



**The Importance of Prayer
(James 5:13-20)**

True Faith Leads to Action

(James 2:18,26)

- ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. . . .
- ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Prayer is an Action: God Calls Us to Pray

- And [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)
- “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
(Galatians 6:2)
- “The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:5b-7)

Pray According to God's Will

- ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)
- You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:2b-3)

Pray in God's Will through the Holy Spirit

- ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18)
- 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. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19)

Communal Prayer is Powerful (Matthew 18:20)

- ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Today's Communal Prayer Process

- Brainstorm a list of prayers. (There is room on back of bulletin; there are also prompts inside the bulletin.)
- Select one or two prayers to write on your prayer sheet ("From my heart to God's Prayer Request")
- Decide if you will read your prayer yourself or hand it to someone else to read aloud. (You may also keep your prayer unread if you feel it is too personal to share.)
- As the microphone comes around, read your prayer request aloud or hand the mic to the next person.

James 5:13-14

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

James 5:15-16a

- **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.
- **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

James 5:16b-18

- The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.^[a]
- **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.
- James 5:16 *Or The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power*
- See 1 Kings 18 for the story of Elijah

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.

Prayer Prompts Inside Today's Bulletin

- **“ACTS”**: **Some Types of Prayer**
- **A**doration (for the greatness and goodness of God)
- **C**onfession (of our failings and sinfulness)
- **T**hanksgiving (for the many blessings we receive)
- **S**upplication (intercede for those in need)

- **Some Brainstorming Prompts:**
- Pray for yourself and pray for others
- Pray for the sick and pray for the healthy.
- Pray for those who have lost a loved one and for those healed
- Give thanks for the examples of others who live/have lived for the Lord
- etc., etc. etc.

Let Us Pray

