

Pure Religion
The Prayer of Faith – James 5:13-20
May 27, 2018

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
-James 5:16

I.A CALL TO ACTION

- To each issue that James raises there is an action to counter that issue:
 - *Suffering? → Pray
 - *Cheerful? → Sing praise
 - *Sick? → Call for the elders
 - *Sin? → Confess & pray for others
 - *Apostasy? → Bring the sinner back
- Neither suffering nor ease should leave us without a response in our Christian walk (Ps. 16:5-6; 119:71-72; 147:1; Phil. 1:29; 4:4-7).

II.THE PRAYER OF FAITH

- The prayer of faith is for the ongoing ministry of the church (elders), not just the apostolic ministry (vs. 16; Acts 13:3; Gal. 6:1-2).
- The prayer of faith has faith at its foundation. Healing, both physical and spiritual, come via the will of God, not the will of humans (Acts 9:34; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; 2 Tim. 4:20).
- Confession is part of the healing process (vs. 16).
- Prayer works, the prophet Elijah is our example. He had “a nature like ours.” (1 Kings 17-19).

III.RESCUING THE WAYWARD

- Waywardness from Christ and his gospel leads to spiritual death (vs. 19; Luke 9:62; Heb. 3:12; 10:26-31; 1 John 2:19).
- It is a great ministry to bring wandering souls back “into the fold” (Luke 15:4-7, 8-10, 11-32).

KNOW: Confession, healing, salvation: All are part of the same package that has prayer at its foundation.

DO: Pray, believe, confess, reach out to others. Be people of action.

Recommended Reading:

The Power of Prayer in the Believer's Life by C.H. Spurgeon
(LifePoint Library #248.32 SPU)
Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God by Tim Keller
(LifePoint Library #248.32 KEL)
Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 5:13-20

1. What is James's overall emphasis in this passage?
2. If we have faith, will every prayer lead to physical healing? Why? What is of utmost importance in life and prayer?
3. Do you confess your sins to any other human? Why or why not?
4. How could James say that the prophet Elijah was a human with a “nature like ours”?
5. Why did God honor Elijah's prayer? (see 1 Kings 17:1 to see whose idea the 3+ years of drought was).
6. How do we bring back a sinner from his/her error?
7. What stands out to you in our study of James? What did you learn? How will you apply what you have learned?