

January 19, 2020

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“When the Praying Church Prays  
for \_\_\_\_\_,”  
James 5:13-18

1. When we pray, we pray in **FAITH**, vv. 14-18 (*cf.* 1:6-8; 4:3; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Matt. 6:9-10; 17:20; Mark 1:40-41; 2:5-12; John 6:40).
2. Sometimes our prayers require *both* faith and **CONFESSION**, vv. 15-16 (*cf.* John 9:3; 1 Cor. 11:30; Heb. 12:6).
3. Powerful prayer is for **EVERY BELIEVER**, vv. 16-17 (*cf.* 1 Kings 18:20-45; Mark 2:5; 8:10).



Read John ch. 9 aloud as a family, with different readers taking the 5 different character parts. After you read together, answer these questions:

- What did the disciples assume was the cause of the man's blindness? What was the real reason?
- How are we like the disciples sometimes in our assumptions about why people struggle with illness or other struggles?
- What do we learn from Jesus in this story about ways God may be using our struggles for His purposes?

### For Further Thought, Study & Discussion

1. Is it always God's will to heal sickness in this life? How do you know? How does that influence how you pray for someone who is ill, and how you respond when you perceive your prayers haven't been answered? Use the cross-references in pt. 1 above to help you.
2. James 5:15 indicates that *some* illness is directly connected to sins we commit. What would be examples of illnesses that we can see are clearly connected to our sinful actions? Can we say that all of our sicknesses are connected to sins we've committed? Why or why not? Use the cross-references in pt. 2 above to help you. How does confession of those sins bring healing (5:16)? Is there anything you need to confess to someone so they can pray for you?

3. James uses the example of Elijah to make the point that the prayer of a righteous person has great power, and that power is accessible to every believer (5:16-17). In this context, what does it mean to be a "righteous person?" Does this mean we must be sinless? If so, then who is qualified to pray? If not, then what *does* it mean? How does that affect how we pray and what we pray for?
4. The lesson about prayer from James 5:13-18 is not primarily about praying for healing, but praying in faith. Do you think you pray in faith, or do you pray doubtful prayers? How did you know? What can you do to help you pray with greater faith? Make a list of things to pray for, and pray in faith according to what you have learned in this chapter.