

# Elders praying for healing

by Larry Smith — Pray Big Ministries — 6/16/03

Where do church members turn when they are physically or emotionally sick and hurting? In James 5:13-18 we see instructions for the sick to call for the elders to come and pray over them in faith for healing. God says that the prayers of a righteous man will avail much. This is God's supernatural blueprint for healing found in the Word.

At my church we gather the elders together every other month for a *half-day of elder prayer* for our members. We do this on a Saturday morning. People ask for prayer and we set a time for them to come for prayer. In addition to the announced *half-day of prayer* our elders are always available to pray for our members, anywhere, any time. We pray at the church, hospitals and even the homes of our members.

Over the years we have witnessed God do many supernatural things. Wombs have been opened to couples who thought they would never give birth, cancers, tumors and life-threatening diseases have disappeared. And God receives the glory. Although we do not see physical healing in ever case, our elders and our members are still obedient to follow God's Word. God is the great Healer and our elders come asking for healing because He told us to. We pray knowing God's ways are above our ways. His plans are not plans we can always see or understand.

Below are some simple guidelines we use when we pray for others. I hope you find them helpful.

*The key verse we use for elders gathering to pray for others is James 5: 13-20.*

James 5:13-20 <sup>13</sup> Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is any one of you sick? **He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.** <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. <sup>19</sup> My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Acts 6:1-7 <sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> **and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.**" <sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of of priests became obedient to the faith.

## Guidelines for the time when the church elders meet with and pray for the sick.

Remember many, if not all, who come for prayer are nervous. Help put them at ease. Put yourself in their shoes.

1. Thank them for coming. Tell them it takes faith to ask for prayer. Praise them for their step of faith.
2. Open in a word of prayer. Thanking them for coming and asking for prayer — in obedience to God's Word. Praise the name of Jesus. Giving Him all glory and honor. Jesus is the great Healer. The good Shepherd. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide everyone. Ask for discernment. Ask for faith.
3. After opening in prayer, thank them again for coming for prayer. Tell them that they have taken a step of faith in coming. Their faith is very important. They have been obedient to God's Word.
4. Give them a broad brush stroke "fly-over" of what the time will be like. This helps them know what is coming, plus this helps put them at ease. Tell them:
  - > First tell them you are going to ask them some questions about why they are here. This helps the elders know how to pray for them.
  - > Assure them that everything shared will be kept in confidence (This is very important).
  - > After everyone has had all the time needed to ask them questions we will read the verses in James 5:13-20. James 5 is the blueprint for what we do.
  - > We will then pray confessions of sins with one another. Confessing our sins, and asking for forgiveness allows us to stand righteous before God. The elders confess. The sick confess. All confess.
  - > Then tell them you will anoint them with oil. (Always good to ask their permission.) Tell them where (physical part of their body) you are going to anoint them. Head, neck arm etc.
5. Now, ask them to share why they are coming for prayer.
6. Ask questions as needed — but remember this is not a counseling session — the person has come asking for prayer. Be careful not to become an "on-the-spot counselor" and try to fix them. Elders are here to pray that God would heal them. God. Not us. We are here to interceded on their behalf.

Many times people ask for prayer for a physical hurt when the cause could be linked to a spiritual problem.

Ask questions like:

  - > When did this start? (Look for spiritual reasons)
  - > Were you involved in ministry?
  - > Is there anyone you need to forgive?  
(Unforgiveness and bitterness can hinder our prayers, and even cause illness).
7. Be discerning to see if they are a believer. If you sense they are not, ask to hear their testimony. You may have the opportunity to lead them to Christ and give them the greatest healing of all — eternal life through Christ Jesus.

8. Sometimes Church Prayer Team members (including ladies) are available to assist in prayer. (This is particularly helpful when praying for women's illnesses. It provides a comfort zone that may be needed.)

