

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
-------	-------	------

Cowboy Poetry

087-05

### THAT GOOD OL' RED ROCK SALT

It's May and I'm out packin' rock salt  
The boss said to get it up high.  
I been packin' all day with a couple o' mules  
And a balface that's got a blue eye.

He got this salt on a bargain.  
Laid in at twenty-two bucks.  
It's reddish an' harder'n granite.  
I'm wishin' them cows lots o'luck!

Cause the chance of a cow ever lickin'  
A teaspoon o' salt off this load  
Is the same as her lickin' the white  
Off the inside of my ol' commode!

It's blowed outta salt mines in Utah  
In chunks as big as yer head!  
It erodes as slow as the Rockies,  
Unweathered by storms overhead.

But I'm thinkin' whilst ridin' ol' piebald  
This job ain't as bad as I feared.  
'Cause I've come to the happy conclusion  
You just put out salt once a year!

Those pieces of good ol' red rock salt  
Just stand like a statue of stone  
As the cows and the cowboys grow older  
'Til we're nothing' but leather an' bone.

I reckon it's good fer the value.  
I can't blame the boss, it's his dime.  
It's cheap and, I'm sure, lasts forever  
And that's SOMETHIN' in this day and time!

p. 52

## A Practical Study of JAMES: The Battle of Our Behavior

### SESSION #12: James 5:13-20

#### "Pursue the Power of Prayer"

##### Key Verse:

*5:16 Be confessing, therefore, your sins to one another and be praying for one another that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much.*

##### Memory Verse: James 5:15

##### TEXT:

v.13 Is anyone among you suffering misfortune? Let him keep on praying. Is anyone cheerful? Let him keep on singing praises (making melody).

v.14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the elders of the assembly and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord.

v.15 And the prayer of faith shall make the sick person well, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

v.16 Be confessing therefore your sins to one another, and be praying for one another, that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much.

v.17 Elijah was a man with the same nature as us, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months.

v.18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

v.19 My brethren, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth, and someone brings him back;

v.20 let him be knowing that he who turned a sinner from the error of his way shall save his soul from death, and shall remove from sight a host of sins.



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Prayer	107-01	<p>THE TELEPHONE RINGS and it's your country's leader. He wants to come by for a visit. While you try not to gasp into the phone, he continues. He hopes to find out if there's some way he can help you. And he wants to talk personally with you about a project on a scale almost beyond imagining—an undertaking he'd like you to be a part of.</p> <p>How would you feel after such a call?</p> <p>"Well," you say, "I'd feel shocked, a bit intimidated—a bit doubtful about his motives."</p> <p>Yes, but wouldn't you also feel honored? Wouldn't your life suddenly seem more significant? All your daily strivings a little less humdrum? As you waited nervously for your president or prime minister to visit, wouldn't you see yourself in a completely different light?</p> <p>The King of all kings, the Ruler of the entire universe, has already made that call. He wants time with you. He wants you to tell Him about your needs and interests. And He's asking for your partnership on an immensely important project!</p> <p>p. 13 <i>just take a look at who's on hold !!</i></p>
Prayer	107-02	<p>We respond to the King's invitation when He said, "I'm up to something far more momentous than you might have supposed in your life, in the lives of your loved ones, and in the whole world—and I'm asking you to be part of it."</p> <p>p. 15</p>
God's Will	107-03	<p>Here's a motto for all of us in all we do: "God's will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else." Pray that you will be open to whatever the Lord wants you to do day by day. Tell Him you simply want to be used by Him, whether in great tasks or lowly ones, whether the results will seem large or small.</p> <p>p. 38</p>
Prayer	107-04	<p>As missionary Rosalind Goforth wrote, "<u>There is nothing too great for His power, and nothing too small for His love.</u>"</p> <p>p. 46</p>

*My King is*

\*

Introduction:EXPOSITION:

Saved the best til last!  
its Prayer! that Gets us going !!

James is telling us in this passage that rather than **SWEARING** when we get into a **TOUGH SITUATION**, we should be those who turn to **PRAYER**.

Peter says:

"Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you."

