

## Personal Reflection

Prayer is a response of relationship. It is a deep expression of love for one another and expresses a deep trust and dependence on God. What transpires in us when we pray for others? What happens to the people we pray for? Does it matter if our prayers were answered in the way we had hoped?

Prayer is powerful and effective. If this is true, why do our prayers sometimes seem anemic and powerless?

As you think over your prayer life, are you satisfied with the time you spend seeking the Lord on behalf of others? What motivates you to prayer? Is there anything you would like to change?

Take a few moments and jot down several prayers over your life that have been answered—prayers that were prayed for you by other believers. Spend time thanking God for His provision, and for the loving people who diligently prayed on your behalf.

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### **Memory Verse:** James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

For VerseMinder go to <http://soundliving.org/verseminder.shtml>

# James 5:13-20

## Shoe-leather Christianity

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For June 29, 2008

LESSON 13

Dr. Jerry Nelson

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*Questions are to be completed the week of June 22 leading up to the sermon on June 29.*

## The Prayer of Faith

Read James 5:13-20 and answer the following questions:

1. (5:13) Think about it: How might verses 13-19 fit with verses 7-11?

What is the common reference point for both praying and singing?

2. (5:14-15) What is a sick person to do?

What are the elders to do?

What is the expected result?

Who is the source of the healing?

Do you think the “oil” is medicinal or ritual? Why?

Is the healing absolutely true (guaranteed), generally true or conditionally true? Why?

Does James 1:5-8 inform our understanding of the “prayer offered in faith?”

3. (5:16) What two results are to be expected from “the prayer offered in faith?”

Does James, like the other disciples (John 9), believe sickness is the result of sin?

Does John 9:1-3 inform our understanding of this passage? How?

What does James tell the sick to do?

What part does sin play in our sickness?

What would “confess your sins to each other” look like in the church?

4. (5:17-18) Who is the “righteous man” in this verse?

Is it the sick person, the one he confesses to, or yet another? Why?

What does “righteous man” mean? Holier, less sinful, justified, what?

What does James mean when he writes, “Elijah was a man just like us?”

What is the illustration of Elijah’s prayer supposed to teach?

5. (5:19) Do verses 19-20 fit with the preceding verses? Why or why not?

Is the wanderer here truly a Christian or a pretender?

If the wanderer is truly a Christian, does this deny the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints or eternal security? Why or why not?

If the wanderer is only a pretender, what do “save from death” and “cover a multitude of sins” mean?