



Lesson 11: The Priority of Prayer (5:13-18)

The Bible instructs us that the Lord's house be a house of _____ (Isa. 56:7). It further commands God's people to be a people of _____ (1 Thess. 5:17). The said reality, however, is that prayer and prayer meetings have become an increasingly forgotten aspect of the church.

When we come to this section of the book of James we are reading James give some fresh insight into the awesome power of prayer. James is ready to see God touch this world by His power and the only way that is going to happen is when God's children get serious about their _____ life. You see, we are taught to pray, we need to pray, and we must pray! There will never be a great moving of God until God's people first learn to pray.

In these six verses prayer is mentioned _____ times. This text offers three insights that encourage us to be fervent in prayer.

YOU ARE _____ TO PRAY (5:13-16a)

Three times in this passage the voice of the command appears.

- 1) "Let him pray" v. 13 – Pray _____
- 2) "Let them pray" v. 14 – Pray _____
- 3) "Pray for one another" v. 16 – Pray _____

A. This command to pray is convicting

Verse 13-16 constitute a call to pray in every circumstance of life. Quite simply, there is nothing you cannot pray about. Prayer is the sound of life - _____ life!

B. This command to pray is _____

The entire book of James has been building to this point. Remember, the people to whom James is writing have been greatly _____. It would be strange had James *not* finished his book with a discussion about prayer.

YOU MUST HAVE THE RIGHT _____ WHEN YOU PRAY (5:16)

James describes the kind of attitude and approach necessary for prayer.

A. Prayer is _____

"Confess your faults." Sin needs to be confessed and forgiveness needs to be sought if we hope to have God hear our prayers.

- "Confess" – be _____ or admitting
- "Your Faults" – your _____ sins

The true prayer warrior comes to the altar with a penitent heart.

B. Prayer is _____

James is acknowledging a truth we all need to be reminded of. The truth is that we all struggle with sin. Because of this we really do need one another in the battle. We need to help one another as we fight to establish and maintain a Godward, God-dependent focus. Prayer on behalf of other believers is always good, both for the one _____ as well as for the one in _____.

YOU CAN HAVE _____ AS YOU PRAY (5:17-18)

You can have complete confidence knowing that your Father hears your prayers.

A. God's _____ in prayer

The energetic prayer of a man who is dealing with sin in his life and living righteously before God is very strong. The energetic empowered prayer of a righteous man who has no sin dealing in his life is going to have a tremendous impact.

B. God's _____ in prayer

We serve a God who is able to do, as Paul says, "*Exceeding abundantly above all that we can _____ or _____.*"

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

James, the author of this book, so loved to pray that we was given the nickname "_____ - _____" because of the callouses that grew because of the amount of time he spent knelt before God in prayer. Throughout the book he will bring up this topic of prayer. The exhortation James gives us to pray does not come without his own example. This morning you might not have a huge burden you are praying for but you do need to pray!

No man is _____ than his prayer life!