

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Sermon Series:
James: A Practical Faith that Works

Title: *Pray!*

Text: James 5:13-18

Pastor Perry Kallis



Big Idea: Godly prayer is always more about who God is than it is about what I want.

Where should godly prayer lead believers?

- 1) Prayer should lead me toward godly perspective. (James 5:13a / Psalm 34:4 / 1 Peter 4:12)
Prayer helps me move away from wanting to know why and toward trusting God more.
- 2) Prayer should lead me toward godly courage. (James 5:13b / Psalm 30:4 & 150:6 / Psalm 96:1-2)
The way to praise God in trials is not by a focus on my comfort, but on God's trustworthiness.
- 3) Prayer should lead me toward godly healing. (James 5:14-15 / Psalm 32:3-5)
I am not truly healed until I am also made whole spiritually.
- 4) Prayer should lead me toward godly repentance. (James 5:15-18 / Psalm 34:4)
Repentance brings me from inner drought of disbelief toward a harvest of trust.

Study/Application Questions and Actions:

- 1) Has your prayer life changed over the past two years? Do you think those changes have more to do with your understanding of God or your experiences?
- 2) If prayer is more about God than what I want, how can I keep God's character in mind while I make personal requests to my Heavenly Father?
- 3) How can believers habitually make prayer a first resort? In what areas do you most often ignore prayer and move too quickly to personal solutions?
- 4) James 5:13 indicates that regardless of circumstances, all of God's people should make praising God a lifestyle. How can we cultivate that expectation?
- 5) James confidently declares physical healing as connected to godly prayer. How is that confidence to be understood when someone is not healed?
- 6) James connects transparent repentance to "blessing." Why are we so reluctant to move toward regular repentance? How is God honored when we confess sin?