

James 5:13–18 (ESV)

Together we Pray

You will find 3 exhortations to pray - embracing the prayer life of the entire church.

- Individual believers are called to pray in verse 13,
- the elders in verses 14–15,
- and the congregation in verse 16.

1. Individual believers are called to pray

Vs 13 *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.*

Privately

With Christ in the School of Prayer, by Andrew Murray. 31 chapters or lessons on prayer from the NT, 142 pages, 99 cents on kindle available on audio.

https://www.amazon.com/Christ-School-Prayer-Andrew-Murray-ebook/dp/B003E7FT0C/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1528019370&sr=8-1&keywords=With+Christ+in+the+School+of+Prayer

Corporately

Colossians 3:16 (ESV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV) *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Regardless of what's going on in your life, the invitation is to come to Christ, commune with Christ.

2. The elders are called to pray.

Vs 14 *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

Sick here is translated: astheneo (ahs-the-NEY-o)

19 times it is translated “sick” (mostly in the gospels –all but three)

14 times it is directly translated “weakness” or connotes spiritual weakness.

(2 Cor 12:10 ESV) *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

The wounded, the weak, the suffering, the exhausted, the broken sheep are to go to their shepherds for prayer.

****Elder Prayer Service will be June 10 at 9:20 am.****

We pray in the name of the Lord, not in the name of the oil. It is God who heals, not the oil.

Vs 15 *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

Not the faith of the sick person but the faith of those praying.

Save or restore is SOZO in Gk.

Matthew 8:23–27 (ESV) *And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, “**Save** us, Lord; we are perishing.” 26 And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”*

3. The whole congregation is called to pray.

Vs 16 *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

(Prov 28:13 ESV) *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

Psalms 32:1–4 (ESV) *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah*

- The only way to kill darkness is to drag it into the light. You will not win on your own
- Two ways God disciplines you. Either he takes away your idols or he give them to you.

The prayer of a righteous man has great power. Who is the righteous? The ones who are joyfully obeying vs 13.

Vs 17 *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

Elijah, by the Word of God, prayed that it would not rain for 3 years. Then he went away where miraculous stuff happened. (birds, food, raised the dead, called fire from heaven – then prayed for rain).

Elijah's prayer put a dent in the universe – but he was nothing special. He was like us.

1 Kings 19:4 (ESV) *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."*

Elijah is like us in that we can see God perform miracle after miracle and then all of a sudden since there are no more miracles, there is no more strength

Elijah was saying that he was alone. That's why he was ready to die. Doing great things for God in isolation is still depressing. Doing great things for God with God's people is powerful.

When you are alone, even your far away enemies feel close enough to smother you.

1 Kings 19:13–18 (ESV) *And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 15 And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. 17 And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

God's answer to Elijah was not in the extraordinary fire from Heaven, the wind that tore up mountains, or the quake that split the earth, but in the power that comes from communion with God's people.

The real need of the human soul is not found in signs and wonders, we'd only get used to that and want more. The real need of the human soul is togetherness in relationship with God's people.