

Day 13



Read: James 5:13-20

James exhorts believers to confess their sins to one another and pray for each other. True confession of sins includes an acknowledgment of disobedience to God and repentance, turning from your sin to obedience to God. Although confession to God is the most necessary form of confession, any genuine repentance will be mirrored in relationships with other Christians. Believers should not only confess their sins to those whom they have wronged; they should also confess their “secret sins” (pride, lust, resentment, greed, etc). Such confession, James tells us, will result in spiritual, if not physical, healing. James then tells us that those who walk closely with the Lord can expect to see a powerful response to their prayers. The Old Testament prophet Elijah’s intercession for rain (1 Kings 17:1; 18:41–46) serves as an example of fervent and effective prayer. Elijah is presented as an example of a righteous man who prayed effectively. Contrary to popular opinion at the time, and possibly now, James acknowledges that Elijah “was a man with a nature like ours”, and yet through his prayer the Lord did mighty things. All in all, it is the sovereign God, and no one else, who will determine the answers to prayers.

Leaning in to God requires us to understand that God hears our prayers and answers them because He is righteous, powerful, and great, not because we are something significant. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, full of sin, weakness, and failings yet through his zealous and devout prayer God answered. God did not answer because Elijah was righteous through himself, but he answered because Elijah was righteous through God. The same is true today for those who are followers and children of God. If we are followers and children of God, we are righteous through Jesus. God is calling us to

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lean in, have faith in God's righteousness that he gives to us, and pray fervently! Will you lean in to God, humbling yourself through a true understanding of God's righteousness and power, and then through your humility pray fervently?

PRAY

- **Adore:** Praise God that he is righteous, powerful, and great and that we are made righteous only through him.
- **Ask:** Ask God to humble your heart before him, so that we can be as Elijah, understanding God's great righteousness and power.
- **Act:** Just like Elijah did, we are called to pray fervently through a humble heart knowing God will answer because he is righteous, powerful and great. Pray fervently through your humility for God's will and glorification through all. Pray fervently through your humility for what God has laid on your heart.