



*Message Six: Prayer Works!*

*James 5:13-20*

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This is our final message from the book of James. We've called it *Vintage Faith* because it is one of the oldest books of the New Testament—written in about 49 AD, six years before the first Gospel was penned. It gives us an idea about the key issues facing the early followers of Christ. He closes his essay on the subject of prayer. Three key points seem to emerge from the text.

## **PRAYER IS THE PROPER RESPONSE TO EVERY EVENT**

*James 5:13-14, Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. (NIV)*

James recognizes that life is **unpredictable**.

Life can change radically in a matter of moments.

Stability comes when we relate everything to **Jesus**.

*Philippians 4:6-7, Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your*

*worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. (Msg)*

## **ASK OTHERS TO PRAY FOR YOU**

*James 5:14-16a, Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed... (NIV)*

There are times when we need the prayers of others.

The sick can call the **elders** to pray for them.

Pray a prayer offered in faith.

Anoint with oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit).

James expects **physical**, **emotional**, and **spiritual** healing to occur among God's people who pray in faith.

The person with controlling sin should confess to a **spiritual** brother or sister in the Lord. (Galatians 6:1)

*James 5:19, 20, My Christian brothers, if any of you should be led away from the truth, let someone turn him back again. That person should know that if he turns a sinner from the wrong way, he will save the sinner's soul from death and many sins will be forgiven. (NLV)*

## PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

*James 5:16b-18, The prayer from the heart of a man right with God has much power. Elijah was a man as we are. He prayed that it might not rain. It did not rain on the earth for three and one-half years. Then he prayed again that it would rain. It rained much and the fields of the earth gave fruit. (NIV)*

Prayer **works!**

The "Yea, but..." question

We cannot explain the mysteries of life easily.

Prayer is not a **work order** for God.

James uses Elijah to illustrate this truth.

Prayer is **powerful**.

Powerful people of prayer are just as **human** as we are.

He didn't get the answer the first time he prayed. (1 Kings 18:44)