

## Praying is always the right thing

James 5:12-18

- I. What not to do when things go wrong – Don't swear an oath (James 5:12).
  - A. We shouldn't swear an oath to prove we are truthful or sincere (Matthew 5:33-37; Mark 14:71).
  - B. We should just be truthful and keep our word.
  
- II. What to do when things go wrong – Pray fervently, while living righteously (James 5:13-16).
  - A. Praying whether suffering or happy (13)
    - Opposite situations both require prayer.
  - B. Asking others to pray when we are sick (14-15a)
    - Sick persons can ask church elders to pray.
    - *Anointing with oil* (medicine or symbol?)
    - God often heals in response to prayer.
  - C. Confessing and praying if we have sinned (15b-16a)
    - *Confess sins to each other* – In times of illness
  
- III. The Power of Prayer – We must pray because God answers (James 5:16b-18).
  - A. Prayer is powerful and effective (5:16b).
  - B. Example: Elijah prayed and the rain stopped or came in response to his prayer (5:17-18).

### Examining my prayer life

- Do I truly pray for God's will or just my own (1 John 5:14-15)?
- Do I realize answered prayer comes from intimacy with God as I obediently pursue His priorities (John 15:7, 8, 16.)?
- Do I believe God answers prayer in great ways (Ephesians 3:20)?
- Why don't I pray more (spiritual obstacles, excuses)?
- What must change for me to pray more? What is my prayer plan?