



25 June 2017 – Ps Luke Brough Faith That Works – Praying for our Problems

1. Go to God

James 5:16 *"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* The word "prayer" is mentioned seven times in this passage. That's what it's about. There is tremendous power in prayer. Prayer is the greatest privilege of the Christian life, being able to talk to God, and it's the greatest power in the Christian life.

In James 5 the author gives us 5 areas that we can bring to God in prayer. These are when we are in trouble (v13), when we are sick (v14, 15), when we are failing spiritually (v 16), for the nation (17, 18) and when someone has lost their faith (v 19, 20).

When we pray we must:

1. **Ask:** James 4 says *"You do not have because you do not ask."* Throw away all your clichés. The more specific your prayers are the greater you're going to be blessed in the answer.
2. **Have the right motive:** James 4 says *"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."* Make sure your motives are right. Not for selfishness but for the glory of God.
3. **Have a Clean life:** David said, *"If I hide sin in my heart then the Lord will not hear."* If we willfully and knowingly do something displeasing to God and say, "God, I'm going to continue doing this but, by the way, help me out." it's like saying "Dad, will you loan me the keys to the car, but I'm never going to do a single thing you ask."
4. **Ask in Faith:** Expect an answer. James 1 says *"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..."* When you come to God, believe that He wants to answer your prayer. Trust Him. Don't doubt. Really believe.

2. Discussion Points

- Ask your LifeGroup members to talk about their prayer lives. When do they pray, how do they pray, what do they pray about, do their prayers get answered?
- Why do we battle to find time to pray to God when things are going well but run to him when things go badly? Do we use prayer as currency to get God to do things for us? If so, how has this worked for us?
- How important is it to deal with sin or disobedience in our hearts and check our motives before going to the Lord with our needs and desires?
- It has been said that prayer is more about changing our hearts than getting God to do things for us. Is this true?

3. Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for being a God who is there for us when we call on you. Help us to live holy and clean lives with pure hearts so that you will hear our prayers. Amen