

TELIOS BIBLE STUDY
FIVE Assurances
Study 2

ANSWERED PRAYER James 5:13-20

The Bible exhorts all Christians to pray. Lk 18:1 "That men ought always to pray and not to faint." Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Mt 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: *Our Father which art in heaven.*" Prayer should be automatic and second nature to a child of God. Rom 8:15 "But ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, *Abba, Father.*" When a sinner comes to God in repentance, he prays the sinner's prayer. He receives forgiveness and begins a new relationship with God.

Prayer is a means of grace whereby the child of God communicates with God the Father. It is an outpouring of love from the penitent soul seeking forgiveness and assurance from God his Creator and Redeemer. Ps 51:1 "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." As a child speaks to his natural father, so must a Christian communicate with his Creator. Phil 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

In communicating with God through prayer we are to conform to the will of God as we wait for answers to our prayer. The prayer of Saul demonstrates this. Acts 9:6 "And he trembling and astonished said, *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" God has a plan and purpose for our life and through prayer God speaks to our hearts. Prayer therefore is a two way communication, we speak to God and God speaks to us. He answers our prayer. Jn 16:24 "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." (memory verse)

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING: 2 Thess 5:17

A REASONS FOR PRAYER vv13, 14

Affliction is a common experience of the child of God. Satan is now our enemy. He makes every attempt to get us to deny Christ and forsake the faith. He does so by a multitude of ways. Persecutions are common. 1 Pet 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." Satan tempts us to sin in subtle ways. 2 Cor 11:14 "And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Sickness is the most common affliction. Because of the curse of sin, our physical body decays and finally dies. Job could bear the loss of property and even his loved ones. When he suffered a painful illness that he cursed the day of his birth. Job 3:3 "Let the day perish wherein I was born." Mrs Job was severely stressed as a care giver. Call for the elders of the Church and coporately intercede.

B RESULT OF PRAYER vv15,16

Sin is that which separates God and the believer. Evil thoughts and malicious intents of the heart interfere with our prayers. Ps 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus. 1 Jn 1:9 "If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Then the prayer of the faithful shall preserve and heal the sick.

Healing comes as a result of prayer when the brethren will confess their own faults to each other. Corporate prayer is effective when the brethren are united. The righteous man who prays is at peace with God and reconciled to one another. Harmony among the brethren is indicated in the Lord's teaching on the reconciliation procedure. Mt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

C RESPONSIBLE PRAYER vv17,18

The prayer of Elijah is given as an example of effective prayer. The prophet is described as an ordinary man but he had an extraordinary God. He caved in under stress. 1 Ki 19:4 "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." God sent drought and rain on Elijah's request.

Biblical counselling expounds the truth of God's Word. Scriptures are to be applied to wayward Christians. They are backslided. The truth will lead them back. In like manner Biblical truth and the moving of the Holy Spirit will convert a sinner to repentance. Jn 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jesus is that truth.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the "The Sinner's Prayer" and how can you help a new convert learn how to pray?
- 2 If we are to pray "Thy will be done" as Jesus taught His disciples, how may we pray according to the will of God?
- 3 Have you been tempted by the evil one? Did you come to the verge of losing your faith? How did you overcome temptation?
- 4 Can you give a testimony of answered prayer. Did you ever pray for healing? Give some examples.
- 5 If Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life" Jn 14:6, how do you apply this truth in leading a soul to salvation?