

Faith in Action – James

James 5:13-20

“Pray for One Another” – November 15, 2020



Introduction

Christianity is not a sprint, it's a marathon – with joys, trials, and temptations along the way. It's a race we run *together* as a church which means we care for each other along the way. There will be times in the race we're weary, tired, discouraged – tempted to throw in the towel. So how can we persevere? How can we remain steadfast and patient so as to make it across the finish line? James ends the letter reminding us how.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Persevere by prayer (5:13-18)
 - a. Individual prayer (5:13)
 - b. Calling on the elders to pray (5:14-15)
 - c. Praying for one another (5:16a)
 - d. Encouragement to pray (5:16b-18)
- II. Persevere by pursuing (5:19-20)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [James 5:13-18](#)

Sometimes the reasons we *don't* pray are because of wrong assumptions about God. We assume: *God doesn't care; He doesn't have time for me. Prayer doesn't work.* In looking at what James says about prayer and about God...how does he correct our wrong assumptions of God that keep us from praying? Notice how James shifts us from seeing prayer as drudgery, a duty we have to do...to prayer being a wonderful privilege – the Creator of the universe, inviting us with a generous heart to come to Him. How would believing this change your prayer life in the coming week?

Both with the elders and the church family, James reminds us the importance of praying together and praying for one another. What are ways you can encourage a weary brother or sister in Christ by praying with them or for them today?

Additional Reading: Psalm 25:3, 1 Timothy 2:5, Matthew 7:7-11

To help us remember who God is and sing songs of praise, check out the songs we've recorded to help us through the week: <https://fbcum.org/media-library/>

2) Read [James 5:19-20](#)

Not only do we persevere by prayer – we persevere through the watchful, caring concern of the church family. Church membership is a covenanting together – a promising to watch, pray for, encourage, and stir each other up to love and good deeds until we cross the finish line together. It's a spiritual *no man left behind*. Do you know of anyone struggling under the pressures and challenges of the race who are beginning to wander from the truth? Take time to pray for them, reach out to them, and by God's grace – bring them back.

Additional Reading: Hebrews 10:24, Hebrews 3:12-13

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Philippians 1:27-2:11 “ Having the Attitude of Christ ”
