

HAMMER IT HOME: *Live the Text and Do the Truth*

That's enough talking about prayer... Let's pray!

You may not feel comfortable praying in a group setting yet, and that's okay! You can pray along silently as others pray. But as you grow in your walk with Christ, praying with others in the family, the body of Christ, should become a **consistent** and **desired** activity.

*"...rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer...**"*

—Romans 12:12

HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: *Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly*

Paul instructs us to "let the word of Christ dwell within us richly." (Col. 3:16) May this Word of Christ find good soil in our hearts as we memorize and meditate upon it until our next LifeGroup gathering.

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—James 5:16



Sunday, July 22, 2018



Pray for One Another

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HEAR IT: *Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth*

THE CONTEXT: LIFE IN THE FAMILY (JAMES 5:7-20)

*"Therefore be patient, **brethren...** Do not complain, **brethren**, against one another,... As an example, **brethren**, of suffering and patience..."*

—James 5:7, 9, 10

*"They were **continually devoting themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and **to prayer.**"*

—Acts 2:42

1. THE _____ OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER: IT IS _____ !

*"Is anyone **among you** suffering? **Then he must pray.** Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? **Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him**, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord..." (v. 13-14)*

a. We are a _____.

b. We _____ and we live in a _____ world.

2. THE _____ OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER: IT IS _____ !

“...and **the prayer offered in faith** will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, **confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another** so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.**” (v. 15-16)

a. _____ and _____ are essential to the _____ of the body, both _____ and _____.

b. The proper response to _____ and _____ is supplication.

3. THE _____ OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER: IT IS _____ !

“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 earth for three years and six months. **Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.**” (v. 17-18)

—James 5:17-18

- We are to pray in _____ with the will of God as it relates to the _____ of the people of God.

“...He will yet deliver us, **you also joining in helping us through your prayers**, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for **the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.**”

—2 Corinthians 1:8-11

HASH IT OUT: Look into the Text and Develop the Truth

1. Our ultimate intercessor is Jesus:

“...who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, **who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**”

—Romans 8:34

“Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**”

—Hebrews 7:25

How is Jesus' intercession unique? ...and what impact should His ongoing intercession have in our lives?

2. Paul tells us that we have another Divine Intercessor. Jesus is our Intercessor in **heaven** (Romans 8:34, see above), the Spirit is our Intercessor in the **heart**:

“In the same way **the Spirit also helps our weakness**; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**”

—Romans 8:26, 27

Have you ever found yourself at a loss for how to pray? How does the Spirit's intercession both **help** and **protect** our prayers?

3. The passage we focused on in our teaching time (James 5:13-18) speaks to **our role** of intercession. The two qualifications that James identifies for effective intercession are **faith** and **righteousness**. Why are these so significant?
4. There was an occasion just prior to Israel's captivity when God told Jeremiah **NOT** to intercede for His people. What does this teach us about the limits of our intercession?

“As for you, **do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me**; for I do not hear you.”

—Jeremiah 7:16

5. We were reminded that there are **three** “one anothers” in this portion of Scripture. The first one is negative (“don't **complain** or **grumble** against one another”) and the second and third are positive (“**confess your sins** to one another and **pray for** one another”). Respond to the following statement:

“Most professing Christians do the first one quite **easily and frequently**, the second one quite **rarely and reluctantly**, and the third one quite **hastily and sporadically.**”

Do you agree? If so, why?

What can we do in our LifeGroups to discourage the first one and encourage the latter two?