



Perfecting Prayer

Prayer and Faith

Prayer and Faith at Work In the Church

*"Without faith it is impossible
to please God."*

Hebrews 11:6

A. Prayer Within the Church *James 5:13-16*

James reveals three primary purposes for prayer within the church.

1. Praying For Self *James 5:13*

- When we go through suffering, James says we should first pray for ourselves.
- The principle here is simply that we 'should' pray for ourselves when we are in need.

2. Elders Pray for the Sick *James 5:14-15*

- Person must ask (want) prayer
- These are probably bedfast people (pray over—raise up)
- Must be anointed with oil
- Prayer must be 'Prayer of Faith'
- Lord will raise up
- Both healing and forgiveness of sins

3. Pray for Each Other *James 5:16*

- This would include all forms of prayer for others
- Prayer meetings and small groups
- Distance praying
- Includes but not limited to healing

B. What Kind of Prayer Is Needed?

When I pray for myself, for others and when the elders pray for the sick, 'faith' is required. Two kinds of 'faith and prayer' are revealed in the Bible: Praying in Faith and the Prayer of Faith.

1. Praying in Faith

Praying in faith is prayer that 'demonstrates' faith. It is also prayer that will 'manifest' faith—in other words, see the answers to our prayers come to pass according to His will.

Mark 11:24; John 16:24; Mat 7:7; Phil 4:6

- **All believers are called to pray in faith**
Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.
Mark 11:24
- **All have been given a measure of faith for giftedness**
...as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Rom 12:3
- **We need to ask the Lord to increase our faith**
And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
Luke 17:5
- **How do you know you've prayed in faith?**
You won't know it by sight until the "substance" and "evidence" of faith, which isn't visible at first, becomes visible at the arriving of the answer. *Heb 11:1*

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What is the Prayer of Faith?

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2. The Prayer of Faith

James 5:15

- This is the only place in the Bible where the term "prayer of faith" is found.
- When this prayer is exercised it is ALWAYS answered.

The prayer of faith is an empowerment of faith by the Holy Spirit:

- But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...to another faith by the same Spirit...1 Cor 12:7, 9
- ...and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains...
1 Cor 13:2
- All believers and especially elders-shepherds are to be 'zealous' for spiritual gifts
1 Cor 14:1
- Just as a message of wisdom (or any other spiritual gift) is given to meet the need for a specific issue, so the gift of faith is an impartation of faith to meet a need (move a mountain). Often it is simply to raise the level of faith in a person or group for the manifestation of the answer to prayer.

***"Only those who see the
invisible can attempt
the impossible."***

Dick Eastman