

The Powerful Means of Prayer

James 5:13-20

December 17, 2017

Main Point:

Practice the powerful means of prayer and help others do the same.

1. Prayer is to be a significant part of your life.
2. Because God works powerfully through prayer.
3. God works powerfully through prayer that is full of faith and fervency.
4. God works powerfully through prayer that is accompanied with righteous living.
5. Practice the powerful means of prayer and help others do the same.

Cross-References and Quotations

Anthony Selvaggio “What James is trying to teach us in this part of his letter is that prayer is part of the warp and woof of the Christian life. He sees prayer as an appropriate response to every event in our life.”

Anthony Selvaggio “The promise of prayer is that it is a powerful and effective means of addressing seemingly unchangeable human circumstances.”

Douglas Moo “Prayer, James wants to make clear, is a powerful weapon in the hands even of the humblest believer; it does not require a ‘super saint’ to wield it effectively.”

Anthony Selvaggio “At first glance it appears that James promises, in a formulaic way, that the prayer of the elders over the sick will be met with guaranteed success ... However, James is not offering such a simplistic guarantee in this verse; instead he is declaring that if the one *to whom* the prayer is offered in faith so wills it, he can make the sick person well.”

A.W. Pink “If the professing Christian supposes that no matter what the character of his walk may be, he has but to plead the name of Christ and his petitions are assured of an answer, he is sadly deluded ... It is not sufficient to believe in Christ, or plead His name, in order to ensure answers to prayer: there must be practical subjection to and daily fellowship with Him.”

Psalm 66:18 ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. (NKJV)

1 Peter 3:7 ⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (NKJV)

John 15:7 ⁷ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)

1 John 3:22 ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (NKJV)

Hegesippus “James the brother of the Lord, who, as there were many of this name, was surnamed the Just by all ... [for] he was in the habit of entering the temple alone, and was often found upon his bended knees, and interceding for the forgiveness of the people; so that his knees became as hard as a camel’s, in consequence of his habitual supplication and kneeling before God.”