

## James 5:13-20 and 4:3

# A FAITH THAT WORKS IS A FAITH THAT IS SOAKED, SATURATED, AND SUSTAINED BY <u>PRAYER!</u>

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should **PRAY**. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and **PRAY** over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a **PRAYER offered in faith** will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. 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 produces wonderful results.** Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he **PRAYED** earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he **PRAYED** again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops. My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins. **James 5:13-20 (NLT)** 

#### PRAYER THAT IGNITES GOD'S HEART:

...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16 (NLT)

### 1. It must come from one who is <u>rightly related</u> to God.

A righteous person... (right with God, rightly related)

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the ... believers scattered abroad. Greetings! James 1:1 (NLT)

We know that God doesn't listen to sinners (unbelievers), but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. John 9:31 (NLT)

#### 2. It must come from one who is correctly related to God.

A righteous person... (innocent, holy, or purely related)

It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Psalm 66:18 (NIV)

...And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and **pray** for each other so that you may be healed. **James 5:15-16 (NLT)** 

### 3. It must come from the right motivation. (His will, not my wish.)

The earnest prayers... (deeply somber - Elijah)

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3 (NIV)

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14 (NIV)

#### 4. It must be offered in complete trust.

The earnest prayers... (completely trusting - Elijah)

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. James 1:5-6 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own. Read James 5:13-20 five times slowly out loud, making notes as God reveals things to you. Now read the following passages and write down what God did when His people prayed. Acts 12:5-10, Mark 5:23-40, Exodus 33:18-22, and Daniel 2:17-23. Then read Daniel 1:5-8. Knowing God loves and desires to answer our prayers, what specifically would you like to know from God or ask Him to do? Search your heart, pray earnestly, and then listen when He answers. Write Pastor Jay at Jay@CenterPointChurch.com and tell him your story.