

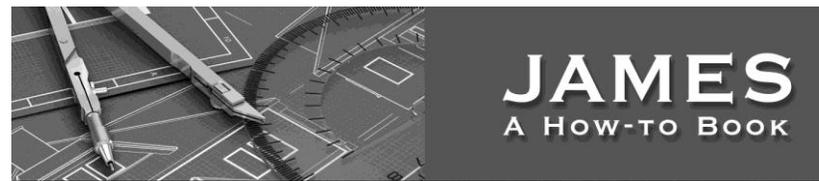
### Next Steps:

- I believe in the power and importance of prayer.
- I will make prayer a priority this week.  
This week I will pray for:
  - Members of my family, friends and loved ones.
  - My church family.
  - Our pastoral staff.
  - Those who need Jesus.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse – James 5:18

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another  
and pray for one another,  
that you may be healed.*

### Prayer Requests



## James: A “How To” Manual for Life

***This Week: How To Pray With Power  
James 5:13-18***

**So Far:** James encouraged his readers to joyfully endure trials, which leads to steadfastness and maturity. They can ask God for wisdom, because he gives generously and without reproach. They must be doers of God’s word, quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. He affirmed that faith without works is dead, while faith with works energizes and completes faith. Disciples of Jesus must avoid bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, which lead to disorder and sin. They must live in godly wisdom, which leads to righteousness and peace.

He said the passions that war within people lead to quarrels, unanswered prayer, and friendship with the world. Disciples must submit to God and resist the devil. They must change their attitudes and behavior, mourning their sin, and humbling themselves before God. Speaking evil about others is the same as judging others, God’s law, and even God himself.

Believers must include God in their plans, because life is brief and uncertain. Boasting in one’s own will is evil and sinful. He denounced the rich for their accumulation of wealth, for defrauding their workers of their wages, and for living self-indulgently. On the other hand, those being oppressed are to be long-suffering and patient, so they can persevere in their trials. They must be honest, trustworthy and authentic.

**This Week:** James urges his readers to deal with suffering, sickness and sin with “the prayer of faith” and confession of sin. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is effective.

## Open

1. What role does prayer play in your life?
2. What answers to prayer regarding a particular person or a particular situation have you seen recently in your life, your small group, or in the church?

## Read James 5:13–18

### Prayer for Those Who are Suffering 13

1. What does James prescribe for those who are suffering?
2. Given the context of James' letter as a whole, what kind of suffering were his readers experiencing?
3. What kind of prayer would be most helpful in that circumstance?

### Reflect

4. What kind of suffering might modern disciples experience?
5. What kind of prayer would be most helpful for that?

### Prayer for Those Who are Cheerful 13

1. What does James prescribe for those who are cheerful?
2. Given the persecution they were experiencing, how are these people cheerful?

### Reflect

3. What is the role of music in your life in general?
4. What is the role of praise and worship in your life?

### Prayer for Those Who are Sick 14

1. What does James prescribe for those who are sick?
2. Why do you think James suggests calling the elders?
3. What do you think is the relationship between praying over the sick, and anointing them with oil?

4. How do you respond to James' statement that prayer offered in faith can make the sick well?

### Prayer for Those Who are Discouraged 15

The word translated "sick" in verse 15 literally means "discouraged." Notice how it is used in Hebrews 12:3: *Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

1. What is a "prayer of faith"?
2. How would that help someone who is discouraged?
3. What is the relationship between the "prayer of faith" and "the Lord will raise him up"?

### Prayer for Those Who have Sinned 16

1. What is involved in confessing "your sins to one another"?
2. How often do you experience this, if ever?
3. What is the relationship between mutual confession and mutual prayer?
4. What is the result of this?
5. What do you think James means by "healed"?

### Reflect

1. In what ways would you like to grow as a person with a healthy and powerful prayer life?
2. What could your Christian community – friends, group, church - do to engage more in prayer together?

### Take-Away

What is your take away from our time together?