



1. Be _____: _____ is _____. (7-9)

2. Remain _____: The Lord has a _____. (10-11)

3. _____ your _____. (12)

FAITHWORKS II

Praying Faith
James 5:13-18

DAY 1

Note: All definitions this week are taken from a combination of Strong's Concordance, HELPS Word-Studies, and Thayer's Greek Lexicon.

Pray: In Mark 11:24 Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." As you begin studying today, ask the Lord to show you where He wants to increase your faith in prayer. Thank Him that He is a God who desires to perfect your faith as you pray.

Memorize: Throughout this week we will be memorizing James 5:16. Write the verse on the lines below. Also write it on a 3x5 card and place the card in a spot where you can look at it a few times a day.

Study: As we study this week we will be learning about praying faith. Begin by reading our passage for the week, James 5:13-18. Today we will take a broad look at the passage, and over the next few days we will study it more in-depth.

1. Summarize each verse in James 5:13-18 on the lines below. Try to either outline the verse briefly or write in your own words what the verse is saying.

a. vs. 13: _____

b. vs. 14: _____

c. vs 15: _____

d. vs. 16: _____

e. vs. 17: _____

f. vs. 18: _____

2. What questions do you have about this passage as we begin to study it together? Write them on the lines below. _____

3. Now answer the following questions using the passage.

a. In verses 13-14, what are the three circumstances that James gives direction about and what instructions does he give? _____

b. What is the common response that James calls people to make, whether they are in trouble or whether their lives are going well? _____

c. In verse 15, what do you think James means by the “prayer of faith”? _____

d. What are the results of the prayer of faith for the sick? _____

e. What’s the command given in verse 16 and why is it given? _____

f. Listed below is James 5:16b in different Bible translations. Read the verse in each translation. What can you learn about effective prayer from this verse?

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (NIV)

The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]. (AMP)

g. What example from Scripture does James refer to in verses 17-18, and how is it meant to encourage us? _____

h. Think about the instructions that James provides for us in this passage concerning prayer. How does your own prayer life measure up to the direction given by James? Talk about areas of strength and areas that need to change on the lines below.

Pray: Close in prayer today by thanking the Lord for the truth of His Word and asking Him to help you to develop a powerful and effective prayer life that aligns with His Word.

DAY 2

Pray: Read Matthew 4:23. As you read it, thank the Lord that He is the Great Physician. Ask the Lord to give you understanding and insight into His desire to heal His people both physically and spiritually as you study today. Also ask the Lord to transform your desires and increase your faith as He shapes your understanding of praying faith.

Matthew 4:23: "And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people."

Memorize: Say James 5:16 out loud a few times now. Continue to refer to your 3x5 card throughout your day and meditate on how this passage touches your life.

Study: Begin by reading our passage, James 5:13-18. Refer to the biblical definitions to aide in your understanding of the passage. Then answer the following questions. Today we will take a closer look at verses 13-15.

pray: to interact with the Lord by switching human wishes for his wishes as He imparts faith.

anoint: properly, to rub or smear olive oil on the body. In Bible times anointing referred to the application of olive oil on the face to refresh a guest. Oil was also applied to the feet to soothe and show honor. Anointing demonstrated comfort as it intended to impart strength, healing, and joy.

prayer of faith: a petition offered with full persuasion and confidence in the Lord; God's warranty that guarantees the fulfillment of the revelation He births within the receptive believer.

save: to deliver out of danger into safety, used principally of God rescuing believers from the penalty and power of sin and into His provisions; to heal physically and spiritually.

raise up: to cause to rise from a seat or bed.

1. James begins by commanding believers to pray when they are in trouble or suffering. Refer to the definition of "pray." How might your prayers change if the purpose of your prayers was that your desires would be transformed to be like the Lord's desires? _____

2. James gives a second command in verse 13: sing praise when you are filled with joy and cheer. Is this practice a habit in your life? How can you make sure that you are consciously and continually offering praise to the Lord? _____

3. James gives a third command in verse 14. What do you think is the significance of calling on other believers, specifically church leaders, to pray over you when you are sick, i.e. *weak, ill, feeble, without strength, powerless*? _____

4. The church leaders are told to call on the Lord Jesus on behalf of the sick person as well as to anoint the person with olive oil. Refer to the biblical definitions. How is the outer anointing with oil symbolic of the prayer of faith? _____

5. According to verse 15, what are the results of faith-filled prayer and why are they important to understand? _____

6. This passage can be controversial. There are many people who have been prayed over who have been healed physically, and there are many people who have been prayed over who have not

recovered physically. Think about the biblical definition of “save” as well as the definition of “pray.” What do you think is God’s main objective in our lives and hearts in relationship to physical healing? _____

7. It’s important to remember that this is not an unconditional promise. Physical sickness and death will be a part of this earth until God does away with them in glory. The key here is “unwavering confidence in God, a commitment that He knows best, and a joyful release into His hands” (Barnes Commentary). How does this passage challenge you in your own prayer life?