The Lord Jesus illustrates this truth in **Luke 22:44** as the cross comes near for He was in such agony of spirit that He broke into a sweat of blood with great drops falling to the ground as He prayed more and more earnestly.

**John Foster, when approaching death, said:**

I never prayed more earnestly nor probably with such faithful frequency. Pray without ceasing has been the sentence repeating itself in the silent thought and I am sure it must be my practice till the last conscious hour of life. Oh, why not throughout that long, indolent, inanimate half-century past?

And yet this is the way in which we all act about prayer, conscious as we are of its importance, of its vital importance. We yet let the hours pass away as a blank and can only lament in death the irremediable loss.

- ① Test
- ② Temptation
- ③ Open up the word.
- ④ Fill us w/ unconditional love
- ⑤ Fruit Flowing From our lives
- ⑥ Controls the Tongue.
- ⑦ Wisdom
- ⑧ Victory in warfare
- ⑨ developing dependence on the designer

- ⑩ Good stewards of our wealth
- ⑪ Ready or Not Here I come
- ⑫ Pray without ceasing.



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
-------	-------	------

Presence

107-14

Lord Jesus, make Yourself to me  
A living, bright reality,  
More present to faith's vision keen  
Than any earthly object seen;  
More dear, more intimately nigh  
Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.

HUDSON TAYLOR

p. 110

Commitment

107-15

Begin with A. W. Tozer's prayer from *The Pursuit of God*:

O God, I have tasted Your goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made m thirsty for more. . . . O God, the Triune God, I want to want You; I long to be filled with longing. . . . Show me Your glory, I pray, so that I may know You indeed. . . . Give me grace to rise and follow You up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Jesus' name, Amen.

p. 155

Forgiveness

107-16

When you forget this and get trapped in self-condemnation, be encouraged by the response of the devout Frances of Sales, sixteenth-century Bishop of Geneva: "Well my poor soul, here we are in the ditch again, in spite of our earnest resolve to stay out of it. Ah well, let us get out and go on our way, and we'll do well enough, God helping us."

p. 156

Prayer

107-17

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "We should pray when we are in a praying mood, for it would be sinful to neglect so fair an opportunity. We should pray when we are not in a praying mood because it would be dangerous to remain in so unhealthy a condition."

p. 162

"True prayer is a way of life, not just an emergency detour."

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Temptation	107-11	<p>George Mueller wrote, "Let no man think he can have any measure of victory over his inner corruption without taking it to the Lord again and again in prayer." The same holds true in praying for other believers.</p> <p><i>I want a principle within Of watchful, godly fear, A sensitivity to sin, A pain to feel it near.</i></p> <p><i>Help me the first approach to feel Of pride or wrong desire, To catch the wandering of the will And quench the kindling fire.</i> CHARLES WESLEY</p> <p>p. 88</p>
Prayer	107-12	<p><i>You are coming to a King, Large petitions with you bring; For His grace and power are such, None can ever ask too much.</i> AUTHOR UNKNOWN</p> <p>p. 95</p>
Holiness	107-13	<p>Lord, I long to live righteously every day, all day long. How much I need Your purifying presence to reprove me and purge my life of all that grieves You. Many of Your people likewise need refining fires to reveal and burn out sin. Bring release from the things that bind us—compromise, complacency, tolerance of sin, materialism, love of power, infighting, gossip, lack of spiritual depth. Give each of us a spirit of repentance and power to live our lives with reverent fear of You. Implant deep within me a hatred for sin and an enduring longing to be more like You.</p> <p>Thank You, Father, that You discipline me because You want to adorn my character with the purity and beauty of Christ. Enable me to trust Your loving intentions and not to resist You. When You, as a refiner of silver, use painful, fiery trials to bring the scum to the top of my life, give me grace to cooperate with You in removing it rather than just stirring it back in.</p> <p>I praise You that You are full of compassion and that the outcome of Your purifying work is more than worth all You let us go through.</p> <p>p. 96</p>



v.13 Is anyone among you suffering misfortune? Let him keep on praying.  
Is anyone cheerful? Let him keep on singing praises (making melody).

