

## Title: Prayer Potential

Passage: James 5:13-16

- **<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**
  - James ends his book - book about being a doer not just a hearer, living out your faith IN THE MIDST of persecution - on prayer
  - Prayer holds everything together - THAT IMPORTANT
  - None of this matters if you don't talk to God
  - **You know how important prayer is.**
    - Let's learn a little bit more
  
- **<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.**
  - **Truth - Take everything to God**
    - Bad times, Good times, times you cannot control
      - First response is always to God
      - What is your first response? Reaction? Social, people?
      - Go to HIM first, make a habit
    - Also - prayer isn't just talking to God. I can be through song, through scripture - it's communicating with God
  - **Truth - Pray in the POWER of Jesus name**
    - End prayers
    - Romans 8:34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
  
- **<sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.**
  - **Truth - How you pray matters**
    - Says the prayer in FAITH is the one that makes them well
    - Take faith of a mustard seed - Matthew 17:20
    - **Do you pray faith prayers?**
  - **Truth - The response is up to God, not you.**
    - **the Lord will raise them up.**
    - Often - we want to raise
    - Lord WILL, doesn't say now, in his timing
    - Could be physical or spiritual

- Must ask - And is it a prayer of faith???
- **<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**
  - **Truth - The position of your heart determines the potential of your prayer.**
    - Powerful - Can be translated strong or energized.
    - If James statement is true, prayer of a sinful person is weak and ineffective.
      - Saying - If you want prayers to be POWER and EFFECTIVE, you must be righteous - made right. CLEAN HEART, new.
      - How? Says - confess first, then pray
        - I think this is such a GREAT practice.
        - Part of Jesus description of how to pray - confession of sin
        - **How often do you confess your sin in prayer?**