

Prayer – Our First Choice, Not Last Resort

James 5:13-20



Pray Without Ceasing

- ◆ **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** - 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- ◆ **Ephesians 6:18** - 18 ...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

When Should One Pray?

When One is Suffering or in Trouble

◆ **James 5:13(a)** - 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

When One is Suffering or in Trouble

◆ **Psalm 50:15** - 15 ...and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

When One is Cheerful or Happy

◆ **James 5:13(b)** - Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Give Thanks to the Lord – Sing Praises to Him

◆ **Psalm 105:1-2** - Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

When One is Sick

◆ **James 5:14-15(a)** - 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. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

Not My Will – But God's Will

◆ **Luke 22:42** - “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

When We Sin

◆ **James 5:15(b)** - And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

The Importance of Confession

- ◆ **James 5:16(a)** - 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The Importance of Confession

◆ **Proverbs 28:13** - 13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Prayer of a Righteous Person

- ◆ **James 5:16(b)** - The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

The Example of Elijah

- ◆ **James 5:17-18** – 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.

Don't Forget the Wanderers

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

Pray for the Lost

- ◆ **1 John 5:16** - 16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life.