

Sermon Notes

When to Pray

James 5:13-18

A. Pray When You Hurt

“Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.”

B. Pray When You're Happy

“Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.”

C. Pray When You're Sick

“Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.

D. Why Pray?

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 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 earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.” (James 5:13-18) NASB

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Share one answered prayer from the past year.

Going Deeper

3. Why do you think many Christians struggle to pray? How does this passage from James help?
4. Why must we pray when we're hurting? When we're happy? When we're sick? Which of these situations is most applicable to you right now? Why?
5. Why do you think James commands Christians to ask the elders of their church to pray for them when they are sick? What is the connection between sickness and sin?
6. When we pray, God gives us the power to influence what He does in the world. How does the story of Elijah illustrate this truth?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?