

Powerful and Effective Prayer
James 5:13-18

James speaks about prayer through the authority of the Holy Spirit as well as the authority that comes through a lifetime of personal experience.

Prayer is for people who want to accomplish both small and great things for God.

When should we pray?

1 We should pray when we are in trouble.

2 We should pray when we are happy.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.
(James 5:13 NIV)

Singing is a natural and expected response to what God has done for us.

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20 NIV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16 NIV)

3 We should “always” pray.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

pray continually; (1Thessalonians 5:17 NIV)

Prayer is a divine prescription from the great physician.

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14-15 NIV)

It's this sick person's responsibility to call the elders for prayer.

It's the elders' responsibility to pray for and anoint the sick who ask for prayer.

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14-15 NIV)

There is power in mutual confession and prayer.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. (James 5:16-18 NIV)

The great value of confession:

1. It humbles
2. It restores
3. It creates community
4. It creates accountability
5. It brings mutual conviction
6. It brings mutual prayer and healing