

Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

of Discipleship

May 2, 2021

Day 1: James 5:13-14

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 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.

God has given us the gift of other people. People are able to multiply our joys and divide our sorrows. We need to sing, laugh, cry, eat, and live among each other to find fullness in life.

Question: When do you feel like being around people, when you are sick or cheerful?

Challenge: Think about this - do you have the gift of healing? Have you ever helped someone recover from any kind of illness?

Scripture: Proverbs 3:8, 4:22, 12:18

Day 2: James 5:15-16

The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

It is the Lord who does the forgiving but we can help each other by asking on behalf of another person when they cannot ask for themselves. We all have experienced times when we cannot ask for help. It is at that time that others can come in and ask for us. It is just like someone getting food for a person who has broken a leg and cannot walk. The reason the prayer of the righteous is powerful is that they have taken the time to get their attitude in good shape and not allow their personal issues to get in the way. Their prayer is not better because they are righteous but because they can concentrate on others better.

Question: Why do you think God forgives sins if we ask God to forgive us?

Challenge: This week before you go to prayer ask God to help you develop a humble attitude - then pray.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:1-9

Day 3: James 5:17

Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

The great prophet is just like us in that he is an average person. God chooses the small things of the world to perform great deeds. Elijah was willing to respond to God's call and to go and risk following that call. He became extra ordinary as he followed faithfully God's call. We also become extra ordinary as we follow God's call.

Question: What do you know about Elijah?

Challenge: How would you recognize it if God was calling you to do something?

Scripture: 1 Kings 17

Day 4: James 5:18

Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

Elijah did not just pray to prove how powerful he was or how well he was connected to God, but at God's command. We do great things today because we follow God's command. The great things may not ever be written about but they are remembered by God and always bring about new life. In prayer we must keep in mind that its effect is like the rain on the earth. It waters and gives life. A good image of prayer is to visualize ourselves watering a dry ground as we pray. We water and God gives the increase.

Question: Do you believe that God answers prayer in the manner of this verse today?

Challenge: What do you really believe - does God withhold rain to punish sinful people?

Scripture: 1 Kings 18

Day 5: James 5:19

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,

If life is a journey then there are paths that will bring us rewards and paths that bring us troubles. In correcting someone our attitude ought to be one of showing someone the path that will be more pleasant and nice to walk. We ought not to correct someone with the attitude that we ourselves do not need correction. At one time or another each will be the one to be corrected and each will need correction. We do any correction in humility.

Question: What "truth" is James talking about?

Challenge: Think about your friends and see if someone you know needs correcting.

How can you do this correcting without being a know-it-all?

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Day 6: James 5:20

you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

In correcting a person's path there are times when we see someone walking off a cliff. It is at that time we need to use firmer methods of correction. If someone is in an accident and bleeding on the side of the road and claims they don't need help we have to ignore what the person is saying and stop the bleeding. Again, it is in humility that we approach correcting anybody, and in the knowledge that we are willing to be corrected. Keep in mind that we need to earn the right to correct someone by first proving that we love that person.

Question: Do you think it is our responsibility to correct someone or should we be quiet?

Challenge: Who do you have the "right" to correct? What gave you that right?

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-10