

James 5: 13-20

¹³Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. ¹⁴Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

Restore Wandering Believers

¹⁹My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, ²⁰you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

Prayers that get answered..... according to God's will

1. Learn to pray for what God wants for us (*Not necessarily what we want for ourselves*)

Exodus 33:13 (NLT)

¹³If it is true that you look favorably on me, **let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor.** And remember that this nation is your very own people.”

MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: Action Step

“Build a vocabulary of biblical verses to recite/paraphrase during prayer and throughout the day”

PSALMS 119:18 (NASB) OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY BEHOLD WONDERFUL THINGS FROM YOUR LAW (WORD).

2. **Make your prayers about bringing honor and glory to God**

Daniel 9:18 - 19 (NLT) ¹⁸“O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. **We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.**

¹⁹**“O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake,** do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name.”

3. **How does God benefit from our request or what's in it for Him.**

1 Samuel 1:11 (NLT) ¹¹And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut."

4. **Learn to pray the Word in our prayers.**

Praying the Word means reading (or reciting) Scripture in a spirit of prayer and letting the meaning of the verses become our prayer and inspire our thoughts.

1 John 5:14 - 15 (NASB) ¹⁴This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

¹⁵And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

John 15:7 (NASB) ⁷"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- For example, the prayer of Acts 4:24–30 quotes Psalm 2.
- Old Testament prayers like Ezra's prayer in Nehemiah 9:6–37 are rehearsals of biblical history/biblical texts.

Homework assignment:

1. Please find two prayers in the Bible that focus on repentance.
2. Who offered the prayers and what was the occasion?