

Faith Takes Grit: What is prayer?

James 5:13-16

Josh Weidmann, Senior Pastor

**SERMON SUMMARY:** One of the great mysteries of the Christian life is that we are able to talk to a God we cannot see and who does not audibly speak back to us. Yet, the Bible, both Old and New Testament make it clear that we can *and* should talk to God in order to praise Him, thank Him and ask Him to interact with us. In this message we will look at 4 defining elements of prayer as laid out in James 5:13-16.

**Review:** Take a few minutes and review the book of James. What verses really jump out at you and continue to speak to your heart? Why are those verses so powerful to you?

Read James 5:13-16

1. Prayer is desperation. vs. 13
  - Why does the realization of how big and **holy** our God is, make a difference when we reach a place of desperation?
  - “If we really understood our desperate need for God, we’d pray so much more and harder.” What does this look like in your personal life? How do you **minimize** God? How can that effect your prayer life?
  - In what ways does God **grow you** when you reach a point of desperation? Share a personal example of when that happened in your life.
  
2. Prayer is celebration. vs. 13
  - What does 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 say about **celebration and cheerfulness** and prayer? How good are you at living that out? Come on, really? How have you lived that during the past week? What does it mean, to you, to “**pray without ceasing**”? How do you live that out?
  - In God’s **sovereignty**, if He decides that a “no” or “not right now” is the best answer for you, can you still find reason to celebrate? What does that look like in your personal life? Share a time when this happened to you.
  
3. Prayer is participation. vs. 14-15
  - Prayer is meant to be done in community. Who is your “**prayer community**?” If you are married, how often do you pray, ***intentionally***, into your spouse? (Not just at dinner time, but actually intentionally praying into their life and heart.)
  - Does verse 15 promise that a sick person will get healed? Let’s play “**What if?**” What if the sick person doesn’t get healed? Does it mean they don’t have enough faith?
  
4. Prayer is confession. vs. 15-16
  - **Why** should we have to confess our sins to each other? Shouldn’t our confession to God be good enough? **Who** do you have in your life that you can confess to and that can hold you accountable?

Prep for next week: **Read James 5: 16-18 daily.** Ask God what He want to teach you in these verses.

