

March 4, 2018

MOVE - Part 6

"Weakness in Prayer"

James 5:13-18

Purpose: Hearers will grasp the benefit to admitting our weaknesses in prayer & with one another. Hearers will pray for themselves, give thanks to God, confess sins & pray for one another.

INTRO: Dr. John DeVries, in his book "Why Pray?" spoke of his 6 year-old grandson Andrew – who spent a week on the farm of his other set of grandparents, Nanna & Poppa.

- Andrew spent time with Nanna & Poppa in the Barn & on the Tractor.
- At the end of the Week, They told Andrew what a big help he was; questioned how they would get along without him & asked him to come back as soon as he could.
- Andrew took Nanna & Poppa quite seriously.
- When he returned to his Sunday School class, he earnestly requested prayer for Nanna & Poppa who were in big trouble running the farm without him.

Dr. DeVries draws parallels between Andrew's perspective of his grandparents & how we view our relationship with God.

Q. Is God really in need of our help & in “big trouble” without us?

Or is He our Almighty Loving Father, who enjoys having us participate with Him?

This Week, we conclude the MOVE Series & our study of the Book of James.

Q. What does James teach us about Prayer that we can apply in our own lives?

Let's focus our attention on . . . .

### **James 5:13-16**

*Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.*

*Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.*

*<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;*

*<sup>15</sup> and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.*

*<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.*

*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

T.S - It is said that the biggest lesson humans learn from history is that . . . .  
Humans don't learn from history.

One of the greatest weaknesses of Prayer is admitting our weakness in Prayer.

Pride & self-sufficiency can stifle the realization of how utterly dependent we are upon God.

It is the Awareness of our weaknesses that **causes** us to pray,  
Yet, it is Acknowledgement of our weakness that brings **answers** to our prayer.

A truth we already learned in James Chapter 4:6 is that  
**"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."**

T.S. The Good News is that when we approach God with humility, He welcomes us!

The first part of James 5:13 says, ***Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.***

1. When I experience suffering of any kind, I am to pray.  
Whatever the **issues** are, God calls us into His **presence**.

- This is reaffirmed in

### **Psalm 62:8**

*Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.*

- God calls us to trust Him; to pour out everything before Him (good, bad, whatever; He cares).

He is our Fortress & a safe place to **bear our soul** without fear.

Coming into God's Presence is a delightful privilege! King David proclaimed in . . .

### **Psalm 16**

*"You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."*

- God offers us Life, Joy; & Pleasures forever! There is no reason not to pray!

T.S. - The 2nd Part of James 5:13 says ***"Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises."***

- The words "Sing Praises" in the original Language of Greek mean to strike an instrument such as a Harp or Tambourine while Singing.

- Today's Culture, that would translate to the Guitar & Drums, or maybe a Banjo.

Q. Could **Blue Grass** be the music of Heaven?

2. When I have reason to be **glad**, I am to sing **praises**.

Because Thanksgiving is isn't just for **holidays**, it is a **lifestyle**.

Look at a couple Verses from Psalm 100.

### **Psalm 100**

*Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness;  
Come before Him with joyful singing.*

*<sup>4</sup> Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.  
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*

-this not an isolated passage, but throughout the entire Bible, roughly 400 times  
We are exhorted to give praise & thanks to God!

ILL: I have a Gentle mother who was lenient of much, yet was firm about Thank-You's!  
- I could come home from School & get away with leaving my coat on the coach.

Yet, when it came to writing Thank-you Notes, there was no negotiating.  
- My wife Jully & I have impressed this value on our Children & we are not alone.

Our niece Kelly recently celebrated her 21st birthday & we sent a gift to her.

Look what we received in the Mail a couple weeks ago [HOLD & READ Note]

- It is not just a nice idea,

Thanksgiving has Purpose: It acknowledges the source, attributes value & expresses gratitude!

T.S. Thanksgiving honors God & protects us from misplaced pride.

**Romans 1:21** – Gives warning to us.

*For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or **give thanks**,  
but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

Thanksgiving's Protection:

It prevents us from losing our focus and straying from our Shepherd.

T.S. - We are to pray when we suffer, sing praises when we are cheerful &

**3.** When we are weak; we are to call others to pray for us.  
Not only for physical sickness, but all types of frailties.

James 4:14 reads . . .

***14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;***

The Word translated **Sick** is actually more commonly translated "Weak" &

Has wider application than only physical infirmity.

- It is also used to indicate spiritual, moral & emotional Weakness.

The Word used for **Anoint** in this verse is not the Ceremonial Anointing that we often associate with prayer for the Physically Sick.

- It is a Therapeutic term that means to rub & massage Oil for someone who is Weary & needs refreshment.

The following Verse gives indication of a spiritual connection with  
the malady the person is experiencing.

***15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.***

***16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another so that you may be healed.***

***The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.***

Jesus and the Early Church set the example.

Jesus was not too proud to admit human weakness & ask for Prayer.

**Matthew 26:36-38**

***36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples,  
"Sit here while I go over there and pray."***

***37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.***

***38 Then He \*said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."***

- He didn't admit His weakness to everyone & not even all His Disciples.
  - o Yet, He had the Small Group of Three, Peter, James & John that He shared all.

**Acts 2:42-47**

*<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*<sup>46</sup> Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,  
they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,*

*<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people.*

*And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

MOVE has called us together to practice the same actions of the Early Church.

God did phenomenal **works** in the midst of Believers who **persevered** in faith.

What will God do **in our** midst when we persevere in the same **actions** of faith.?

**Ephesians 3:20-21 (NASB)**

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

**Week 6 Memory Verse** - Let's Say it together with Address before & after. [Lead Audience]

**James 5:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**

**Psalm 139:23-24 (NASB)**

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
See if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.