

Sunday, August 16, 2020

**Sermon Series: Conversations with God** 

Title: Motives & Motivations for Prayer

**Text: James 5:13-18** 

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**Big Idea:** The best incentives to pray are those daily situations that naturally remind me that I am inadequate to manage life in this **creation**, without properly seeking the presence and truth of my **Creator**.

### 1) I should pray when I have stress. (vs. 13a)

When I sense that the pressures of life are greater than I can bear, I should not merely **react**, but instead I should **respond** with prayer.

### 2) I should pray when I have success. (vs. 13b)

The key to praising God in trials is not my **happiness**, but my **courage**.

### 3) I should pray when I have <u>sickness</u>. (vs. 14-15)

Biblical prayer for healing is not so much asking God for us to become what **we were**, but rather asking to become what God intends **us to be**."

## 4) I should pray when I have sin. (vs. 15-16)

Prayer is about moving from personal inner **drought** to God's **abundance**.

# **Personal Application – Study Questions:**

Do you agree that: "it is more important to learn to trust God more during a trial, rather that trying to understand why this is happening"? If so, how could you apply that to a trial you are currently facing?

Why is "courageously trusting God" a greater motivation for praising Him than merely being in a good mood?

The Bible reveals that being healed spiritually is even more important than being restored physically. How can we find equal motivation for dealing with our spiritual diseases as we have about our physical health?

Write out a prayer that expresses to God a desire to move from a specific feeling of spiritual drought in my life to find His abundance on the other side.

