

☛ Back to the Basics: Prayer

James 5:13-18

Are any among you suffering? They should keep on praying about it. And those who have reason to be thankful should continually sing praises to the Lord. 14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. 17 Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for the next three and a half years! 18 Then he prayed for rain, and down it poured. The grass turned green, and the crops began to grow again. NLT

☛ **Prayer is a Priority.** It is mentioned throughout the bible:

Abraham prayed and was given a son in his old age

Moses prayed and Joshua defeated the Amalekites

Gideon prayed and God spoke through a fleece

David prayed and defeated the Philistines

Elijah prayed and God burned up the wet offering; God withheld rain; God sent rain

Daniel prayed and had an angelic visitation

Jonah prayed and God spoke a second time and rescued him from the fish

The Church prayed and they were all filled with the Spirit

Peter prayed and Tabitha was raised from the dead

Church prayed and Peter was released from prison

Jesus is our best example. Though he was God in the flesh, he prayed a lot: He started his public ministry with prayer; he prayed often very early in the morning while it was still dark; he prayed all night long; he prayed before making decisions; he prayed before eating; he prayed for needy people he encountered; he prayed with loud cries and tears; he prayed while hanging on the cross.

☛ Matthew 21:13

My house will be called **a house of prayer**

☛ 1 Timothy 2:1

I urge, then, **first of all**, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone

James 4:2

You want something but don't get it... You do not have, because you do not ask God.

--Jim Cymbala...

☞ **Breakthrough prayer** isn't born out of an "I should pray today" attitude but, instead, out of an "**I must have God's help**" frame of mind.

The world has yet to see a Christlike, victorious, and fruitful believer who was not a person of considerable prayer.

☞ **It's true that regular praying costs something, but the cost of not praying is much higher.**

Prayer is a Priority

☞ **Prayer is Powerful.**

☞ George Muller pointed out that "**Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of God's willingness.**"

God's power is shown in Joshua's battles; Samson's strength; David's confidence; Solomon's wisdom; etc. We partner with God through prayer...

--Jim Cymbala... *Many of the sweetest answers to prayer involve working together with God to accomplish his purposes.*

☞ **Our part:**

- v. 13 **keep on praying**
- v. 14 **call the elders to pray** and anoint you
- v. 15 **confess your sins** to each other
- v. 16 **pray earnestly**

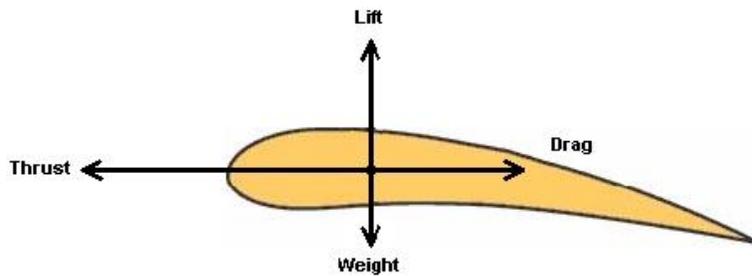
☞ **God's part:**

- v. 14, 16 **heal**
- v. 15 **make well**
- v. 15 **forgive**
- v. 16 **great power**

Prayer is powerful because we partner with God who is all-powerful. Because of this partnership, prayer is powerful enough to overcome natural laws. Sickness can be cured. Even things that lead to death can be reversed.

☞ **The Law of Aerodynamics > The Law of Gravity**

Basically, there are four components to aerodynamics besides an **aerodynamic surface** and the atmosphere... **gravity; drag; thrust and lift.**



The law of gravity says things must come down. This law is always true. However, the law of aerodynamics can supersede the law of gravity. It doesn't change the law of gravity, it simply overcomes it.

James 5:16

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. NKJV

☞ **Righteous man = aerodynamic surface**

Gravity = natural law; discouragement

Drag = problems; unbelief

Thrust = prayer; fervency; faith

Lift = supernatural; answered prayer

This is like natural law and supernatural law. Natural law says cancer will kill you; when the odds are against you, you'll lose...

