November 19 & 22, 2026
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James | Faith That Works – Week 10
“How Prayer Works”

James 5:13-18 (NIV)
Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.**16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. **18** Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

1. **Prayer should be our first response in every circumstance.**

    - Your first response in trouble will often reveal the object of your faith.

    - A persevering life is a prayerful life.

James 5:14-15 (NIV)
Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

2. **Prayer should be focused on the purposes of God.**

    - The primary purpose of God is His glory and the redemption of mankind.

    - Powerful prayers come from not just reading the Bible but praying the Bible.

- Prayer is about seeking His will and aligning our lives with His purposes.

James 5:16-18 (NIV)
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. **18** Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

3. **Prayer should be persistent.**

Luke 11:5-10 (NIV)
Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6** a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' **7** And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.
9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Many times, God needs to do something in us before He does something in the one we are praying for.

4. **Prayer should be penitent.**

James 5:16 (NIV)
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

- Pride is the mortal enemy to prayer.