9. Then we will pray, asking in faith for God the great Healer to come and heal.

### A closer look at James 5:13-17 — verse by verse

James 5:13,14 <sup>13</sup> Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

#### *Observations:*

- The sick person initiates the call to the elders of the church to pray over them.
- This is a step of faith for the sick person.
- This is an act of obedience to God's Word.
- This is an acknowledgment that God is in control.
- Elders are in a position to serve the body.
- You cannot drag people to prayer unless they are seeking prayer.
- Elders have been called (chosen) by God to a position of authority in the church.
- Elders need to know they have been called by God to serve the church body.

#### *Thought*

- This is a high calling for the elders of the church
- By God's Word elders are commanded to pray over the sick when asked.

#### *Action*

- Exalt the person who has come for prayer for coming.
- Thank them for being obedient to God's Word and asking for prayer.
- Thank them for the faith they have demonstrated in asking and coming for prayer.

James 5:14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

#### *Observations:*

- Elders plural. More than one elder is called to pray. (Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.").

#### *Thought*

- Elders are called to pray over the person. The person being prayed for should be sitting and elders standing. They could be on their knees with the elders surrounding them.

#### *Actions:*

- The elders are to anoint with oil.
- The anointing is to be done in the name of the Lord. (Father, Son and Holy Ghost implied).

- Elders are encouraged to lay hands on the person they are praying for. Through out scriptures Jesus and elders would lay hands on the person they were praying for. Discretion is advised when praying for women or children. Ask permission to touch. Always have more than one elder present. Lay hands on the injury if appropriate.
- We are to pray in the name above all names, the name of Jesus.
- Jesus gave the disciples the authority to heal and cast out demons.

*More insight on action needed:*

*Elders to anoint with oil.*

- God chose people by having His prophets and disciples anoint them with oil.
- Oil was mixed with flour and used as an offering to God.
- Oil is a symbol of healing.
- Oil was used in offerings unto God
- Oil was used in healing in Biblical times as well as today.
- There is no “special power” in the oil. Elders are just being obedient to the Word
- Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

See verses below:

1 Samuel 16:13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Mark 6:13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Luke 7:46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

Luke 10:34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

Exodus 29:7 Take the anointing oil and anoint him by pouring it on his head.

Exodus 29:21 And take some of the blood on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. Then he and his sons and their garments will be consecrated.

Exodus 30:25 Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil.

Leviticus 8:12 He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him to consecrate him.

Leviticus 14:16-18 <sup>16</sup> dip his right forefinger into the oil in his palm, and with his finger sprinkle some of it before the LORD seven times. <sup>17</sup> The priest is to put some of the oil remaining in his palm on the lobe of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the guilt offering. <sup>18</sup> The rest of the oil in his palm the priest shall put on the head of the one to be cleansed and make atonement for him before the LORD.

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalms 45:7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

Psalms 89:20 I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.

Psalms 133:2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

Isaiah 1:6 From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness — only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.

Isaiah 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, **the oil of gladness instead of mourning**, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Ezekiel 46:15 So the lamb and the grain offering and **the oil shall be provided morning by morning for a regular burnt offering.**

### ***Pray in the name of the Lord***

- Pray in the name of the Lord.
- There is power in the name of Jesus.
- Jesus commanded us to ask in His name.
- It is always Jesus — never us. 100% Jesus. 0% us. We are God's agent. We ask. He does the work.

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him **the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**,

Mark 9:37-39 <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in **my name** welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” <sup>38</sup> “Teacher,” said John, “**we saw a man driving out demons in your name** and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” <sup>39</sup> “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “No one **who does a miracle in my name** can in the next moment say anything bad about me,

Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: **In my name they will drive out demons**; they will speak in new tongues;

Luke 10:17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “**Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name**.”

John 14:13,14 <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for **anything in my name**, and I will do it.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit —fruit that will last. **Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name**.

John 16:23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, **my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name**.

John 16:24 **Until now you have not asked for anything in my name**. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

John 17:11,12 <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name —the name you gave me —so that they may be one as we are one.<sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and **kept them safe by that name you gave me**. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **by believing you may have life in his name**.

Acts 2:21 **And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**’

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, **in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, walk.”

Acts 3:16 **By faith in the name of Jesus**, this man whom you see and know was made strong. **It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him**, as you can all see.

