

Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ November 26, 2017

#10 FAITHBOOK ~ *A Praying Faith?* (James 5:13-20)

Examining what the book of James (*Faithbook*) teaches us about what faith is and how to strengthen it.

When someone tells us or posts sad news, we usually offer to pray: 😞 So Sorry...Praying! 🙏
But, the truth is, many of us struggle with what prayer *is* and how to *do* it.

BIG IDEA: *A praying faith is a sure sign of a living faith and we can all learn to do it better -- in every season of our life!*

P RAISE (and Give Thanks)
R EPENT (& Confess our sins)
A SK (for ourselves & others)
Y IELD (to God's will & Spirit)

- ❶ In times of *happiness*, we should **PRAISE** God. (5:13b; cf. 1:17; Eph. 5:18b-20)
- ❷ In times of *trouble*, we should **ASK** God for what we need. (5:13b)
A If we are *uncertain*, we should ask God for **wisdom**. (1:5-8)
B If we are *lacking*, we should ask God for **provision**. (4:2b; cf. Phil. 4:6-7)
C If we are *sick*, we should ask God for **healing**. (5:14-15a)
- ❸ In times of *sin*, we should **REPENT**, confessing our sins, seeking God's forgiveness for our sins and the spiritual restoration of others. (5:15b-16a, 19-20)
- ❹ In *all times*, we should **YIELD** ourselves to God's care and will. (5:16b-18; cf. 4:14-15)



CONNECTION GROUPS

Sermon-based Groups

November 29th 2PM & 7PM

- ① So many of us *know* that prayer is one of the most important things we can do as a Christian. Yet, we often struggle with *doing* it. Why do we often struggle with it? What things you learned along the way to pray?
- ② Read James 5:13-20. Watch this week's video installment from Francis Chan's study on James #12: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#12> After watching the video, try to make a list of all the circumstances of life in which we should pray. Which ones does James emphasize and in which is the hardest for you to pray?
- ③ In James 5:14, what are we told to do when someone among us is sick? What indications are there in the passage that this may be a special circumstance? Sometimes there is confusion in the church regarding prayer, faith and God's healing. Have you ever heard any of these statements and how would you respond?

"God doesn't heal anymore, that was a 1st century thing."
"If only we pray in faith, God will always heal us."
"When we pray in faith, we don't need to seek medical attention."
- ④ In James 5:16, we are told to "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." Have you every experienced this? When and how should we do this? What would be the benefits if we di this more? Any concerns?
- ⑤ James gives us the example of Elijah's prayer. What were the circumstances of this and what lessons can we learn for our lives today?

MEMORY VERSE: James 5:16