

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame. The Bible is open, showing text on the pages, and is placed on a dark wooden surface. In the background, a window with light-colored blinds is visible, with soft, warm light filtering through. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

PRAAYER MATTERS

(James 5:13-18)

21 August 2022

Prayer Matters

James 5:13-18

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Prayer Matters

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Old Camel Knees



Old Camel Knees

In his *Church History* (c. 325), Eusibius writes:

But Hegesippus, who lived immediately after the apostles, gives the most accurate account in the fifth book of his *Memoirs*. He writes as follows:

... [James] alone was permitted to enter into the holy place; for he wore not woolen but linen garments. And he was in the habit of entering alone into the temple, and was frequently found upon his knees begging forgiveness for the people, so that his knees became hard like those of a camel, in consequence of his constantly bending them in his worship of God, and asking forgiveness for the people.

3 Prayer Matters

1. Prayer in all CIRCUMSTANCES
2. Prayer in COMMUNITY
3. Prayer that CONQUERS

Prayer in all circumstances

Is anyone among you suffering?

Let him Pray.

Is anyone cheerful?

Let him Sing

psalms.

James 5:13



Prayer in all circumstances

James 5:13

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

Prayer in all circumstances

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—



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Prayer in community

Prayer in community

James 5:14-16a

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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Prayer in community

A) PRAYER OF THE ELDERS

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*

(i) Prayer of faith (by the elders)

¹⁵ *And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up...*

(ii) Prayer of repentance (by the sick)

....And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Prayer in community

B) PRAYER OF ONE ANOTHER

(i) Confession of sin to one another

¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Prayer in community

Acts 19:18

¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

Welsh Revival (1904-1905)

Evans Robert

“Confess all known sin, receiving forgiveness through Jesus Christ.”

To confess literally means to *admit* or *agree*. By confessing, you agree that you are guilty of sin and acknowledge that you must change. Before any change can be made, you have to see the need to change. Rather than confessing our need for change we often deny or make excuses for our behavior.

Prayer in community

4 Points concerning confession of sin to one another

- 1) If we have sinned against an individual, we must ask him or her to forgive us.
- 2) If our sin has affected the church, we must confess it publicly.
- 3) If we need loving support as we struggle with a sin, we should confess that sin to those who are able to provide that support.
- 4) If after confessing a private sin to God, we still don't feel His forgiveness, we may wish to confess that sin to a fellow believer and hear him or her assure us of God's pardon. In Christ's kingdom, every believer is a priest to another believer (1 Peter 2:9)

(Life Application Study Bible)

Prayer that conquers

Prayer is the one thing
that can conquer God.

Tertullian

Prayer that conquers

from *Treatise on Prayer*
Tertullian

In the past prayer was able to bring down punishment, rout armies, withhold the blessing of rain. Now, however, the prayer of the just turns aside the whole anger of God, keeps vigil for its enemies, pleads for persecutors. Is it any wonder that it can call down water from heaven when it could obtain fire from heaven as well? Prayer is the one thing that can conquer God. But Christ has willed that it should work no evil, and has given it all power over good.

Prayer that conquers

When we work, we work but when we pray, God works.

(Ps. Edmund Chan)

Prayer that conquers

James 5: 16b-18

...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Prayer that conquers

Elijah's prayers were efficacious because

1. He prayed God's will
2. He prayed earnestly

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The scene is set on a wooden table near a window, with soft, warm light filtering through. The background is blurred, showing the window frame and some architectural details.

PRAAYER MATTERS

(James 5:13-18)