

Faith is living in continual dependence on God.

A life of faith prays in all circumstances.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is 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. James 5:13-14

- Pray in suffering.
- Praise when cheerful.
- Pray in sickness.

A life of faith walks in humility and confession.

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. ¹⁶Therefore, 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. James 5:15-16

- Genuine confession leads to genuine change.

A life of faith perseveres through challenges.

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. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. James 5:17-18

Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." 1 Kings 18:37

A life of faith pursues people.

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20

Let's Talk About It

James closes his letter by reminding us that faith is a life of continual dependence on God. No matter what season we're in, we're invited to bring our needs to Him in prayer and humbly ask for the prayers of others. James challenges us to walk in honesty, knowing that genuine confession leads to genuine change. Using the example of Elijah, he encourages us to pray with perseverance, trusting that God works powerfully through ordinary people who fervently pray to Him in faith. Finally, he reminds us that a life of faith doesn't just focus on itself—it helps others find their way back to God.

James 5:13-20; Acts 16:23-25; 1 Kings 17:1; 18:35-38, 45

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read James 5:13-16. James tells us to pray in suffering, praise in good times, and seek prayer from others in sickness. Which of these comes most naturally to you? Which is most difficult? Why?
- How have you experienced healing, freedom, or growth through being honest with God and others? Why are we so often tempted to hide our needs or our sin or make excuses for them instead of embracing genuine confession that would lead to genuine change?
- Read James 5:17-18 and 1 Kings 18:35-38. Elijah was a man "with a nature like ours," yet God worked powerfully through his prayers. What encourages or challenges you about that? Is there an area of your life where you've stopped praying because you've become discouraged or lost hope?
- If God answered every prayer you've prayed this week, how many people would be impacted besides you? James ends his letter encouraging us to help those who have wandered from the truth. Who has God placed in your life that may need encouragement, prayer, or a loving invitation back toward Him?

Take a Step

What is one step of faith God may be inviting you to take this week: asking for prayer, confessing something you've been hiding, persevering in prayer for a need, or intentionally reaching out to someone who is drifting from God?

Here's My Prayer

Father, thank You for inviting me to walk closely with You. Help me to bring every part of my life to You in prayer, to be honest about my struggles, and to trust You in every season. Give me a heart that perseveres in faith and cares for the people You've placed around me. In Jesus' name, amen.