



Jason Smith – Praying Church: “The Power of a Praying People”

James 5:16 – **“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”**

Introduction

Church, today we are going to talk about a subject that is at the very heart of Pentecostal life—prayer. James 5:16 reminds us that prayer is not a nice option; it’s a lifeline.

It’s the God-ordained way to move heaven’s resources into earth’s needs. It’s the way burdens are lifted, chains are broken, and lives are healed.

James doesn’t just say “pray”—he connects prayer to two key actions: **confession and community.**

And then he gives us an incredible promise: **the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

Today, I want to show you three truths from this verse that can transform your life:

1. The Humility of Confession
2. The Power of Intercession
3. The Authority of Righteous Prayer

1. **The Humility of Confession**

James begins: **“Confess your faults one to another.”**

Why does he start here? Because unconfessed sin is like a clog in the pipeline of your spiritual life. It stops the flow of God’s grace and power.

Confession brings freedom.

- Psalm 32:5 says, **“I acknowledged my sin to You, and You forgave the guilt of my sin.”**

- When we bring things into the light, the enemy loses his leverage.

Confession builds unity.

- Confession doesn’t mean telling everyone everything; it means being willing to walk humbly, make things right, and not pretend to be perfect.

Illustration: Think of a garden hose. When it’s kinked, water barely flows.

But when it’s straightened out, the water runs freely. Confession is the straightening of the hose—it removes the kink so God’s power can flow.

2. **The Power of Intercession**

James continues: **“Pray for one another that you may be healed.”**

This reminds us that Christianity was never meant to be a solo journey. Prayer is multiplied when we pray together.

- Matthew 18:19–20: **“If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done... for where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there.”**

Why intercession matters:

- When I pray for you, my faith strengthens your weakness.
- When you pray for me, your prayer lifts my burdens.
- Healing—emotional, physical, spiritual—often flows in the context of a praying community.

Illustration: A single coal removed from the fire soon grows cold, but coals together burn hot.

Prayer partners and church intercession keep the fire burning.

3. **The Authority of Righteous Prayer**

Finally, James declares: **“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”**

- “Righteous” doesn’t mean perfect. It means right standing with God through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- “Effectual” and “fervent” mean prayer that is earnest, consistent, and full of faith.

Example: James points to Elijah (verses 17–18). Elijah was a man just like us, yet he prayed, and it did not rain for three and a half years. Then he prayed again, and the heavens opened.

Application: Your prayers matter! Your prayers can change atmospheres, break addictions, heal sickness, save lost family members, and open doors.

The question is not, “Can God?” but “Will we pray fervently and believe?”

Closing Challenge

James 5:16 is not just an instruction; it's an invitation. God is calling us to be:

- Humble in confession—remove the barriers.
- Faithful in intercession—pray for others.
- Bold in righteousness—stand in the authority of Christ.

Call to action:

1. Is there something you need to confess today? Make it right.
2. Who can you pray for today? Don't just say "I'll pray"—do it.
3. Will you believe that your prayers are powerful because you are clothed in Christ's righteousness?