Paul and Silas in Acts 16:25 let this be their practice that when they were in adversity they prayed and also the joy that was theirs caused them to sing and at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God and prisoners heard them.

### DISAPPOINTMENT, HIS APPOINTMENT,

change one letter then I see,  
that the thwarting of my purpose  
is God's better choice for me.

His appointment must be blessing  
though it may come in disguise  
for the end from the beginning  
open to His vision lies.

Disappointment, His appointment.  
Lord I take it then as such,  
like the clay in hands of the potter,  
wholly yielding to thy touch.

All my life's plan in thy moulding,  
not a single choice be mine,  
let me answer unrepining,  
Father, not my will but Thine.

Stay in fellowship with the Father no matter what happens.

Helps me know He's there.

Helps me know He's still in control.

James then asks us to turn to **PRAYER** rather than to **PROFANITY** when we are suffering affliction.

Prayer may not remove the affliction but it most certainly can transform it.

Prayer helps me see things from the **DIVINE POINT OF VIEW!**



which they came. <sup>34</sup>And this is still going on among them today. They follow their former practices instead of truly worshiping the LORD and obeying the laws, regulations, instructions, and commands he gave the descendants of Jacob, whose name he changed to Israel. <sup>35</sup>For the LORD had made a covenant with the descendants of Jacob and commanded them: "Do not worship any other gods or bow before them or serve them or offer sacrifices to them. <sup>36</sup>Worship only the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt with such mighty miracles and power. You must worship him and bow

before him; offer sacrifices to him alone. <sup>37</sup>Be careful to obey all the laws, regulations, instructions, and commands that he wrote for you. You must not worship any other gods. <sup>38</sup>Do not forget the covenant I made with you, and do not worship other gods. <sup>39</sup>You must worship only the LORD your God. He is the one who will rescue you from all your enemies."

<sup>40</sup>But the people would not listen and continued to follow their old ways. <sup>41</sup>So while these new residents worshiped the LORD, they also worshiped their idols. And to this day their descendants do the same.

## APRIL 12 □ DAY 103

### 2 KINGS 18-21

#### Reforms of Hezekiah



**OVERVIEW** With the captivity and deportation of Israel, the curtain drops on the northern ten tribes. But what of their countrymen in the south? Will they learn from Israel's calamity and turn back to God? At this crucial juncture, God raises up Hezekiah, who does "what [is] pleasing in the LORD's sight, just as his ancestor David had done" (18:3). Spiritually, Hezekiah institutes sweeping reforms to bring the nation back to a wholehearted worship of God. Politically, he refuses to pay tribute any longer to Assyria, choosing instead to trust God for protection from reprisal. In answer to his prayer, God decimates the Assyrian army, breaking the back of that once mighty nation. However, by the time of his death, Hezekiah's pride and family negligence ensure that Judah's days are numbered.

Chapter 18	Chapter 19	Chapter 20	Chapter 21
Assyria at the Door	Assyria on the Run	Hezekiah on His Deathbed	Manasseh on the Rampage
Hezekiah's National Problems		Hezekiah's Personal Problems	



**YOUR DAILY WALK** If you're looking for some help in your prayer life, why not spend some time studying an Old Testament character whose every recorded prayer was answered!

Hezekiah was a man of faith (18:5) and a man of prayer. His first reaction when confronted with a problem was to bring it before the Lord. Whether the problem was 185,000 uninvited Assyrians (19:35) or a painful illness (20:1, 7), Hezekiah took it to the Lord in prayer. And when he prayed, things happened!

Prayer is not a magic formula, but verbal communication with the sovereign God of creation. Examine your own prayer habits. Are they built on a personal relationship with God? Are you strengthening your prayer life with daily exercise? Are you more comfortable talking to God today than you were a year ago? Try this: Every time you get into or out of your car today, spend a few seconds in prayer. You'll find it

*ON Friday  
I was reading*

*People may spurn your appeals, reject your messages, I oppose your arguments, but they are helpless against your prayers.*

*Habit Forming.*



v.14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the elders of the assembly and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Here James gives a procedure for those who are sick in the church.

"OIL" in the Scripture is an EMBLEM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and it would seem here that:

the elders are recognizing an operation of the Holy Spirit.

