

Power win Prayer

[Jas 5:13-15 ESV] 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

I. Intro

- A. What is Prayer? Communication with God
- B. Why is it powerful? That is still a mystery
- C. What are we to pray?
 - 1. Praise and thanksgiving
 - 2. Petitions and requests
 - 3. Intercessions
 - 4. Confessions
 - 5. Silent, Private, Corporate
- D. How do we pray? Jesus taught us in the sermon on the mount:
 - 1. [Mat 6:5-15 ESV] 5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - 2. Pray with genuine communication from your heart to God!
- E. James challenges his readers, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to communicate with God and anticipate results.

II. Text

- A. Verse 13: the "among you" nature of the body
 - 1. We are individuals in gifting and calling
 - 2. Yet we are united in the body.
 - 3. We pray and sing and anticipate...TOGETHER!!!
- B. Verse 14
 - 1. Sick folks need the church to pray
 - 2. We practice this at North Park, and have seen God work.
 - 3. REMINDER:
 - a) God answering prayers and bringing healing is never to GLORIFY MAN, but always to GLORIFY HIMSELF
 - b) This is never about us.
- C. Verse 15: next time

III. Point

- A. Prayer is Powerful in its working
 - 1. Prayer is still to best and most powerful tool in the Christians toolbox.
 - 2. Prayer is often misunderstood:
 - a) There is power in prayer as we ask for God's will to be done
 - b) There is power in prayer as we seek to get on the same page as God

- c) There is power in prayer as we tell God about our broken heart, our needs, and what we would like to see happen.
 - d) There is power in prayer as we get honest before holy God!
- 3. Prayer works
 - a) There are some in the Christian world that believe this verse speaks to a time that has passed, that God no longer works in this way.
 - b) I completely disagree! God still saves, and heals, and restores, and strengthens.
 - c) God is still at work through prayer
- 4. I have seen the power of prayer at work, though I still don't understand.
- 5. That may be one of the aspects that is so powerful for me as a guy that likes to figure things out and know the answers.
 - a) The mystery in prayer remains
 - b) The call of God to pray also remains
 - c) And that is enough!
- B. Prayer is powerful in its posturing
 - 1. When we think we have all this spiritual stuff figured out, we are not really walking by faith, but by sight.
 - a) So, the fact that Jesus compels us to pray, and it remains a mystery, is a position of faith.
 - b) My posture is to yield to holy God, but that is not my natural self, it comes from a supernatural encounter.
 - 2. Our natural inclination is not to yield to God, but we will get there eventually:
 - a) [Rom 14:10-12 ESV] 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.
 - b) Paul reminds the Romans that pride and arrogance will also yield and bend the knee.
 - c) This is sometimes a painful but necessary reminder.
 - 3. There is great power in realizing we have no real power!
 - a) [2Co 12:7-10 ESV] 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
 - b) The posturing of our hearts is a key aspect of our prayer life.
 - 4. When we bow our heads, or bend our knees, we are submitting ourselves to God in prayer.
 - 5. We approach the throne of grace with confidence:
 - a) Not confidence in our selves
 - b) But confidence in our God
- C. Prayer is powerful in its reminder
 - 1. I am reminded of answered prayers.
 - a) "A Praying Life" teaches to use prayer cards about things we are praying for
 - b) These cards document the prayer story and remind us of the way God works
 - c) The journey may start in desperation and move to victory, but don't forget the reminders of God's grace throughout the story.
 - 2. I am reminded of people who have been healed, redeemed, and restored through the power of prayer.

3. There are many testimonies that could be shared, and others that are still in the waiting.
4. Prayer is not just a reminder when God answers in the way we want him to answer:
 - a) Sometimes the answer from God is wait
 - (1) This is not my strongest attribute...
 - (2) But being steadfast is the challenge.
 - b) Sometimes the answer is no
 - (1) When He answers "NO" or shuts a door, it hurts
 - (2) But it always means He has a better plan

IV. Close