

Sermon Discussion

16 August 2020

Read James 5:13-18 together.

Dig Deeper

1. Why is prayer important? How does prayer make a difference in the lives of believers? What can be accomplished through prayer?
2. Why would James direct the elders to pray for the sick? Why do they have this special responsibility? See 1 Peter 5:1-3 and Hebrews 13:17.
3. Verses 15-16 show that prayers can result in one or more outcomes. What do each of the following results mean? Save (v. 15); Raise up (v. 15); Forgiven (v. 15); Healed (v. 16)
4. What did Jesus teach in John 9:1-3 about the relationship between illness and sin? (*You need to consider the disciples' misunderstanding of it.*) Why might God bring sickness into someone's life because of his/her sins? Read Heb. 12:5-11.
5. Do you ever confess your sins to other believers? Why or why not? As you think about this instruction to confess, in what situations might it be helpful to do so?
6. Share a story of answered prayer from your life. How did you feel through the situation? What about a time of unanswered prayer?
7. What did James mean by saying that, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective"?

Application & Prayer

- This series is designed to encourage us to spend time reading the Bible. How has this sermon encouraged you to spend more time in the Bible? What one thing can you do differently this week?
- What one thing makes prayer most difficult for you? It may be a matter of prioritizing time. How can you change this so that you love God with your time? What will you do this week to spend time in prayer each day, even if only 5 minutes of undistracted time?
- Thank God that He loves you despite any prayerlessness in your life. Talk to Him about your need for His grace to help you become more disciplined in this essential area.