

James: Faith at Work

"Prayer: A Prescription for Healing"

James 5:13-18

Sunday, October 25th, 2026

~ *A Quote from a Sermon back in January..*

"Prayer is not an exercise where we bend God's will and make it fit our will. Too many people have the notion that prayer is talking God into doing something that He ordinarily would not want to do. This is not true. Prayer is seeking the will of God and following it."

- Adrian Rogers (*What Every Christian Ought to Know*)

~ Hebrews 4:16 *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

~ As a Christian living this life, knowing God has given you gifts (tools) to get you through this life.. what is one of those things you would say you are most grateful for? I'd say: Faith, the Bible, Hope, & _____

I. Prayers for Yourself from _____ (vs. 13)

~ Notice the second part of vs. 13 - "***For the one who is suffering, let him pray. Is anyone cheerful, let him sing praise.***"

It is better if we understand the call to sing praise here as a call to prayer. Regardless of your situations, always pray and thank the Lord!

> Jonathan Parnell once said "Prayer is effective not because of great men who pray, but because of a great God who graciously hears his people."

II. Prayers for the Sick from the _____ (vs. 14)

~ The subheading for this section: "*Patience in Suffering*" ... how do we get that patience? The answer is right here in vs. 13-18.

~ Note Acts 28:8 - Paul went and prayed for Publius' father and he was *healed (examples of gifts of healing)*. Yet, this still doesn't mean elders/pastors have special prayer power!

* We (pastors) are not special people. Our calling is *special and unique*.

> This passage, I think refutes the idea of self-proclaimed powers of healing. Two reasons the Bible commends elders to pray for the flock: **a)** God gave gifts of healing to his church and they are distributed among various people in the church. **b)** Elders are shepherds... who tend to their sheep. (Acts 20:28)

III. Prayers for _____ from You (vs. 15-16)

~ Note vs. 16 - "*confess your sins and pray....*" The church needs more transparency and accountability!

~ James seems to link confession and prayer as a way to receive healing. ***Remember*** - confession is not weakness!

"The believers are to intercede for one another, both in the greatest matter of ministry, that confession that appropriates forgiveness, and also a confession that heals sickness. The prayer of faith is not just a prerogative of the elders, but it is to be a shared responsibility among the members of the church."

- Kurt Richardson

IV. Prayers of _____ (vs. 17-18)

~ Elijah was a "man of like nature with ourselves?" The big idea here is not extraordinary men who prayed extraordinary prayers. The effects their prayers had came from an extraordinary God!

> ***The Common Denominator*** = Not who is praying, or how they pray, or what they pray. Instead, it is who the prayers are _____ to.