God can & does say "NO" because He has  
A Greater purpose & plan !!  
We Need to Get Comfortable with this !!



v.15 And the prayer of faith shall make the sick person well, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

We see: 3 Things: This is when He says "Yes!"

- 1. the prayer of faith will make the sick person well,
- 2. the Lord will raise him up, and
- 3. if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

This is not a general statement of all sins, but only sins that he might have committed in making him sick at this time.

v.16 Be confessing therefore your sins to one another, and be praying for one another, that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much.

This is our Key Verse!

1 John 1:9

If we are confessing our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ryrie says on this that:

Confessing our sins and forgiving one another, these are constant needs in the spiritual life. Confessing keeps us right with God and other believers. Forgiving keeps us right with other believers and with God.

James Gilmour of Mongolia says:

Do not we rest in our day too much on the arm of the flesh. Cannot the same wonders be done now as of old. Do not the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth still to show Himself strong on behalf of those who put their trust in Him. Oh that God would give me more practical faith in Him whereas now the Lord God of Elijah He is waiting for Elijah to call on Him.

1. Pride

2. Fear

3. Dishonesty



E. M. Bounds in his book Purpose in Prayer says:

These men knew how to pray and how to prevail on prayer. Their faith in prayer was no passing attitude that changed with the wind or with their own feelings and circumstances. It was a fact that God heard and answered, that His ear was ever open to the cry of his children and that the power to do what was asked of Him was commensurate with His willingness.

In The Kneeling Christian we read:

Why are so many Christians so often defeated, because they pray so little. Why are so many church-workers so often discouraged and disheartened, because they pray so little. Why do most men see so few brought out of darkness to light, by their ministry, because they pray so little. Why are not our churches simply on fire for God, because there is so little real prayer. The Lord Jesus is as powerful today as ever before. The Lord Jesus is as anxious as ever before for men to be saved. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save but He cannot stretch forth His arm unless we pray more and more really. We may be assured of this, the secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer.

James is certainly not talking about a subject that he knows little about here for as we mentioned earlier in our studies, he was a tremendous man of prayer. He died a martyr with the prayer of the Lord Jesus on his lips:

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

CAMEL KNEES

Philippians 4:6

In no respect be anxious but in everything by prayer and petitioning with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

# 1 all  
Jesus: # 4 Prayer  
# 7

# Anchor Man: How A Father Can Anchor His Family in Christ

Steve Farrar.

- When **Moses** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Jehoshaphat** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Josiah** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Daniel** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Ezra** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Nehemiah** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Mordecai** and **Esther** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Joel** needed to take some ground, he prayed and fasted.
- When **Paul and Barnabas**, and the elders at Antioch, needed to take some ground, they prayed and fasted.

P. 235



**1 Peter 5:7**

Casting all your care upon Him for you are his personal concern.

Oh what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer"

Nothing is too great for his power and too small for his care.

**WHY** and **WHEN** do you pray?

**Soldier:**

"O God you know I have asked you for a lot of things I didn't need and said a lot of things I didn't mean. But now I'm not fool'n."



TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Aging	107-08	<p>STRENGTH AND HEALTH THROUGH GOD AND HIS WORD. George Mueller lived ninety-two years, with amazing strength and health to the end. Arthur T. Pierson reports that Mueller attributed his health and long life to three causes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. His striving to always keep his conscience clear before God and man (Acts 24:16)</li> <li>2. His love for the Scriptures, and the way they constantly restored his whole being, even his body (Prov. 3:2, 8; 4:22)</li> <li>3. His happiness in God and His work, which relieved him of all anxiety and needless wear and tear in his labors (Ps. 55:22)</li> </ol> <p>p. 69</p>
Perseverance	107-09	<p>NEVER GIVE UP. George Mueller is renowned for his many, often-dramatic answers to prayer, and for the way he carefully sought God's mind in what he prayed for. Yet he prayed for years that certain people would be converted, and the answers came very slowly, one by one. He wrote:</p> <p>The great point is never to give up until the answer comes. I have been praying for fifty-two years, every day, for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! . . . The great fault of the children of God is, they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they desire anything for God's glory, they should pray until they get it.</p> <p>p. 73</p> <p><i>They did!</i></p>
Prayer	107-10	<p>Gracious Father—high King of heaven, yet my Father!—You are seated in the throne room of the universe on a throne of grace, a throne of favor for the undeserving. What a privilege it is to come to Your throne unafraid, with utter freedom and confidence, assured of Your glad welcome—"to run right into Your throne room and find Your arms open wide!" (Kay Arthur).</p> <p>p. 81</p>

<sup>n</sup> The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much."

