

LESSON 13
REAL POWER
JAMES 5:13–20



1 Describe a time when God clearly answered your prayers.

2 What is your most memorable experience in prayer with others?



Read James 5:13–20 and the following notes:

☐ 5:14, 15 ☐ 5:14, 15 ☐ 5:15 ☐ 5:16 ☐ 5:16–18 ☐ 5:19, 20

3 What can be accomplished through prayer?

4 What are the elements of powerful and effective prayer?

5 Why does James point to Elijah as an example of prayer?

6 How does the attitude of confidence and certainty regarding prayer in these verses relate to James 4:15?

7 Why do so many believers consider prayer as their last resort?



James describes believing prayer as a dynamic and powerful activity of the Christian life. It is an instrument of healing and forgiveness and a mighty weapon for spiritual warfare. However, for some Christians, prayer is little more than a comfortable ritual that has few demands and offers even fewer rewards. People with this perspective need to read James with fresh eyes and an open heart. Other people mistakenly view prayer as a way to obligate God to give them whatever they claim in faith, as if God were a heavenly vending machine! They need to remember that though God is pleased to use our prayers to accomplish his purposes, and though he delights in responding in love to our requests, he is never bound by our prayers. As you come to the Father in faith, praying in accordance with his will, prayer will be the single most effective ministry you can have. Never apologize to someone for “just” being able to pray. When you pray, you give the best you have to give.

8 What could be some of God's reasons for not answering prayers in our way or in our time?



9 Does God always grant the requests of spiritual people? What people do you know who seem unusually effective in prayer?

10 How would you characterize the prayer life of your church?

11 Do you prefer to pray with others or by yourself? What would happen if one of these is consistently neglected in the life of a believer?

12 How satisfied are you with your prayer life?

13 What would motivate you to pray more frequently and with more earnestness?

14 Talk with some members of your church about ways to increase your church's use of prayer in building God's kingdom. How could a church help its members pray more effectively? Make a covenant together to practice one specific idea.



- A** What is the use and value of oil in praying for the sick (5:14)? What does this mean for us?
- B** If Jesus is our only mediator and forgives our sins, why does James tell us to confess our sins to each other?
- C** How do we know when someone has wandered from the truth (5:19)? What should we do if that person does not want to have anything to do with us?
- D** For what situations would you recommend that someone read the book of James? How would you sum up the main benefits for believers from studying this book?

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