



13. Powerful Prayer

James 5:13-18

- Christians don't just hang on (v7-12), but to call out for help to their Father (v13-18)

1. Encouragement to Pray v16-18

- Prayer is for God's people** – “the prayer of the **righteous**”
 - Anyone can pray, but effective prayer is promised to God's people
- Effective Prayer is for Ordinary Christians** – “a man just like us”
 - He got depressed, discouraged, afraid – yet God heard him
 - “prayed fervently” literally “with prayer he prayed” – he just prayed
- Prayer punches above its weight** – “it did not rain for three and a half years”
 - Seems so ordinary, but powerfully effective

2. Prayer is for all of life v13-16

- “Our whole life should be so angled towards God that whatever strikes us, whether sorrow or joy, should be deflected upwards at once into his presence.” – Alec Motyer

a) Are you Struggling? v13

- ‘Trouble’ = any difficulty. Pray! No lower limit!

b) Are you Smiling? v13

- SING! – Praise your Father! Ease can distract us more easily than troubles
- Ingratitude also weakens our trust for hard times

c) Are you Sick? v14-15

- What you must do** - “Call for the elders.”
 - Situation is serious illness. Not instead of medicine, but as well as. Recognising that God is also at work in your sickness
 - NB v15 – “If he has sinned”. **Sometimes** sickness comes because of sin. Search your heart.
- What the elders must do** - “pray and anoint with oil”
 - Anointing – not magical or mystical. An OT picture of setting apart for God, and of God's grace being poured out on the person.
 - Prayer, not oil, is what is effective (v15). Oil only a picture
 - Elders are to pray, trusting God to do what is best.
- What God will do** – “the Lord will raise him up”
 - One of God's great prayer promises (see Matt 7:7; Mk 11:24; John 14:13)
 - Answers always conditional on his good plan, but promise given as a great encouragement to pray. Come boldly and expectantly!

d) Are you Sinning? v16

- Sins against fellow Christians – ruining the fellowship Christ died to create
- Don't deny or hide, deal with it! Admit and pray together.
- Prayer is our great blood-bought resource, we need to use it more!



Sunday 24th June '12

n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Notices

Sunday	Evening service at Day Centre James 5:13-20 - Live like you are part of Christ's Family	8pm
Tues	Midweek Study - Chapter 4 of Westminster Confession of Faith Pick up a study sheet at Colin & Caroline's	8pm
Wed	Morning Study - Chapter 4 of Westminster Confession of Faith Pick up a study sheet at Sergio's and Lisa	8pm

Mark will be away on holidays 1st and 8th July. Philip Dunwoody (studying for the ministry), and Rev. Tim Donachie will be taking the services. If you are able to provide lunch please speak to Mark or Judith.

Contact Rev Stephen Wright 074 9147431 (1st week) or Rev Steven Robinson 048 7130 2363 (2nd week) if there are any pastoral needs.

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352