

JAMES
"Prayer"
November 22, 2015

Some prayers are more habit-forming than heart-engaging.

"Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops."

James 5:13-18 (NLT)

Prayer is the greatest privilege of the Christian life,
and the greatest power in the Christian life.

Times when we really need to pray:

1. In the hard times (v. 13a – "Are any of you suffering hardships?")
2. In the good times (v. 13b – "Are any of you happy?")
3. When we need physical help (v. 14 – "Are any of you sick?")

Teachings about prayer and healing:

- The professional healer school of thought.
- The "Name it - Claim it" school of thought.

"Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."

1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)

- The "Not for today" school of thought.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)

- “Prayer works” school of thought.

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God.”

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NIV)

“Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.”

James 5:14-15 (NLT)

4. When we need spiritual help (v. 16 – *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other”*)

Measuring prayer results:

- Progress – 1 Corinthians 16:9
- Presence – Luke 22:43; Acts 27:23,24
- Promises – 2 Corinthians 12:9
 - He will never leave you (Matthew 28:20)
 - He will always be for you (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - He constantly hears from you (Psalm 66:19; 1 John 5:14)

“Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.”

James 5:17-18 (NLT)

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things through prayer.