



# *Called to Pray*

**James 5:13-18**



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## James 5:13-18

<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

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## Ephesians 6:18

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

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## Colossians 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

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- *The early church prayed this way (Ac 2:42-47).*



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**3. Prayer for one another does not rely on the power of our faith, but on the power of God in whom our faith rests.**

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- We can bring our physical & spiritual needs before Him with confidence.
- Let's not limit our prayers for one another, or for our church - God can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine! (Eph 3:20).

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- James links confession & prayer because honest spiritual relationships & prayer go together.

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- Not every private sin must be publicly announced.
- If we are serious about growing in community, we need gospel-shaped relationships marked by humility, honesty, forgiveness and prayer.

## **5. Our Prayers for each other are powerful.**

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## 6. Praying for each other is something **EVERYONE** can do!

v.17-18 (NIV) **Elijah was a human being, even as we are.** He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

(ESV) **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours...**

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*“He could rise to the heights of faith and commitment and fall into the depths of despair and depression. He could be brave and resolute sometimes and then fly for his life at a whiff of danger. He could be selfless in his concern for others and then filled with self-pity.”*

*J.A. Motyer - The Message of James*

# HOW TO PRAY FOR OTHERS?

Three quick encouragements:

## 1. Know & Pray the Scriptures

Eph 1:15-19

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

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Eph 3:14-19

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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- Helpful passages:
  - Ephesians (chapters 1 & 3)
  - Philippians (chapter 1)
  - Colossians (chapter 1)
  - 1 Thessalonians (chapter 3)
  - 2 Thessalonians (chapter 1)
  - The Psalms
  - The Lord's Prayer
  - Jesus High Priestly prayer in John 17

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1. Know & Pray the Scriptures

2. Pray regularly & specifically

- Develop a discipline of prayer.
- Set a time and a place, make a list etc.
- Use prayer tools & resources (if helpful)

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