8. One thing is very clear as we study this passage: we are to pray for those who are sick. Picture yourself now offering prayers filled with faith on behalf of a brother or sister in Christ who is sick and powerless. What attitudes and thoughts would be present in your own heart that would be pleasing to the Lord as you prayed? Fill in as many words as you can think of in the chart below. One example has been done for you.

confidence in the Lord	

Pray: As you close today, ask the Lord to show you where you have lacked boldness in praying for others, especially the sick. Also ask the Lord to help you to surrender your desires to Him and replace them with His desires as you come to Him in prayer.

DAY 3

Pray: Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Thank the Lord that He allows you to come before Him in prayer and that He willingly listens to your prayers. Ask the Lord to develop in you a confidence and boldness to approach Him in prayer as you study today.

Memorize: Say James 5:16 out loud a few times. Refer to your 3x5 card throughout your day, this time responding to the Lord by thanking Him for the truth found in this verse.

Study: Read our passage for the week, James 5:13-18. As you read, refer to the biblical definitions to help you understand the passage. Then answer the questions. Today we will take a closer look at verses 16-18.

confess: to openly declare without holding back, to acknowledge.

healed: particularly supernatural healing that brings attention to the Lord as the Great Physician; healing of generally physical but also spiritual disease; specifically to make whole, to bring about one’s salvation; to free from errors and sin.

righteous: approved by God; innocent, holy, and upright in Christ.

great power: prevail; embodied strength that gets into the fray; the Lord strengthening the believer with combative, confrontive force to achieve all He gives faith for.

fervent prayer: earnest petition arising out of personal need; passionate intensity, sincere, heartfelt; to have or express great depth of feeling.

1. In verse 16, what does the “therefore” refer to? _____

2. What 2 commands does James give in verse 16 and what is the result of obedience to them?

FAITHWORKS II

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James 5:13-18

3. Look at the biblical definition of "healed." What do you notice about the kind of healing that this passage is referring to? _____

4. Why do you think there's a close connection between confession, prayer, and healing?

5. How have you applied this principle of confession, prayer, and healing in your own life and how can you apply it in the future? _____

6. Think about the combative nature of prayer that James emphasizes in verse 16.
 - a. Would you characterize your prayer life in this way? _____
 - b. How would your prayer life change if you saw your times of prayer as the Lord strengthening you to do battle? _____

7. What does it mean that Elijah was a man "with a nature like ours"? _____

8. Think about the meaning of "fervent prayer" and the answers that Elijah saw as God worked on his behalf. Now read part of the story of Elijah's prayer for rain in 1 Kings 18:41-46. What characterizes Elijah's fervent prayer? _____

9. Draw a picture below of what you think it looks like to pray fervently. Use the characteristics that we've learned today through Scripture and the definitions that we have looked at today as you draw.

10. Is the picture you drew representative of your own prayers? How does your own prayer life need to change as a result of what we've studied today? _____

Pray: As you close today, write a prayer confessing to the Lord any ways that your prayers have lacked fervency and power. Ask the Lord to help you to pray consistently with a fervent power that comes from Him. _____

DAY 4

Pray: Ephesians 6:18 says, "...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...." Ask the Lord to give you strength to continually persevere in purposeful prayer each day. Thank Him that the energy and strength that this kind of prayer requires only comes from Him.

Memorize: Repeat James 5:16 out loud a few times. Continue to refer to your 3x5 card today, and meditate on how any habits, attitudes, and behaviors in your life need to change as a result of the truth found in this verse.

Study: Today and tomorrow we will continue to look at praying faith by studying what our Lord Jesus had to say about prayer in Luke 11:1-13. Begin by reading the passage and use it as you answer the questions. Today we will focus on the pattern of prayer that Jesus gives us in verses 1-4.

