that grants bold and intimate access to our heavenly Father (1:5).

Ephesians 3:11-12 | 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

2. Prayer is talking to the Father through the mediation of the Son in the power of the Spirit.

- a. A great price was paid for us to have access to God.

Hebrews 10:19-22 | 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- b. We are not just allowed to pray, we are chosen to pray.

Ephesians 1:4 | He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

Indeed, the gospel itself serves as the sweetest of invitation to pray; and preaching it to myself each day nurtures within me a mighty impulse to come “before [God] in love” and do the praying that I was elected to do.

– **Milton Vincent** – *Gospel Primer*

3. It is a gracious provision of God for life in a fallen world (5:13-14).

Hebrews 4:16 | Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

II. Prayer is an expression of love (5:16ab)

“Spiritual love will speak to Christ about a brother more than to a brother about Christ. It knows that the most direct way to others is always through prayer to Christ and that love of others is wholly dependent upon the truth in Christ.”

– **Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Life Together**

1. Intercessory prayer reflects God’s own character of outgoing love and mercy.

2. We are commanded to intercede for one another.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 | 1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications (petition, request), prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

3. Intercessory prayer is taking the needs of others to the throne of grace.

Ephesians 3:14-15 | 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

a. To be faithful and fruitful we need others to intercede for us.

i. Example of Jesus – He asked for prayer (Matt. 26:38, 40-41), He prayed for the disciples (John 17:9-10)

ii. Example of Paul – He asked for prayer (Eph. 6:17-20; Col. 4:2-4; 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1), He prayed for the churches (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-14).

Romans 15:30-33 | 30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by God’s will I may come to you

with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

b. Biblical principles for effect intercessory prayer:

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| (1) Compassionately | (4) Fervently |
| (2) Regularly | (5) Sacrificially |
| (3) Specifically | (6) Biblically |

* Use Paul's prays as you pray for one another (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-14).

c. How to pray for one another (Colossians 1:9-14):

- i. Pray that they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will.
- ii. Pray that they would put into practice the truths they know.
- iii. Pray that they would bear fruit in every good work for God's glory.
- iv. Pray that they would increase in their intimate knowledge of God.
- v. Pray that they would be strengthened by God's grace for endurance and patience.
- vi. Pray that they will have a thankful and grateful heart.

III. Payer is effective (5:15-18)

1. What exactly is the prayer of faith?
 - a. It is governed by God's will (1 John 5:14)
 - b. It aligns with the person and work of Christ (John 14:13)
 - c. It is guided by God's Word (John 15:7)
 - d. It is accompanied with obedience (1 John 3:22)

2. The thrust of Elijah's example is not that he was an extraordinary man but he was like you and me.

3. Prayer is effective because its power is outside of us.

Is prayer powerful? Yes, definitely, but specifically because the One being prayed to is powerful. The one doing the praying is in fact by his praying demonstrating that he has no power in and of himself. That is functionally what prayer is—an expression of helplessness. If we were powerful, we wouldn't need to pray.

– Jared C. Wilson