



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: When Weakness Calls for Prayer

Passage: James 5:14-16

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Most of us pray when we still feel strong, when the situation seems manageable, and the answer feels close. But there comes a time when our strength runs out, and the weight is too much to carry alone. In these moments, James reminds us that God never intended us to walk through weakness by ourselves. True maturity isn't shown by handling everything alone, but by knowing when to ask others to pray. Prayer isn't just personal; it is meant to be shared, and God often works most powerfully when we humbly seek help.

I. When Weakness Comes, Prayer Should Follow (Verse 14)

James does not shame weakness, rebuke it, or minimize it. He simply says, "Call for prayer."

Weakness is not a failure, it is a signal. A signal to pray, call for help, and to bring others into the burden.

Christian strength is not pretending you're fine, it's knowing where to turn when you're not.

II. God Uses Spiritual Leadership in Times of Need (Verse 14)

God has given the church shepherds to watch over souls, pray with wisdom, handle Scripture rightly and care for people in moments of vulnerability.

Calling the elders is an act of trust.



WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

The sick person initiates the call because prayer cannot be forced, help cannot be imposed, and healing begins with humility.

III. Healing Comes From the Lord, Not the Method (Verse 15)

God may heal immediately, gradually, through medicine, through endurance, or ultimately in glory. But healing always belongs to Him.

Prayer is not about controlling God; it is about submitting to God, trusting His wisdom, and resting in His care.

IV. God Sometimes Uses Weakness to Reveal the Heart (Verse 15)

God uses weakness to bring hidden things to the surface. Not to crush us, but to restore us.

God offers forgiveness when confession is needed, grace when repentance is required, and mercy when restoration is necessary.

Weakness becomes a doorway, not to shame, but to healing.

V. Healing Flourishes Where Honesty and Prayer Live (Verse 16)

James is calling for honesty among believers and prayer that is personal, not theoretical.

Confessing your faults means refusing to hide behind polite smiles and spiritual clichés while carrying private burdens.

When believers stop being honest with one another, fellowship becomes shallow, prayer becomes generic, and healing stalls.

Conclusion: Tonight's message reminds us of a simple but powerful truth. You were never meant to struggle alone. You were never meant to suffer silently. You were never meant to carry burdens by yourself when God has given you prayer and a church family to help bear



WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Prayer Focus for Tonight:

1. Prayer for Humility When We're Struggling

"Lord, help me stop acting like I'm fine when I'm not."

Bring your tiredness, sickness, stress, or discouragement to God honestly.

Ask God for help instead of trying to carry it alone.

2. Prayer for God's Healing on the Sick and Afflicted in Our Church

"Lord, You know what's broken, please work in Your way and Your time."

3. Prayer for Honest and Caring Relationships

"Lord, help us be real with each other and gentle with one another."

Ask God to make this a church where people can speak honestly, listen patiently, and pray sincerely for one another.

4. Prayer for Faithfulness in Praying for Others

"Lord, help me not just say I'll pray, but actually pray."

Bring specific people before the Lord tonight.

Ask God to help you follow through, not forget.