Prayer Journal

- ① Praise
- ② Petition
- ③ Personal



# A.W. Tozer: The Pursuit of God

## THE GAZE OF THE SOUL

97

and a full committal of the life to God. It is hardly necessary to mention this, for only persons who have made such a committal will have read this far.

When the habit of inwardly gazing Godward becomes fixed within us we shall be ushered onto a new level of spiritual life more in keeping with the promises of God and the mood of the New Testament. The Triune God will be our dwelling place even while our feet walk the low road of simple duty here among men. We will have found life's *summum bonum* indeed. "There is the source of all delights that can be desired; not only can nought better be thought out by men and angels, but nought better can exist in any mode of being! For it is the absolute maximum of every rational desire, than which a greater cannot be."<sup>3</sup>

#9

*O Lord, I have heard a good word inviting me to look away to Thee and be satisfied. My heart longs to respond, but sin has clouded my vision till I see Thee but dimly. Be pleased to cleanse me in Thine own precious blood, and make me inwardly pure, so that I may with unveiled eyes gaze upon Thee all the days of my earthly pilgrimage. Then shall I be prepared to behold Thee in full splendor in the day when Thou shalt appear to be glorified in Thy saints and admired in all them that believe. Amen.*

1. Nicholas of Cusa, *The Vision of God*, E. P. Dutton & Co.,

v.17 Elijah was a man with the same nature as us, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months.

James now turns to an OLD TESTAMENT ILLUSTRATION:

even as he used the prophets ~~or~~ JOB in our last study and

ABRAHAM AND RAHAB in our fifth study,

Now, so he is going to use ELIJAH at this time.

Elijah had prayed that it would not rain and for three and a half years, it didn't. And there was a mighty famine in the land.



v.18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Elijah prayed on MOUNT CARMEL and the fire of the Lord fell and the people were convinced that Jehovah was God. And then he prayed and rain came.

### ① Super Bowl ON Carmel

A. Fire fell

B. Prophets of Baal Are Slain.

C. Prayer — 7 Times.

7th Time — A cloud as small as a man's hand.

Hitch the Horses to your Chariot

Man! the rain is coming.

You're going to see Flash Flood.

Signs All the way to Jezreel.

v.19 My brethren, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth, and someone brings him back:

Johnson, speaking on this verse, says:

That this is a clear case of a believer turning back from his sin to fellowship. Thus, conversion can be used either of salvation or fellowship. You never drift back into fellowship with God. There is a point when you confess and get back into fellowship.

OH! HE'S BACK!!



v.20 let him be knowing that he who turned a sinner from the error of his way shall save his soul from death, and shall remove from sight a host of sins.

### "HIS SOUL FROM DEATH" – PHYSICAL DEATH

1 Corinthians 11

1 John 5

This is a picture of what Paul describes in:

Galatians 6:1

Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are Godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong.

Billy Simmons calls this section:

#### A Spiritual Prescription

When you are suffering, pray.  
 When you are cheerful, sing.  
 When you are sick, pray and anoint.  
 When you sin, confess and pray.  
 When one errs, convert him.

**CONCLUSION:**

E. M. Bounds says:

The prayers of God's saints are the capital stock in heaven by which Christ carries on His great work upon earth. The great throes and mighty convulsions on earth are the results of these prayers. Earth is changed, revolutionized, angels move on more powerful, more rapid wing, and then God's policy is shaped as the prayers are more numerous, more efficient.

We have been mediating upon this **12TH POINTER FOR PROGRESS:**

**"PURSUE THE POWER OF PRAYER."**

May God grant that we would be dependent upon the access which we have in the presence of the Father rather than the work of the flesh.



