

*Earnest
Prayer*

GENUINE FAITH | WEEK 6

Genuine Faith Prays

- James' goal throughout this letter is the practical outworking of genuine faith

The Supreme Act of Faith is
PRAYER

- **PRAYER:** The way I experience the reality of a relationship with God

The Power of Prayer

“13 Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. 14 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 15 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.

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. 17 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! 18 Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.”

JAMES 5:13-18

Physical Healing

- Physical healing is a fact in the New Testament, as certain as spiritual healing
- Physical healing does not come down to a “faith formula.” Not everyone in the New Testament experienced healing (Paul 2 Cor. 12:7–9, Trophimus 2 Tim. 4:20, Epaphroditus Phil. 2:27)

Physical Healing

- Physical healing is a sign of the in-breaking of God's Kingdom

“It's really an issue of the Kingdom not yet being fully present. Hence we don't see healing, or other signs of the Kingdom, manifest 100% of the time because the rule of the King is not 100% realized. The world, the flesh, and the devil mess it up. But that doesn't mean I don't continue to work and pray to improve the percentage of Kingdom in-breaking.”

– Sam Metcalf, Engaging the Supernatural

- Physical healing is an ongoing sign of God's love and care for believers, often resulting in people coming to faith

The Priority of Prayer

- “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16b
 - A. Pray earnestly
 - B. Live righteously
 - C. Watch God work!
- Gratitude puts your heart and mind in a posture of belief

The Tensions of Prayer

- What makes a father, “good”?
 - “...we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?” Hebrews 12:9
- Earnest prayer doesn’t feel like it always produces “wonderful results”
- Massive humility — Infinite God and Finite “us”
 - The Book of Job

The Focus of Prayer

- Always come back to who you know God to be
 1. The Goodness of God means we approach Him with childlike confidence
 - A good dad gives good gifts
 - We “ask, seek, knock” in a persistent way (Matthew 7:7-11)
 2. We pray in humility, in faith, in hope!
 - “Fear of disappointment should never keep us from hope. Disappointment is not the worst thing anyone could ever go through. Hopelessness is much worse.”

The Outcomes of Prayer

- Primary results of prayer...
 1. Miraculous / Prompt
 2. Delayed / Fingerprints
 3. Shapes and Sanctifies

So Pray!

The Supreme Act of Faith is
PRAYER

1. BEGIN

- The hardest part of any new endeavor is going from 0 to 1

2. PLAN

- Morning routine, evening routine, midday routine, once a week solitude, journaling, aloud in the car, etc.

3. SHARE

- Involve others in the journey: Pray with spouse on knees, group of friends, life group, etc.