

FAITHWORKS II

Praying Faith
James 5:13-18



1. Effective prayer _____ to the Lord in every _____
with all kinds of _____. (13-16a)



2. Effective prayer _____ (16b-18)
“The prayer of a righteous man has great power as it is working.” James 5:16



3. 4 _____ to Effective Prayer

DAY 1

Pray: Psalm 23:1-3, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” As you begin your study time today, thank God for His role of shepherding in your life – providing, leading, and restoring. Ask Him to grow responsiveness in your heart towards His guidance, and tenderness toward other followers of Christ.

Memorize: Review James 4:7 by filling in the missing words from the verse below.

_____ yourselves therefore to _____. _____ the _____
and he will _____.

What did you learn from this verse about resisting sin? _____

Study: Please read James 5:19-20.

1. How should we respond to another believer who has “wandered from the truth”?

2. Why would we want to go the effort of restoring a wandering believer? _____

To better understand God’s heart of love towards every Christian, read Matthew 18:10-14.

Note about Mathew 18:11: Some manuscripts add verse 11, “for the Son of Man came to save the lost” into this passage. While this is a truth of Scripture that is recorded in Luke 19:10, it doesn’t appear in this part of Matthew in the earliest manuscripts. In order to stay as close as possible to the oldest texts, verse 11 has been removed from many translations.

3. According to Matthew 18:10 how should we respond to other believers in Christ? _____

4. In what ways do we despise other Christians? _____

5. From this passage what are some reasons why we should not despise others? _____

6. Describe the actions of Christ towards the one sheep who has strayed: _____

7. How would you describe the attitude of God toward the wandering sheep? _____

8. How can you better reflect the actions of Christ and the attitude of God toward all believers?

9. In what ways could you apply the truth from this passage?
- a. In your role as a wife? _____

 - b. In your parenting? _____

 - c. In ministry? _____

 - d. In your relationships with other Christian women? _____

Pray: Close your study today by praying that God will give you wisdom as you lovingly pursue those whom you know to be wandering from the truth.

DAY 2

Pray: Proverbs 27:5-6a, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend.” As we prepare to study the process of restoring a wandering brother/sister, ask God to prepare your heart with true love for others and grow in you the qualities of a faithful, biblical friend.

Memorize: Review James 4:17 by writing it on the lines below. This is the verse that encourages us to do right. _____

Study As we continue in our study of Restoring Faith, please read Matthew 18:15-17.

1. From verse 15, who is involved when one Christian has sinned against another? _____

2. Why do you think Jesus would teach that a matter of sin should be kept between the individuals involved? _____

3. When you have been sinned against, what are some of the reasons it is tempting to involve others in the situation? _____

4. From Matthew 18:15 what is the goal of confronting someone else regarding their sin?

5. 1 Peter 4:8 says, "Above all keep loving each other earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." Compare 1 Peter 4:8 with Matthew 18:15.
 - a. Are you required to confront the other person when you have been sinned against?

 - b. When would you choose to "go to your brother/sister"? When would you not? _____

6. Consider 1 Peter 4:8 and Matthew 18:10-14: what attitudes should we cultivate in our hearts as we prepare to go to a brother or sister who is living in a pattern of sin? _____

7. Please think of a situation in your life – either current or past – when you were sinned against by another Christian.

a. How did you respond/have you responded? _____

b. Based upon what you have learned in Days one and two, do you believe you responded biblically? If not, what could you have done differently? _____

Pray: Ask God to help you as you seek to grow into a faithful, biblical friend to those in your life. Ask Him to give you a humble, responsive heart as you seek restoration of truth in your life and in the hearts and lives of others.

DAY 3

Pray: Proverbs 15:22-23 tells us that “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed. To make an apt answer is a joy to man, and a word in season, how good it is!” Today as we learn about the value of wise witnesses, ask God to make your heart ready to both hear and speak wise counsel.

Memorize: Which verse reminded us of the steadfastness of Job? James 5:_____. Review it by filling in the blanks. Behold, we consider those _____ who _____
_____. You have heard of the _____ of _____, and you have seen the _____ of the _____, how the _____ is _____ and _____.

Study: Please read Matthew 18:15-17. Today we will focus on verses 16-17.

