

The Doctrine of Faith and Faithfulness pt. 2

Various Scriptures

"The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." -James 5:15

What are 3 ways we can put our faith into action?

*Staying _____ to God's Holy Word, fellowship, communion, and prayer.
Acts 2:42

*Faithful _____. Acts 2:45

*Trusting God in the midst of your _____. Proverbs 3:5-6

❖ Remember Hebrews 11:1? "Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen."

One of the best ways to exercise our faith in God is to have _____ about an expectation without the visible proof that it will actually happen. As we look at part 2 of this study, we will examine 3 topics of faith that are demonstrated throughout the Bible.

Prayer of Faith: James 5:13-18

Prayer is one of our most effective and yet most underused weapons of warfare. In these verses James tells the people how to meet each others needs not matter what they are going through. Notice he gives some exhortation followed by an illustration:

What does he exhort the suffering to do?

* _____

What does he exhort the cheerful to do?

* _____

Why do you think it is important to sing praises to God when everything is going well and you are happy?

*Deuteronomy 8:6;10-11

What does he exhort them to do with those who are sick?

*Call the elders and have them _____ over them _____ them with oil in the name of the Lord.

Why? (15)

*It is the prayer of _____ that will save the sick person.

*The Lord will _____ him up.

*His sins will be _____.

❖ This is important to note because the healing James refers to looks beyond time into eternity.

What else does he exhort them to do?

* _____ their sins.

* _____ for one another.

Why? (16)

*So they will be _____.

How do we pray the prayer of faith today?

#1 With Confidence: James 5: 17a Elijah was a human being as we are.

Oftentimes we think we are not good enough or God does not hear our prayers because we are not the preacher, teacher, deacon, or some other popular spiritual leader in the church. If you are a true child of God you are called to be His servant. You don't need a title, accolade or another representative other than Jesus to vouch on your behalf. You too can have confidence to like Elijah to stand on God's side against anything and anyone.

Cross reference: 1 Kings 17:1; Hebrews 11:6

As you reflect on this, what are some other things that might discourage our confidence? How can we overcome them and walk in our calling?

#2 With Conviction: James 5:17b and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not.

Like confidence, whenever someone has a strong conviction about a particular matter they will **stand firm** and will not be moved regardless of what anyone else says or does. In this case it is a strong internal belief in God, His word and His will.

✓ He prayed _____ that God heard him.

✓ He prayed _____ that God would answer his request.

Why was Elijah so confident and convicted in this specific prayer for God to withhold the rain at this particular time in history? 1 Kings 17:1

*In contrast to the wicked kings who had led the people in worshipping pagan idols, Elijah was sent to prove that the God of Israel had all power to control the rains and harvest not Baal.

In other words, Elijah was doing the will of God and anyone who stood in opposition to him stood in opposition to God.

Example: David Psalm 3:7; Psalm 105:14-15

In this world so many are led astray into the idolatry of people, possessions, and popularity, what are some bold and radical ways we can pray today that will help others see the true and living God is in control?

#3 With Expectancy: James 5:18 Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced fruit.

Finally in this illustration James shows us that Elijah prayed expecting God to answer. What is your attitude when you finish praying?

Right attitude Vs. Wrong attitude

Gratitude vs. Ingratitude: Philippians 4:6

Persistent vs. Inconsistent: Matthew 7:7-8

Positive vs. Negative: James 1:5-8

Cross reference: 1 Kings 18:42-45

After 3 1/2 years Elijah prayed for God to send the rain. This time he was not only confident and convicted, but he was also expectant. Notice how he prayed in the same position as a woman giving birth. _____ times he asked his servant to go and look. When Elijah heard there was a small cloud he knew God was going to send the rain. After the rain had come, God blessed him with supernatural strength to outrun Ahab's chariot.

To put it another way, when we pray the prayer of faith like Elijah, God will give us a special grace to overcome and outrun when we need it the most.

How are you going to use this lesson to help someone else?

“Faith and Prayer; both are invisible but they make impossible things possible”