

JAMES 5:13-20

Prayer Matters

10-31-2010

Life According to Jim, Sermon 12 – Prayer Matters

JAMES 5:13-20 (NIV)

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. ¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

POWERFUL PRAYERS ...**1. BELIEVE IN AN ALL-POWERFUL GOD**

- A. Our trouble (v 13a) shows us we are not in control
 - 1. Trials can become great blessings by God's power
 - 2. Our weaknesses lead to a deeper appreciation of His Strength
- B. God does not desire a crisis driven relationship (v 13b)
 - 1. Garden of Eden was God's desire
 - 2. God desires to live in us.

2. INTERCEDE

- A. Prayer ultimately changes "me" (pray "make me" prayers and not "give me" prayers)
- B. The more we become like Christ, the more we find ourselves interceding for others
- C. God answers our prayers...just not always the way we desire.

3. NEVER GIVE UP

- A. Jesus taught his disciples to "always pray and never give up" (Luke 18:1)
- B. Elijah was a man just like us.
- C. Are you a person of prayer just like Elijah?

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."



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