

SHOW JAMES

faith that works

PART ELEVEN

JAMES 5:13-18

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

SHOW ME YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Finding a Good Time to Pray

- vs.13-14
- 1. Confession (1John 9)
- 2. Intercession
- 3. Thanksgiving & Praise
- 4. Asking for yourself (James 4:3)

Three general occasions for prayer

- When you are suffering
- When you are cheerful
- When you are sick
- Deuteronomy 31:6
- Romans 8:38-39

Finding the Courage to Pray

5 words of encouragement

1. vs.14a "Call the elders"
 - Matthew 18:21-22
2. vs.14b "anoint with oil in the name of the Lord"
3. vs.15 The assurance of forgiveness
4. vs.16 Let yourself experience grace through others
5. vs.17-18 Learning from the example of others

4 Ways to Invigorate Your Prayer Life

We can be easily distracted in our attempts to pray. These 4 ways (ideas and suggestions) could help you keep focus and help sharpen your prayers.

1) Pray specific Bible verses

For example, as you pray for your family use Scriptures that are promises:

- "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31).
- "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing" (Psalm 37:25-26).

Read these Bible verses aloud, then ask the Lord to please do what the verses say He will do. Using Scripture when we pray builds our faith, for we can know we are asking according to God's will.

2) Make a list

A list might look like, "people I am asking Jesus to save". A list of "current needs" of family and friends. A list can help us stay on track when we are praying. You don't have to pray through every list every day, but at least your prayer life is documented to remind you from time to time who and what to pray for.

3) Pray through Jesus' "Our Father" pattern

Use each phrase to trigger a "theme" for example:

- "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." Praise you that you are my Father. I praise you that you are in heaven, sovereign over all."
- "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Father, please save multitudes in every nation. Please save my children and grandchildren. Please bring your kingdom rule into my neighbours' lives", etc.
- "Give us this day our daily bread." Father, please provide for my children. Please provide for us. Father, if it would be your will, please give me (insert your need).

4) Pray in response to your Bible reading

Some have found praying in response to their Bible reading to be most effective for them. In your daily bible reading, stop and pray as God's word speaks to you. For example, if you read, James 1:22, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves," pray, "Lord Jesus, please help me to obey your word. Help me to "do" it, to put it into practice."

