

POINTERS FOR PRAYING **(James 5:13-18)**

I. We should pray individually (vs. 13).

- A. James said, by inspiration, “let him pray”.
- B. Prayer is a personal activity for the most part.
 - 1. Yes, we have publically led prayer in worship services, classes, with family, or other settings.
 - 2. However, the vast majority of our prayer time is done alone.
- C. We can't get others to pray our prayers for us.
- D. It is you and I who have to have private time with God.
 - 1. Others don't know our burdens like we do.
 - 2. Others can't put the passion and pleading into words about our problems the way we can.
- E. Our Lord was one who prayed individually.
 - 1. Mark 1:35.
 - 2. Mark 6:46.
 - 3. Luke 6:12.
 - 4. Luke 22:41.
- F. You and I must pray individually.
 - 1. Matthew 6:5-6.
 - 2. Daniel 6:10.

II. We should pray collectively (vs. 14).

- A. James said, “let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him”.
- B. As Christians, we have the opportunity to join together our hearts in prayer.
- C. We need to be those who pray for others and with others.
 - 1. One of the most uplifting spiritual experiences I've ever had was at a preachers retreat.
 - 2. One night of the retreat, several of us gathered together and just prayed.
 - 3. Several of us had been asked to pray, each about a specific area.
 - 4. I had never done it, and thought it was kind of odd sounding.
 - 5. But when I was involved in it, and heard so many spiritually mature men praying about different aspects of life, both spiritual, congregational, and national, it really moved me.
- D. It is a blessing to be able to go and pray with those who are in the hospital or sick at home.
- E. There have been times people have visited with me in my office and we have prayed.
- F. How do you feel when you hear your name lifted up in prayer by someone else?
 - 1. There are times when those who lead public prayers in our assemblies will mention me and my family by name.
 - 2. I am so thankful and I hope that it is not only in the public assembly that you brethren pray for me and my family.
- G. Jesus was one who prayed with others (Luke 9:28; John 17:1ff).
- H. Paul prayed with others (Acts 21:5).

I.The early church prayed together (Acts 2:42; Acts 12:12).

III.We should pray believably (vs. 15).

A.James said “the prayer of faith shall save the sick”.

B.James had talked about this at the beginning of his letter (James 1:5-8).

1.To ask in faith is to ask with a belief that God can do whatever it is He is being asked to do.

2.We can't go to God with doubts about His ability to answer our prayers.

C.I imagine many of us have approached someone with words similar to these at times: “I don't know if this is possible, but could you please...”

1.It may be that what we are asking would be difficult for the individual we are asking.

2.It may be that it is impossible for that person to do what we are asking.

3.Nothing rational and right is too difficult or impossible for God.

D.Jesus taught His disciples to pray with faith (Mark 11:20-24).

E.There is no point in going to God and asking Him for something if we don't believe He can do it or it is too hard for Him.

IV.We should pray fervently (vs. 16).

A.James said “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much”.

B.The word “fervent” means “intensely devoted and earnest”.

1.This is something to which much thought has been given.

2.It is a prayer in which our hearts are reaching out to God and fully engaged in the activity.

C.You don't just go through the motions when you are praying.

D.Hear what Jesus said about it (Matthew 6:7).

1.It is sad that so many religious people mindlessly say the same phrases over and over trying to be pleasing to God.

2.Prayer is not some chant that is repeated many times.

E.Prayer is a conversation with God.

1.It is us pouring our hearts out to Him.

2.We are showing our dependence upon Him for the things we need and desire.

3.We are telling Him our burdens and cares, asking for Him to help us with them, which He has promised He will do (1 Peter 5:7).

V.We should pray specifically (vs. 17).

A.James said that Elijah specifically prayed that it would not rain.

B.I love how James, by inspiration, starts out this verse.

1.He tells us that Elijah was a man of like passions as me and you.

2.The NKJV says he was a man with a nature like us.

3.This means he was a person just like me and you.

C.Inspiration is letting us know that we have the same ability to approach God and have our specific prayers answered that Elijah had.

D.Elijah's prayer resulted in there being no rain for 3 ½ years.

E.We need to pray for people by name if we know their name.

1.This makes prayer personal.

2.It shows we care about the one for whom we are approaching God.

F.We need to pray for specific situations.

- 1.Are we praying for the Pearl Harbor congregation to receive the funds they need?
 - 2.Are we praying for visitors to come to VBS?
 - 3.Are we praying that from those visitors there will be those who want to study God's word with us?
 - 4.Are we praying for our upcoming campaign and opportunities to study with people to come from that?
 - 5.These are a few of the things we need to be specific about.
- G.This is also something that Jesus taught (Matthew 6:8-13).

VI.We should pray repeatedly (vs. 18).

- A.James said "and he prayed again".
- B.We need to be those who pray again and again.
- C.This is something that is seen in the life of Jesus.
- 1.The night of His betrayal, He repeatedly went to the Father in prayer.
 - 2.It was something that was weighing heavily on Him and He had to talk to the Father about it.
- D.He taught us His disciples and us to repeatedly pray.
- 1.Luke 18:1.
 - 2.You and I can't simply pray for something and then drop that subject like it doesn't exist any more.
 - 3.If something is important enough for one prayer, it is important enough for multiple prayers.
- E.Paul taught the necessity of repeatedly praying as well.
- 1.1 Thessalonians 1:2.
 - 2.1 Thessalonians 5:17.
 - 3.2 Thessalonians 1:3.
- F.Prayer is not a one and done proposition.

Not an original outline but don't know from where the outline came.