

November 6, 2016

James - Faith That Works

Pray Just To Make It Today

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



James 5: 13 -20

PRAY FIRST

Ps 18:6 Col 4:2 1Th 5:16 - 18

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Mr 6:13 Luke 9:1 Luke 10:8-9

PRAY IN FAITH

Mt 13:58 Mrk 11:22 - 24

When does prayer mean to you? What do you think prayer means to most people? What does prayer mean to the average American?

The Christian's most powerful resource is communion with God through prayer.

Read James 5:13

The mandate it to pray. I think James assumes that Jesus followers will be quick to pray.

What then are some of the things that prevent us from tapping into that power?

The scripture says when we are in trouble or when we are happy- either way- we are to go to God. Pray or praise.

Why do we not go to God right away instead of spending time and energy trying to fix it ourselves?

What keeps us from giving Him thanks when we are not in trouble?

Why is it important that we have a personal prayer life before we can effectively pray for others?

Why do we find it easier to pray for others than for ourselves?

Paul says in Colossians 4:2, that we should devote ourselves to prayer and be watchful in prayer. Our persistence is an expression of our faith that God answers prayer. Faith should not die if the answers come slowly, it may be God's way of working in our lives. When you grow tired of praying about something or someone, know that God is always present, always listening, always answering, even if it is not as we want or hoped for, but remember His way is always best.

Read 1 Thess 5:17, Romans 12:12, and Ephesians 6:18

What do you think might be the keys to developing a consistent and regular prayer life?

Why might that be important?

What are the natural inclinations when it comes to prayer?

When we make a conscious effort to do what God says, we will find it easier to be joyful and thankful. How do you find this to be so?

Read Mark 6:13; Luke 9:1; Luke 10:9; James 5:15

One of the main aspects of Jesus' ministry was healing of sickness and disease. We are also mandated to pray for the sick. Jesus gives authority to pray for healing the sick and cure diseases. We do so by faith in the power of the Spirit, represented by anointing with oil.

Do you believe that Jesus still heals today? Explain your answer.

Would you share a personal experience of knowing someone who was miraculously healed through prayer?

What do you say to the one who needed a healing and it didn't materialize?

Read Hebrews 11:1 and 13

How can these verses shape our understanding of prayer and the answers to prayer?

Challenge: Spend more time in prayer and communion with God. Pray without a specific agenda. Determine to have a conversation with God at specific times this week.