1. From verse 16, describe what you should do when a sinning brother/sister in Christ does not listen to you during your one-on-one confrontation. _____

2. What are some of the reasons for taking two or three others with you? _____

3. Thinking back to Proverbs 15:22-23 above, what type of people should you choose to go with you as witnesses? _____

4. At this point, if your wandering friend listens with a repentant heart, how should you respond? (Remember the Parable of the Lost Sheep from Day 1.) _____

5. If the sinful friend does not respond to you and the witnesses, what is the next step from verse 17? _____
6. Titus 2:3 gives this instruction to women, “be reverent in behavior, not slanderers...” With this in mind, how would you “tell it to the church”? Who would you approach within church leadership? _____

7. What is the final step in this process if the wandering believer does not listen? _____

8. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15. What should our attitude be toward brothers/sisters who continue in sinful, unrepentant ways? _____

Pray: As we close this study of Matthew 18:15-17, confess any sinful attitudes toward other believers – perhaps toward those who have continued to wander from the truth in spite of warning, or toward those who have confronted in an unbiblical way. Ask God to fill you with 1 Peter 4:8 love – the earnest love that covers a multitude of sins.

DAY 4

Pray: Proverbs 1:23, “If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.” As you open in prayer today, ask God to make your heart responsive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to show you His truth from the Word today.

Memorize: Please write out James 5:16. _____

Study: As we finish our study on Restoring Faith, we will look in Scripture for the purpose of “church discipline” and for the heart attitude we should cultivate as we assume the role of restoring or confronting a wandering brother/sister.

1. Read Ephesians 5:25-28. What do these verses tell us about Christ’s desire for His bride – the church? _____

2. What do you learn from Matthew 5:13-14 about the purpose of believers in Christ in the world?

3. Summarize 1 Corinthians 5:6-7. _____

4. From these passages, and your study this week, what is the purpose of biblical restoration/church discipline? _____

5. Read the following verses and briefly describe the attitude we should develop as we confront another about sin.
 - a. Galatians 6:1-2 _____

 - b. 2 Thessalonians 3:15 _____
 - c. Colossians 3:13 _____

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Restoring Faith
James 5:19-20

6. In what relationships might you be called to confront a wandering brother or sister? _____

7. Do you approach the role of confrontation eagerly or reluctantly? _____

8. In what situations do you need to be more willing to seek to restore a sinning believer? _____

9. In what situations do you need to be willing to “cover a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8)? _____

Pray: Close your study time today by praying that God will cause you to grow in commitment to the purity of the church. First by seeking purity within your own life, and then by giving you wisdom to encourage purity in other believers.

DAY 5

Pray: James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” Ask God for wisdom as you seek to apply the many truths you have studied from James over the past 5 weeks.

Memorize: Choose one of the memory verses from the *Faith Works* study to meditate on today. Say it aloud as you write it here. _____

Study: As we finish this study, *Faith Works*, let's take a few minutes to review what God has shown you from James 4 -5.

1. From James 4:1-12, *Undivided Faith*.....

a. What connection do you see between arguments/quarrels and your unmet expectations? _____

b. What can you learn from this passage about how to resist sin? _____

2. From James 4:13 – 5:6, *Dependent Faith*.....

a. What did you learn from this passage about who/what you depend upon? _____

b. How can you develop a heart of dependence upon God as you trust His plans for your life? _____

3. From James 5:7-12, *Enduring Faith*....

a. What examples of patience did James give in this passage? _____

b. What are some qualities that you need to develop as you grow more endurance during times of difficulty? _____

c. What did you learn from this passage about God's purpose for allowing suffering in our lives? _____

4. From James 5:13-18, *Praying Faith*.....

a. From this passage, what are some of the results of prayer? _____

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- b. From James 5:16, what can you learn about effective prayer? _____

5. From James 5:19-20, *Restoring Faith*....
- a. What did you learn from this passage about the purpose of restoring a “wandering brother”? _____

6. How has your faith been impacted through this study? _____

Pray: As you close this week and this study of James in prayer, thank God for what you have learned about Him and about yourself. Ask Him to show you how to apply these truths so that you can glorify Him more.