

WORSHIP GUIDE – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH – 10:15AM

Prayer & One Another

James 5:13-18

Welcome: *[Pastor Bernie]*

- Today we come to James 5:13-18 and instruction on prayer. We will be exhorted to depend upon God and to involve the church in our prayers.
 - **James 5:13-18** - ¹³ *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.^[b] ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

PRAYER: UPWARD DEPENDENCE

Congregational Song: Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,

the King of glory and of grace.

At one with him, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by his blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Congregational Song: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to Thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be Thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from Thee aside.

PRAYER: MUTUAL INVOLVEMENT

Meditation on Prayer – “Why Share Your Despair with Others?” - Day #27 from *Gospel Meditations on Prayer* – by Joe Tyrpak [Pastor Steve]

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, ^[b] of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ **You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many** - II Corinthians 1:11

Living for Christ is full of immense burdens, some of which are so heavy and constant that you, like Paul, could “despair of life” (v.8). No one is totally certain of all that Paul meant by “the afflictions we experienced in Asia” He certainly had in mind the constant plotting of Jews to take his life, as well as the united animosity of the silversmiths in Ephesus--which is where Paul was

working when he wrote II Corinthians. The opposition in Ephesus had broken out in a riot that nearly killed a few of Paul's teammates. (You can read all about these problems in Acts 19-20). Paul's afflictions also included the weight of the situation 400 miles away in Corinth. One of his most strategic church plants was apparently redefining the gospel and rejecting Paul's leadership. All of these trials combined to make Paul's years of church planting efforts in Ephesus some of the worst (yet, by God's grace, some of the best) in his life. In his season of despair, Paul learned four helpful realities about hardships.

Sometimes your hardships feel unbearably heavy. It's immensely encouraging to know that someone as godly and spiritual as Paul could feel "so utterly burdened beyond [his] strength that [he] despaired of life itself" (v. 8). Can you believe that? Less than a year earlier this same man had written to the same church that God "will not let you be tempted beyond your ability" (I Corinthians 10:13). Now, Paul teaches that, although trials are never too heavy for us, they sometimes feel as though they are heavier than we can handle. Burdened believer, take heart. Paul, who had written I Corinthians 10:13, sometimes felt like II Corinthians 1:8. Remain firmly convinced that God is in fact limiting your trials, even though you often feel like they're going to crush you.

Your hardships should bring you to the end of yourself. Paul's afflictions made him feel certain that he was going to die; he lost all hope of life. But this wretched feeling of despair produced wonderful results: It led him to stop relying on himself (v. 9). Apparently, even the apostle Paul had seasons of ease when his daily focus quietly shifted from God to himself. Trials have a way of revealing sinful self-reliance. What grace!

Your hardships force you to rely on God. In his season of despair, Paul learned to hope in "God who raises the dead" (v. 9). Paul knew that God had raised Jesus from the dead, and God would one day raise all Christians from the dead. Notice how Paul was exemplary in applying the theology he knew. As Paul Barnett puts it, "it is... very easy to regard this God [who raises the dead] as remote and distant from the present situation, to think of him as the God of theology and not of reality" [*The Message of II Cor.* p. 34]. You must know what God has done in the past, know what He's promised to do in the future, and then take the time to apply it to your despair today. Past resurrection + future resurrection = present hope. You must be able to say courageously with Paul in the face of disheartening circumstances, "God has delivered us, and He will deliver us again" (v. 10; I Samuel 17:37).

Your hardships make you depend on the prayers of others. Paul's despair led him to value the intercession of other believers (v. 11). You too must rely on the prayers of Christian friends because God has chosen to multiply His glory and His people's joy in this way. The goal of prayer is not simply "problem solved," but the greater glory of God and the greater joy of His people. Take time right now to pray for the needs of another believer, and then ask another believer to pray for one of your burdens."

"Lord, forgive me for pride that often keeps me from sharing my problems with others. I don't like to admit my weaknesses to others, and I rely way too much on my own strength. Help me rely on You and on the prayers of Your people-not only so that I'll be helped, but so that You'll be glorified and Your people encouraged. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Congregational Song: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near,
Your Savior's gracious promise hear;
His faithful Word you can believe:
That as your days your strength shall be.

Your faith is weak, your foes are strong,
And if the conflict should be long,
The Lord will make the tempter flee
That as your days your strength shall be.

*So, sing with joy, afflicted one;
The battle's fierce, but the victory's won!
God shall supply all that you need;
Yes, as your days your strength shall be.*

Should persecution rage and flame,
Still trust in your Redeemer's name.
In fiery trials you shall see
That as your days your strength shall be.

*So, sing with joy, afflicted one;
The battle's fierce, but the victory's won!
God shall supply all that you need;
Yes, as your days your strength shall be.*

When called to bear your weighty cross
Or sore affliction, pain, or loss,
Or deep distress or poverty,
Still as your days your strength shall be.

*So, sing with joy, afflicted one;
The battle's fierce, but the victory's won!
God shall supply all that you need;
Yes, as your days your strength shall be.*

Congregational Song: I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.

*I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Stay Thou nearby;

Temptations lose their pow'r
When Thou art nigh.

*I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee ev'ry hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.

*I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

Children 3-K5 dismissed to Junior Church

Message: James 5:13-18 [*Pastor Steve*]

- **James 5:13-18** - ¹³ *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.* ¹⁴ *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.* ¹⁵ *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.* ¹⁶ *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*^[b] ¹⁷ *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.* ¹⁸ *Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

Congregational Song of Response: Oh How Good it is

Oh how good it is when the family of God
Dwell together in spirit, in love and unity;
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruits of his presence here among us.

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart we'll live out his word
Til the whole world sees the Redeemer has come,
For he dwells in the presence of his people.*

Oh how good it is on this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart we'll live out his word
Til the whole world sees the Redeemer has come,
For he dwells in the presence of his people.*

Closing Announcements: *[Pastor Bernie]*

- Sunday School Fellowships this weekend – Teens meet tonight at the church from 7:00-9:00pm.
- Sunday, February 27th – PM - Preaching emphasis – Ryan Strickland will be preaching
- Saturday, March 5th - Men's Prayer Breakfast is canceled – Bev Snow is moving that morning, which gives us a great opportunity to help her load up her belongings for the move. In light of this we will not have the men's prayer breakfast.
- Sunday, March 6th - Building Committee Presentation