

SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE POWER OF
PRAYING FOR
OTHERS

Pastor Keith Nix

THE LIFT CHURCH

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THE TEXT

JAMES 5:16

"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."

JAMES 5:16 (NLT)

One of the most powerful ways to position ourselves for God's work in our own lives is to pray sincerely for God to work in the lives of others. Prayer calls us beyond ourselves — to carry people, forgive people, and believe God for their healing and breakthrough.

The instruction is not simply "pray for yourself." It is "pray for each other." Sometimes the greatest breakthrough in a person's world begins in somebody else's prayer closet.

POINT ONE

HEALING BEGAN WITH INTERCESSION

The first explicit mention of healing in Scripture happens when Abraham prays for someone else: "Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech" (Gen. 20:17). Abraham was still waiting on his own promise — a son with Sarah — when he prayed for another household's healing.

Only after that prayer does Genesis 21 record Sarah's conception. **Do not allow your own unanswered prayer to keep you from praying for someone else's answer.**

Perhaps you're waiting for healing — pray for the sick. Waiting for a prodigal to return — pray for someone else's. The enemy wants pain to make us self-focused; God can use pain to make us compassionate intercessors.

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**SOMETIMES THE GREATEST BREAKTHROUGH IN YOUR
WORLD BEGINS **IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S PRAYER CLOSET.****

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POINT TWO

JOB'S TURNAROUND CAME THROUGH PRAYER

Job had lost everything. His friends became "miserable comforters," wrongly implying his suffering was hidden sin. Yet God told those same friends to bring offerings and asked Job to pray for them — "for I will accept him" (Job 42:8).

"And the Lord restored Job's losses **when he prayed for his friends**. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10).

Job could have demanded an apology or withdrawn into pain. Instead, he prayed — and God began to turn the story. Sometimes the door to your next season is on the other side of a prayer you don't feel like praying.

SPECIFIC PRAYER, PRAYING CHURCH

PRAY SPECIFICALLY

Elijah was human like us, "yet when he prayed earnestly... none fell for three and a half years" (James 5:17). Go beyond "Lord, bless them" — pray for healing in their body, peace in their mind, salvation in their family, restoration in their marriage. A text can become ministry: "I'm praying Isaiah 41:10 over you today."

A PRAYING CHURCH BECOMES A HEALING CHURCH

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed" (James 5:16). People can be honest without condemnation, confess without shame, receive prayer without judgment. We pray before we criticize. We carry burdens instead of spreading them.

CLOSING REFLECTION

WHO NEEDS YOUR PRAYER?

Intercession requires forgiveness. Abraham prayed for Abimelech after being wronged; Job prayed for friends who had wounded him. Praying for someone doesn't excuse their sin — it releases them to God's justice, mercy, and conviction, and frees your own heart to move forward.

- 1 Release offense:** "Lord, I forgive those who have hurt me. Heal my heart and help me pray with a clean heart."
- 2 Receive prayer:** "Lord, remove shame, pride, and isolation. Help me receive care from the body of Christ."
- 3 Become an intercessor:** "Lord, put someone on my heart. Make me faithful to stand in the gap until Your will is done."