

The Power of a Praying church / James 5:13-20

1. Do you too long for revival and spiritual breakthrough? How can you be part of this?

2. It says in Mark 11:24 *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.* What does this say to you about the power of prayer?

3. Every congregation makes a choice as to what degree they want the presence of God in their midst by the importance they assign to worshipping Him. What is the Lord saying to you in this statement?

4. *Philippians 4:4-6 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* What is the Lord saying to you in this verse?

5. *Matthew 18:19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.* What is the Lord saying to you in this verse?

6. *James 4:2-3 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* What is the Lord saying to you in these verses?

7. James 15:16b - *The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.* What is the Lord saying to you about in this verse?

8. **A Premise for prayer it works.** Proverbs 15:29 - *The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.*
9. **A person of prayer: The example of Elijah** – Reference 1 Kings chapters 17-18.
10. **Pattern for prayer for individuals and a church**
 - a. Specific prayer
 - b. Believing prayer
 - c. Prayer that understands God's will
 - d. Prayer that upholds God's honor
11. **Illustration of how praying to seek God's will changes a church.** For several years our church has set annual prayer goals. One guiding principle has been that as we seek God's direction for the church, some goals must be set so high that they could never be accomplished apart from divine intervention. When they are achieved we will be unable to say, the pastor did that, or give credit to staff, or board, or church. "Only God could have done that!" And glory and honor belong to Him!
12. **What is the Lord telling you in the message today?**

Going Deeper – A further study on the topic of prayer / You will need an extra sheet of paper to complete this study.

1. Read James 5:16. What are we supposed to do for one another? Why? What kind of prayer does God want? What happens as a result of this kind of prayer?
2. Read James 1:22-25. What does this Scripture say to do? In light of this Scripture, what does it mean we should be doing with regard to James 5:16 above?
3. Read Matthew 18:19. What is the promise to you in this Scripture? How does it make you feel with regard to praying for one another?
4. Read Timothy 2:1. Who are we to pray for and why? Is there any way in which you feel reluctant, fearful, and hesitant about doing this? How could you pray about this?
5. Read 2 Cor. 1:3-4. What does God do for us? What are we to do as a result of what God does? What does this Scripture speak to you with regard to praying for others?
6. Read Jeremiah 17:14 and 30:17, Psalm 103:2-3, Isaiah 53:5, and Malachi 4:2. One of the prayers you will be asked to pray most often for other people will be for healing. Write out a prayer asking God for healing for someone you know who needs it and incorporate these Scriptures into the prayer. (For example, “Lord, I praise you as the God who heals all of our diseases. Thank you that Your Word says You will”...etc.)
7. Read Philippians 4:13, Romans 8:37, and Psalm 138:3. What do these verses speak to you with regard to any fear, doubt, or hesitation you may have regarding praying with or for other people?
8. Read the following scriptures in your bible and describe what each one says we are to do for one another.
 - a. Ezekiel 24:23
 - b. Mark 9:50
 - c. Romans 12:10
 - d. Romans 15:7
 - e. 1 Cor. 12:25
 - f. Galatians 5:13
 - g. Ephesians 4:2
 - h. Ephesians 4:32
 - i. Ephesians 5:21
9. Read 1 Peter 4:7-8 and Colossian 3:14. Explain how these verse could guide you in praying with a prayer partner?
10. Read John 14:13-14 and Matthew 21:21-2. What is the promise to you in these verses of Scripture and how do the words of Jesus strengthen your faith?

11. Read Romans 8:26. How does this verse make you feel in regard to praying for big issues in the world? Does it take the pressure off? If so, in what way? Write out a prayer asking God to speak to you with regard to how He wants you to specifically pray for the world. Ask Him to make you sensitive to the leading and enablement of the Holy Spirit as you pray.
12. Read Luke 17:5-6. What did the disciples ask Jesus to do for them? What did Jesus say to them about faith? Write out a prayer asking God for the same thing the disciples asked Jesus for.
13. Read Jeremiah 1:10. In light of this Scripture, what do you think is God's attitude with regard to us praying for other nations of the world? What can we accomplish?
14. Read Psalm 2:8. What does God ask us to do? In light of this verse, what could happen if you were to adopt a particular nation in prayer and regularly pray for God to pour out His Holy Spirit on the people in that nation so that they would turn to the Lord?
15. Have you ever had something happen to you or around you, and you sensed it was not just by accident that you were there? Did you feel you were called to intercede in the situation? Can you think of a situation right now that you have knowledge of, are touched by, or in the midst of, where God may possibly have you there for the purpose of interceding about this matter? If you answered yes write out a prayer of intercession regarding that situation. If you answer no, write out a prayer asking God to reveal to you anyone or anything He specifically wants you to pray about right now. Ask Him to raise up other intercessors besides you to pray about it as well.
16. Read Mark 11:7 and 2 Samuel 22:7-8. What is one of the main duties of believers in the church? How do you think the prayers of God's people could possibly affect the world? Do you think they could shake things up a bit?
17. Read Matthew 28:19, John 4:35-36, and Matthew 9:36-38. What is the last commandment Jesus gave His disciples and us (Matthew 28)? How can we help see that accomplished through prayer? What does Jesus want us to see? What did He tell us to pray for? How could you pray in order to help with the harvest of souls?
18. Read Psalm 67:1-4, 46:10 and 47:8. In light of these Scriptures, what is true about God in the nations of the earth? What do they need to know about God? Write out a prayer for the nations of the world that is inspired by these verses.