

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 21, 2018

E.M. Bounds, in the great book *Weapon of Prayer* said these words.

"When the Church is in the condition of prayer Gods cause always flourishes and His kingdom on earth always triumphs."

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

-James 5:13-15 NKJV

In a brief reading of this small letter one can see James visits many important themes that will allow a Christian to mature in the faith.

The points James highlights will be our personal direction during our prayer time together tonight.

1. So pray you might stand firm during trials and temptations.
2. Pray you might living out the Christian faith in practical ways rather than just studying or hearing it.
3. Pray you might loving selflessly.
4. Pray that through the help of the Holy Spirit we might tame the tongue.
5. Pray that as a community we might humble ourselves before God.
6. Pray that we might trusting in God rather than in wealth or position, or natural learning.
7. Pray for help exercising patience.

James then concludes these traits of a disciple with a call to praying with faith.

There are many circumstance of life that create a time to pray.

Times of trouble, happiness, and sickness. Each are an occasion for bogh prayer and worship.

But James spends most of his time, discussing prayer in time of physical infirmity. How does one pray then, when it is difficult to pray for oneself?

James then instructs the person in need to "*call the elders of the church....*"

I feel it's important that James didn't place the burden of prayer on the person with the need.

Rather his responsibility is to call for others to pray, not just to pray alone.

This morning we isolated two great needs:

1. Pray against the demon of cancer.
2. Pray for the deliverance of those bound by addiction.

If I could add one more extra, pray for the family. Mine, yours, ours, as the family stands so stands the church.