1. Think about the scene in this story. Jesus had just finished praying and his example of prayer inspired the disciples to want to pray like Him! How is your relationship with the Lord inspiring others to walk with Him and know Him more? _____

2. In verse 2, Jesus begins, "When you pray, say...." The word *say* means, "to speak, to move to a conclusion," indicating that our prayers should be purposeful and not haphazard.
 - a. Do you find your times of prayer to be full of purpose and direction? _____
 - b. What do you think helps or hinders purposeful prayers in your life? _____

3. Look at verses 2-4 and answer the questions on the lines below. As you answer, think about how your own prayer life aligns with the pattern that Jesus gives.
 - a. Who are we to pray to? _____

- b. Jesus directs us to hallow the name of the Father as we pray. To hallow means “to regard as sacred, holy, set apart.” What would it look like to intentionally hallow the name of the Father as you pray? _____

- c. Next Jesus says, “Your kingdom come.” Remember back to dependent faith, when we learned that God’s kingdom comes on this earth when He rules as the supreme authority in our hearts. How could you be more intentional about praying for God’s rule and reign to be established in your own life as well as in the lives of others?

- d. Next, Jesus instructs us to pray for our daily, physical needs or “bread.” Bread refers to “divine provision and sustenance that fits the unique demands of the coming day.” Why is it significant that we are to prayer for our needs day by day? _____

- e. Then Jesus tells us to pray for the forgiveness of our sins just as we forgive others who have sinned against us. How praying through your own need for forgiveness as well as continually making sure that you have forgiven others be important to your walk with the Lord? _____

- f. Finally Jesus concludes with a plea for deliverance and faithfulness. Literally translated this passage says, “Deliver me, Lord, to Yourself and for Yourself.” It could also be phrased, “Lord, deliver me out of my personal pains and bring me to You and for You.” How would this prayer be important to your walk with the Lord? _____

4. Look at each part of the Lord’s Prayer now and summarize with a word or two what Jesus tells us should be a part of our prayers. The first one has been done for you.

The Lord’s Prayer	My prayers should include...
Father, hallowed be your name...	Worship
Your kingdom come...	
Give us each day our daily bread...	
And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us...	
And lead us not into temptation...	

5. What about your own prayers mirrors the pattern of prayer that Jesus gives us?

6. Are there any changes that you need to make to your prayer life as you compare it to the pattern that Jesus gives us? _____

Pray: End your study time today by praying through the categories of the Lord’s Prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to be intentional and purposeful as you come before Him in prayer each day.

DAY 5

Pray: Psalm 69:13 says, *“But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.”* Thank the Lord again that He is a good God who hears and answers your prayers in His time according to His steadfast love. Ask the Lord to transform your heart as you study, giving you great faith and confidence to continually turn to Him as you fully trust His ways and purposes.

Memorize: Repeat James 5:16 now. What has the Lord revealed to you as you have memorized it and meditated on it this week? _____

Study: Begin today by reading Luke 11:1-13. Then answer the questions. Today we will look at verses 5-13 and study the spirit and heart that the Lord calls us to prayer with.

1. In verses 5-8, what situation is Jesus describing? _____

2. What is Jesus wanting to demonstrate to us about prayer through this story? _____

3. What characteristics do you notice about the man who came to his neighbor asking for food?

4. Are these characteristics a part of your own prayers? Tell about it on the lines below.

5. What three commands does Jesus give in verses 9-10, and why does He give them?

6. The Greek verb tense in verses 9-10 indicates continued action, meaning that we should *keep on* asking, *keep on* seeking, and *keep on* knocking. What does this indicate about prayer and how is this applicable to your own life? _____

7. One characteristic that Jesus emphasizes through these stories is impudence, or holy boldness. This means that we are to actively pursue the Lord and the answers to our petitions as we pray. How might your prayers be different if this was the spirit with which you always prayed?

8. What point does Jesus make in verses 11-13 about earthly fathers? _____

9. How does this relate to our heavenly Father and prayer? _____

10. How do you view the Father as you come to Him in prayer and how does this affect your prayer life? _____

11. Summarize what you have learned about prayer this week and one way that you will apply it to your own life. _____

Pray: Respond to the Lord in prayer, thanking Him for all He has taught you this week through His Word. Ask Him to continue to develop in you a perseverance and boldness that continually comes to Him in prayer and trust.