## CONCLUSION TO THE BOOK:

In our study of the Book of James, we have been looking together at **POINTERS FOR PROGRESS**. Each one of these pointers that James gives to us is ways that we can grow and move toward maturity in our faith in Christ. Each one of them is produced by the Spirit of God in our lives.

1. WE GROW TALLER THROUGH TESTING,
2. GROWTH IS STUNTED BY SIN,
3. GROWTH IS PRODUCED BY THE WORD,
4. LEARN TO LOVE THE UNLOVELY,
5. FAITH IS DEAD WITHOUT DEEDS,
6. STRIVE FOR TONGUE CONTROL,
7. GROW IN GOOD JUDGMENT,
8. WAR AGAINST THE BIG THREE,
9. DEVELOP DEPENDENCE UPON THE DESIGNER,
10. DISCERN THE WAGES OF THE WEALTHY,
11. HIS RE-ENTRY IS ON SCHEDULE, and
12. PURSUE THE POWER OF PRAYER.

Your Prayer Life is a reflection of your Spiritual Maturity!

1. FELLOWSHIP

2. TRUST

**CONCLUSION:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Prayer can come by faith or by flesh.

LESSON #2: Your prayer life is a reflection of your spiritual maturity.

LESSON #3: Your prayer life tells us how in fellowship you are with the Lord.

LESSON #4: Your prayer life tells us how willing you are to trust Him to handle the circumstances in your life.

LESSON #5: Prayer is communion with the Father.

LESSON #6: Out of this communion and communication with the Father, there comes a oneness whereby we are able to express the deepest desires of our heart.



It is my prayer at the conclusion of our study that these **TWELVE POINTERS OF PROGRESS** might be followed faithfully and we might see many growing up in Christ to mature saints.

I trust that each of us will identify with the apostle Paul in:

### Philippians 3

Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by His resurrection. Now I long to share His sufferings, even to die as He died, so that I may perhaps attain, as He did, the resurrection from the dead. Yet my brothers, I do not consider myself to have arrived spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect, but I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now, but I do concentrate on this. I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead, I go straight for the goal. My reward, the honor of being called by God in Christ.

All of us who are spiritually adult should set ourselves this sort of ambition. If at present you cannot see this, yet you will find that this is the attitude which God is leading you to adopt, it is important that we go forward in the light of such truth as we have ourselves attained to.

Test

Tempt

Word

Love

Fruit

Tongue

Judgment

Warfare

Dependence

Wealth

Coming

Prayer

*What Are You going to do?*

① MAMA Duck Trained them to follow her

② my sheep hear my voice.

③ when did you last say:

"one of these days I'm going to

get all my ducks in line."

"Today if you hear his voice  
Trust in the Lord with all  
thy heart. . . .

# 473 "I am thine, O Lord."  
Verses 1 + 3



STUDY # 12  
PURSUE THE POWER OF PRAYER 5:13-20

KEY VERSE: 5:16 Be confessing, therefore, your sins to one another and be praying for one another that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much.

MEMORY VERSE: 5:15

TEXT: 5:13-20

Is anyone among you suffering misfortune? Let him keep on praying. Is anyone cheerful? Let him keep on singing praises (making melody). Is anyone among you sick, let him call the elders of the assembly and let them pray over him having annointed him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall make the sick person well and the Lord shall raise him up. And if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Be confessing, therefore, your sins to one another and be praying for one another that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much. Elijah was a man with the same nature as us and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders away from the truth and someone brings him back, let him be knowing that he who turned a sinner from the error of his ways shall save his soul from death and shall remove from sight a host of sins.

EXPOSITION: James is telling us in this passage that rather than swearing when we get into a tough situation, we should be those who turn to prayer. Peter says "Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you." *Father, Forgive...*

1. The Lord Jesus illustrates this truth in Luke 22:44 as the cross comes near for He was in such agony of spirit that He broke into a sweat of blood with great drops falling to the ground as He prayed more and more earnestly.
2. John Foster said, when approaching death, "I never prayed more earnestly nor probably with such faithful frequency. Pray without ceasing has been the sentence repeating itself in the silent thought and I am sure it must be my practice till the last conscious hour of life. Oh, why not throughout that long, indolent, inanimate half-century past?" And yet this is the way in which we all act about prayer, conscious as we are of its importance, of its vital importance. We yet let the hours pass away as a blank and can only lament in death the irremediable loss.

