

A REASON TO PRAY
"When You Can't Pick Yourself Up "
James 5:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. The **PATH** to growing to **SPIRITUAL MATURITY** goes through our **TRIALS!!!**
 - a) Is a hardship of faith, **a tool for spiritual growth**, designed by God to build endurance and Godly character.

 - b) Our Spiritual Growth is directly linked to our **DISCIPLINE** of PRAYER.

2. Here are some great bible Promises:
 - a) *Isaiah 54:17*
 - b) *Romans 8:31b*
 - 1) *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*
 - c) *Romans 8:38-39*

3. Vs 13
 - a) *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray."*

THREE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER

I. PRAYER MUST BE A PRIORITY - Prayer must be the first course of action to the believer

1. Vs 13
 - a) *"Is any among you suffering?"*
 - b) *"suffering"* - or afflicted. It means to suffer misfortune or hardship

2. Suffering can manifest itself in na variety of ways.
 - a) It can be **physical** - health issues
 - b) It can be **emotional** stress.

3. The **CONTEXT** here is **STRAIGHT!!!**
 - a) Vs 13
 - 1) *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray."*

A. THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

1. *Prayer is powerful!!!*
 - a) *Why? Because it takes us into the presence of Almighty God.*

2. When we suffer under a difficult trial, we will need GRACE.

a) We will need Grace because it is God who allows us to go through TRIALS, and TRIALS WILL REMAIN until God is finished with teaching what we need to learn.

3. *Hebrews 4:16*

4. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10* WOW!!!

5. Whatever trial of **AFFLICTION** you are going through!!! God's **GRACE** is **SUFFICIENT!!!**

6. *James 4:6*

a) *God gives greater grace* to those who *humble themselves*.

B. PRAYER AND PRAISE

1. Vs 13b

a) When God answers prayer and good times come, then **PRAISE THE LORD**

2. **PRAISE** brings us into God's **PRESENCE**.

a) *Acts 16:16-34*

3. **WOW!!!** When you seek God in days of **DARKNESS**, He gives you **SONGS** for the **LONG NIGHT**.

C. PRIORITIZE PRAYER

1. **Satan's goal is to keep you busy and distracted** so you have no time to pray, and you live life on your own.

2. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

II. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND PRAYER

A. A MINISTRY OF LEADERS

1. Vs 14

a) **"Is any among you sick?"**

b) **"sick"** - Gk = to be weak

1) Weak **Physically**

2) Weak **Spiritually**/in faith

3) Weak *Emotionally*

4) Weak *Financially*

2. Cf. Vs 7-8

a) Be patient in your trial.

B. MAKE THE CALL

1. Vs 14

a) *"Let him call the Elders of the Church"*

2. The Bible is clear that a hurting believer who needs the ministry of prayer is to call for the Elders of the Church.

3. There are times when a believer is so emotionally exhausted that they cannot pray effectively.

a) Vs 14

1) *"Let him call for the elders of the church"*

4. Vs 14

a) *"and let them pray over him..."*

b) *"anointing him with oil"*

1) Definition here - means "to rub or message"

5. *Luke 10:33-34*

6. Vs 14

a) *"in the name of the Lord"*

1) Simply means in the "authority of the Lord".

III. THE PROVISION OF PRAYER

A. THE RESTORATION

1. Vs 15

a) *"and the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick."*

1) "save" - restore or deliver FROM DISCOURAGEMENT.

2) "sick" - weary or wore out

2. The provision here is that the "Prayer of Faith" will restore the one who is weak or weary.

a) This restoration comes with the divine refreshment and encouragement provided by those ministering in the Lord's name.

3. Vs 15

a) "*and the Lord will raise him up*"

1) May be physical or emotionally.

B. THE PRAYER OF FAITH

1. Vs 15

a) So what exactly is the "Prayer of Faith?"

2. 1 John 5:14

3. The prayer of faith is confident in God's will.

a) **FACT:** *It is not God's will for you to be miserable in the midst of your trials.*

b) James 1:2-3

4. Vs 15

a) "*If he has committed sins*"

1) "If" - lets us know that all sickness is not the result of sin.

IV. THE FRUIT OF PRAYER

A. PRAY FOR RESULTS

1. Vs 16

a) "*effectual*" - means energy

b) "*righteous*" - means their sin account is cleared.

2. Now we move beyond leadership to spiritual saints in the church.

3. John 9:31

B. THE PRAYER OF ELIJAH

1. Vs 17-18

a) **Elijah was not SUPERMAN** - he was an ordinary man who loved God.

2. How Elijah Prayed with energy and power

a) Elijah prayed **Biblically**

b) Elijah prayed **Humbly**

c) Elijah prayed **Persistently**

d) Elijah prayed **Expectantly**

e) Elijah prayed **Powerfully**