

The Prayer of Faith in Trials

James 5:13-18

Is anyone among you suffering?

Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful?

Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

1. The priority of prayer

Is anyone among you suffering?
Let him pray. (13)

Spiritual? Relational?
Physical? Mental?

“When we pray we relinquish,
in a radical way, our so-called sovereignty over the
purposes of our lives. We subordinate our plans,
schedules and life scenarios to the infinitely wiser and
more joyful work of God’s hands.”

Ben Patterson

“Trials come to prove us
and improve us.”

Augustine

Is anyone cheerful?
Let him sing praise.
(13)

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice,
O righteous, and shout for joy,
all you upright in heart. Ps. 32:11

Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thanksgiving in your heart to God.

Col. 3:16

Attitude of Gratitude!

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him. (14)

- Men of faith
- Men of spiritual maturity
- Men of spiritual discernment
- Men, listening to the Holy Spirit

2. The prayer of faith

... anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord (14b)

Symbol of – surrender; being set apart for God; seeking God's purpose and will.

“In the Name of the Lord”

- . His authority
- . His access to the Father
- . His power
- . His glory

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. Prov. 18:10

... and the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick (15)

And whatever you ask in prayer you will receive, if you have faith.

Matt. 21:22

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us. Eph. 3:20

Faith?

- . Trust His plan
- . Trust His promises
- . Trust His provision
- . Trust His power

... and the Lord will raise him up (15)

Faith in His name made this man strong... the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health...

Acts 3:16

Never forget...

- . It is Jesus who heals!
- . It is Jesus who restores!
- . It is Jesus who lifts up!

3. The promise of healing

... and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
(15b)

Therefore confess your sins to one another (16)

How to confess sin publicly

1. OWN it
2. Confess it
3. Ask for forgiveness – humbly
4. Begin restitution immediately

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper but
he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
Prov. 28:13

Sin is most dangerous when
we live in isolation

... and pray for one another (16)
... that you may be healed
(16)

- Spiritual healing
- Relational healing
- Physical healing

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
(16)

4. The power of prayer

Elijah was a man, with a nature like ours and he prayed fervently that it might not rain and for 3 years and 6 months it did not rain on the earth. (17)

“To pray fervently”

- . Not half-hearted
- . Not casual or occasional
- . Not “going through the motions”

Then he prayed again and heaven gave rain and the earth bore its fruit.
(18)