Verse Thirteen: Is anyone among you suffering misfortune. Let him keep on praying. Is anyone cheerful. Let him keep on singing praises, making melody.

1. Paul and Silas in Acts 16:25 let this be their practice that when they were in adversity they prayed and also the joy that was theirs caused them to sing and at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God and prisoners heard them.
2. Disappointment, His appointment, change one letter then I see, that the thwarting of my purpose is God's better choice for me. His appointment must be blessing though it may come in disguise for the end from the beginning open to His vision lies. Disappointment, His appointment. Lord I take it then as such, like the clay in hands of the potter, wholly yielding to thy touch. All my life's plan in thy moulding, not a single choice be mine, let me answer unrepining, Father, not my will but Thine.

*Stay in Fellowship with the Father No Matter what happens*



3. James then asks us to turn to prayer rather than to profanity when we are suffering affliction. Prayer may not remove the affliction but it most certainly can transform it. Prayer helps me see things from the divine point of view

Verse Fourteen: Is anyone among you sick, let him call the elders of the assembly and let them pray over him having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord.

1. Here James gives a procedure for those who are sick in the church.
2. Oil in the scripture is an emblem of the Holy Spirit and it would seem here that the elders are recognizing an operation of the Holy Spirit.

Verse Fifteen: And the prayer of faith shall make the sick person well and the Lord shall raise him up. And if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

1. First of all we see that the prayer of faith will make the sick person well. Secondly, the Lord will raise him up. And thirdly, if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
2. This is not a general statement of all sins, but only sins that he might have committed in making him sick at this time.

Verse Sixteen: Be confessing, therefore, your sins to one another and be praying for one another that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person is able to do much. This is our key verse in the 12th Pointer for Progress Pursue the Power of Prayer.

1. 1 John 1:9 says "If we are confessing our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
2. Ryrie says on this that "confessing our sins and forgiving one another, these are constant needs in the spiritual life. Confessing keeps us right with God and other believers. Forgiving keeps us right with other believers and with God."
3. James Gilmour of Mongolia says "Do not we rest in our day too much on the arm of the flesh. Cannot the same wonders be done now as of old. Do not the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth still to show Himself strong on behalf of those who put their trust in Him. Oh that God would give me more practical faith in Him whereas now the Lord God of Elijah He is waiting for Elijah to call on Him."
4. E. M. Bounds in his book Purpose in Prayer says "These men knew how to pray and how to prevail on prayer. Their faith in prayer was no passing attitude that changed with the wind or with their own feelings and circumstances. It was a fact that God heard and answered, that His ear was ever open to the cry of his children and that the power to do what was asked of Him was commensurate with His willingness."
5. In Kneeling Christian we read "Why are so many Christians so often defeated, because they pray so little. Why are so many church-workers so often discouraged and disheartened, because they pray so little. Why do most men see so few brought out of darkness to light, by their ministry, because they pray so little. Why are not our churches simply on fire for God, because there is so little real prayer. The Lord Jesus is as powerful today as ever before. The Lord Jesus is as anxious as ever before for men to be saved. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save but He cannot stretch forth His arm unless we pray more and more really. We may be assured of this, the secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer."
6. James is certainly not talking about a subject that he knows little about here for as we mentioned earlier in our studies, he was a tremendous man of prayer. He died a martyr with the prayer of the Lord Jesus on his lips "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Camel Knees

① Pr. bc  
② Fear  
③ Dishonesty

Phil 4:6 In no respect be anxious but in everything by prayer & petitioning with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

I Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him for you are his personal concern.

"Oh what peace we often forfeit oh what needless pain we bear all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer"

Nothing is too great for his power & too small for his care.

Why & When do you pray?

Soldier: "O God you know I have asked you for a lot of things I didn't need, & said a lot of things I didn't mean. But now I'm not fool'n."



