

Daily Devotional, January 6, 2021

'Prayer Ministry', (James 5:13-16)

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:13-16, NKJV)

There is a lot of talk these days about what constitutes essential business. For the Christian, prayer is essential business.

1. *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.”* Call the doctor and seek medical attention if you need to, by all means. But don't forget to call upon the Great Physician who is unlimited in His ability to heal in any way according to His will.
2. *“Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”* Praise is part of prayer ministry.
3. *“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.”* Elders of the church are the ones called to be given most to prayer. God has given the shepherds a burden for the people, and called them to a walk of close fellowship with the Father through Jesus. The anointing with oil is biblical, and the oil further speaks of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Why not bring the Triune God into the matter? And why deprive yourself and your elders of the blessing of involvement in prayer?
4. *“And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”* The sins of the penitent are always forgiven—100% of the time. Confession of sin to one you trust promotes accountability. Intercessory prayer—it works! Just ask the disciples who were prayed for by the Master in [John Chapter 17](#).
5. *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* Don't think just because prayer ministry is a behind the scenes thing, that it is ineffective. Some answers to prayer will be seen this side of heaven, and some on the other side. But no matter, keep praying. God honors that.