Just as the laws of aerodynamics can supersede the law of gravity, so can supernatural law supersede the rules of natural law. Supernatural law says that cancer can be healed; when the odds are against you, you can still overcome...

☞ **Matthew 19:26**

with God all things are possible.

Prayer is powerful.

A number of years ago, one bitter January night, the inhabitants of the old town of Sleswick were thrown into the greatest distress and terror. A hostile army was marching down upon them, and new and fearful reports of the conduct of the lawless soldiers were hourly reaching the place.

In one large, spacious cottage dwelt an aged grandmother with her widowed daughter and her grandson. While all hearts quaked with fear, this aged woman passed her time in crying out to God that he would "build a wall of defense round about" them, quoting the words of an ancient hymn.

Her grandson asked why she prayed for a thing so entirely impossible as that God should build a wall about their house, that should hide it; but she explained that her meaning only was that God should protect them.

At midnight the dreaded tramp was heard, an enemy came pouring in at every avenue, filling the houses to overflowing. But, while most fearful sounds were heard on every side, not even a knock came to their door; at which they were greatly surprised. The morning light made the matter clear; for, just beyond the house, the drifted snow had reared such a massive wall that it was impossible to get over it to them.

"There!" said the good woman triumphantly: "do you not see, my son, that God could raise up a wall around us?"

Prayer is powerful. The impossible becomes possible because we are partnering with the all-powerful One.

I know that we all have questions regarding why some prayers seem to go unanswered, and there could be entire studies trying to understand. But today I simply want to bolster your faith and encourage you to pray.

Prayer is a Priority and Prayer is Powerful

☞ **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
pray continually

☞ **Luke 18:1**
... always pray and not give up.

☞ **Colossians 4:2**
Devote yourselves to prayer...

Prayer meeting today after the potluck.

☞ **35 Ways to Pray:** “A prayer walk through the New Testament”

1. Pray for your enemies. (Matthew 5:43-45)
2. Ask, seek, and knock. (Matthew 7:7-8)
3. Pray corporately. (Matthew 18:19-20)
4. Pray for strength against temptation. (Mark 4:38)
5. Pray without restraint. (Luke 6:12)
6. Pray for more harvesters. (Luke 10:2)
7. Pray with endurance. (Luke 18:1-7)
8. Pray with humility. (Luke 18:10-14)
9. Pray in Jesus’ name. (John 15:14-16)
10. Pray for spiritual protection. (John 17:15)
11. Pray for opportunities to encourage the faith of others. (Romans 1:8-12)
12. Give thanks. (1 Corinthians 1:4)
13. Pray in tongues and in English. (1 Corinthians 14:14-15)
14. Pray for the perfecting of the saints. (2 Corinthians 13:7-9)
15. Pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. (Ephesians 1:15-19)
16. Pray that your love may abound. (Philippians 1:9-11)
17. Present your requests. (Philippians 4:6-7)
18. Pray that you may live a life worthy of the Lord. (Colossians 1:9-12)
19. Pray for those who are sharing Christ. (Colossians 4:2-4)
20. Pray continually. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
21. Pray that Christ will be glorified in you. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)
22. Pray for the propagation of the gospel. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)
23. Pray for those in authority over you. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
24. Pray with a clear conscience. (2 Timothy 1:3)
25. Pray that we will be active in sharing our faith. (Philemon 6)
26. Pray for wisdom. (James 1:5)
27. Pray with faith. (James 1:6-8)
28. Pray with right motives. (James 4:1-3)
29. Pray for healing. (James 5:13-15)
30. Pray for each other. (James 5:16)
31. Tell God your concerns. (1 Peter 5:7)
32. Confess your sins to God. (1 John 1:9)
33. Pray for the sins of others. (1 John 5:16a)
34. Pray for prosperity. (3 John 2)
35. Pray for Christ’s return (Revelation 22:20)