Verse Seventeen: Elijah was a man with the same nature as us and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain upon the earth for three years and six months.

1. James now turns to an Old Testament illustration even as he used the prophets in Job in our last study and Abraham and Rahab in our fifth study, so he is going to use Elijah at this time.
2. Elijah had prayed that it would not rain and for three and a half years, it didn't. And there was a mighty famine in the land.

Verse Eighteen: And he prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.

1. Elijah prayed on Mount Carmel and the fire of the Lord fell and the people were convinced that Jehovah was God. And then he prayed and rain came.

Verse Nineteen: My brethren, if anyone among you wanders away from the truth and someone brings him back.

1. Johnson, speaking on this verse, says: "That this is a clear case of a believer turning back from his sin to fellowship. Thus, conversion can be used either of salvation or fellowship. You never drift back into fellowship with God. There is a point when you confess and get back into fellowship."

Verse Twenty: Let him be knowing that he who turned a sinner from the error of his way shall save his soul from death and shall remove from sight a host of sins.

1. This is a picture of what Paul describes in Galatians 6:1 "Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are Godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong."
2. Billy Simmons calls this section a Spiritual Prescription: "When you are suffering, pray. When you are cheerful, sing. When you are sick, pray and anoint. When you sin, confess and pray. When one errs, convert him."

CONCLUSION: E. M. Bounds says: "The prayers of God's saints are the capital stock in heaven by which Christ carries on His great work upon earth. The great throes and mighty convulsions on earth are the results of these prayers. Earth is changed, revolutionized, angels move on more powerful, more rapid wing, and then God's policy is shaped as the prayers are more numerous, more efficient."

1. We have been mediating upon this 12th Pointer for Progress Pursue the Power of Prayer. May God grant that we would be dependent upon the access which we have in the presence of the Father rather than the work of the flesh.

CONCLUSION TO THE BOOK: In our study of the Book of James, we have been looking together at Pointers for Progress. Each one of these pointers that James gives to us are ways that we can grow and move toward maturity in our faith in Christ. Each one of them is produced by the Spirit of God in our lives.

First of all, we learn that we grow taller through testing. Secondly, growth is stunted by sin. Third, growth is produced by the word. Fourth, learn to love the unlovely. Fifth, faith is dead without deeds. Sixth, strive for tongue control. Seven, grow in good judgment. Eight, war against the big three. Ninth, develop dependence upon the designer. Tenth, discern the wages of the wealthy. Eleventh, His re-entry is on schedule, and Twelve, pursue the power of prayer.

Your prayer life is a reflection of your  
Spiritual Maturity! ① Fellowship  
② Trust

Oh! he's back!!

Physical  
death

I Cor. 11:

I Jns:

## Lessons:

#2 Your prayer life is a reflection of your spiritual maturity.

#1. Prayer can come by faith or by flesh.

#3 Your prayer life tells us how in fellowship you are with the Lord.

#4 ~~to~~ Your prayer life tells us how willing you are ~~to~~ trust Him to handle the circumstances in your life.

~~#5~~ Prayer is communion with the Father.

#6 Out of this communion + communication with the Father <sup>there</sup> comes a oneness whereby we are able to express the deep desires of our heart.



It is my prayer at the conclusion of our study that these twelve Pointers for Progress might be followed faithfully and we might see many growing up in Christ to mature saints.

I trust that each of us will identify with the apostle Paul in Philippians 3: "Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by His resurrection. Now I long to share His sufferings, even to die as He died, so that I may perhaps attain, as He did, the resurrection from the dead. Yet my brothers, I do not consider myself to have arrived spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect, but I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now, but I do concentrate on this. I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead, I go straight for the goal. My reward, the honor of being called by God in Christ."

All of us who are spiritually adult should set ourselves this sort of ambition. If at present you cannot see this, yet you will find that this is the attitude which God is leading you to adopt, it is important that we go forward in the light of such truth as we have ourselves attained to.

Test

Tempt

Word

Love

Fruit

Tongue

Judgment

Warfare

dependence

wealth

Coming

Prayer