

Faith That Works
“Prayerful Till He Comes”
James 5:12-20

Introduction- If ever a man was qualified to speak on the subject of prayer, it was James. Perhaps you have a hard time identifying with old camel knees; and find yourself more like Peter, who found himself sleeping in the garden when he should have been praying. Even some of the greatest saints admit they fall short when it comes to prayer. Jesus taught in Luke 18:1, “*that men ought always to pray, and not to faint...*”

“When the Son of Man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8. Remember James has just exhorted us to patience (5:7) in light of the cruel oppression and opposition from the rich and powerful, unbelieving world he reminded them that the Lord was coming (vs. 8). He called on them to be prayerful till the Lord returns. One of the marks of a mature Christian is they are prayerful in all the circumstances of life. Seven times in nine verses, Jesus mentions prayer.

Why should we pray?

I. In Times of Suffering (vv. 12-13a).

1. Don’t resort to swearing (vs. 12).

2. Do pray (vs. 13a). “Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray.”

Afflicted, it’s any kind of trouble. It’s to suffer misfortune, to have hard experiences.

II. In Times of Joy (vs. 13b).

Sing Psalms, literally to touch or strike a chord. Eph. 5:18-19.

Ps. 34:1, “I will bless the Lord at all times...”

So note, in good times and bad times it works both ways.

III. In Times of Sickness (vv. 14-16).

A. The sick person should call (vs. 14).

B. Who they call? “The elders of the church” (vs. 14).

C. What do they do? “Let them pray over Him.”

D. How should they pray? “In faith” (vs. 15).

E. The Promise (vs. 15). Does God always heal? No! I John 5:14- “According to His will.”

F. If sins (vv. 15-16)

The elements of true prayer:

1. To God the Father.
2. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. In the power of the Holy Spirit.

IV. In Times of National Apostasy (vv. 17-18)

Elijah was just like us.

The power of prayer:

- Believing prayer (vs. 17)
- Persisted prayer (vs. 18)
- It was answered prayer (vs. 18)

See I Kings 18:41-46

V. In Times of Backsliding, vv. 19-20

1. Pray for them!
2. Go to them. (Gal. 6:1) In love and humility.

Do you have a faith that works?

- 1. Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?**
- 2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?**
- 3. Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?**
- 4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?**
- 5. Am I able to control my tongue?**

- 6. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?**
- 7. Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?**
- 8. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?**
- 9. Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in paying my bills?**
- 10. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?**
- 11. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?**
- 12. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?**