Acts 4:7-10 <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you

do this?"<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!<sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed,<sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: **It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.**

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:30 **Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.**"

Acts 10:43 **All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**"

Acts 16:18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "**In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!**" At that moment the spirit left her.

Philippians 2:9,10<sup>9</sup> **Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

Colossians 3:17 **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

1 John 2:12 I write to you, dear children, because **your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.**

Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

### ***The laying on of hands***

Mark 6:5 He could not do any miracles there, except **lay his hands** on a few sick people and heal them.

Acts 8:19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that **everyone on whom I lay my hands** may receive the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 19:13 **Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them.** But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

Matthew 19:15 **When he had placed his hands on them,** he went on from there.

Mark 5:23 and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. **Please come and put your hands on her** so that she will be healed and live."

Mark 6:5 He could not do any miracles there, except **lay his hands** on a few sick people and heal them.

Mark 8:23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. **When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him,** Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

Mark 8:25 **Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes.** Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Mark 10:16 And he took the children in his arms, **put his hands on them and blessed them.**

Luke 4:40 When the sun was setting, **the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.**

Luke 13:13 **Then he put his hands on her,** and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Acts 6:6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and **laid their hands on them.**

Acts 9:12 **In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him** to restore his sight."

Acts 9:17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. **Placing his hands on Saul,** he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord —Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here —has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 13:3 So after they had fasted and prayed, **they placed their hands on them and sent them off.**

Acts 28:8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. **Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.**

Hebrews 6:1-3 <sup>1</sup>Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about baptisms, **the laying on of hands**, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And God permitting, we will do so. Anoint with oil.

### ***The role of faith in healing***

James 5:15 And **the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well**; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Matthew 9:2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. **When Jesus saw their faith**, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

Matthew 9:22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, **"your faith has healed you."** And the woman was healed from that moment.

Matthew 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, **if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain**, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible for you.**"

Matthew 21:21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

Mark 5:34 He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."**

Mark 10:52 "Go," said Jesus, **"your faith has healed you."** Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 11:22 **"Have faith in God,"** Jesus answered.

Luke 7:50 Jesus said to the woman, **"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."**

Luke 8:25 **"Where is your faith?"** he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Luke 8:48 Then he said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."**

Luke 17:19 Then he said to him, **"Rise and go; your faith has made you well."**

Luke 18:42 Jesus said to him, **"Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."**

Luke 22:32 **But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.** And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

John 14:12 **I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.** He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 3:16 **By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.**

Acts 14:9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that **he had faith to be healed.**

1 Corinthians 2:5 so that **your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.**

2 Corinthians 5:7 **We live by faith, not by sight.**

Galatians 5:5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Ephesians 3:12 In him and **through faith** in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Ephesians 6:16 In addition to all this, **take up the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Hebrews 10:22 **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 11:1 **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**

Hebrews 11:3 **By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command**, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:6 **And without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

### ***Faith***

Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith!**".

Hebrews 11:30 **By faith the walls of Jericho fell**, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on **Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not **God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith** and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? Hebrews 11:30 **By faith the walls of Jericho fell**, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on **Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not **God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith** and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

James 5: 16 <sup>16</sup> **Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.**

### ***Observations:***

- All (elders included) are instructed to confess their sins and pray for each other
- Confession is part of the process that allows us to heal.
- Confession leads to righteousness.
- The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective

### ***Thought:***

- Confessing sins to each other sets us free from sin's hold on our lives.
- When we confess to a fellow believer they can interceded for us.
- When we confess our sins — then our prayers can be powerful and effective

### ***Action:***

- All confess sins before you go to God and ask for healing.
- Elders should make this a safe time for those coming for prayer. Use scriptures about confessing sins, and how good it can be. God's is faithful to remove our sins from us.(see below)

God knows everything we do. He sees our sins. In prayer, we have the confidence that we can come to Him and con-



fess our sins. When we confess our sins, we reestablish our intimate relationship with Him. We will find compassion and forgiveness when we confess and forsake our sins. If we do not confess, but attempt to hide our sins from the One Who sees all, He will not listen to our prayers. In prayer ask God to reveal your sins to you. See prayers of David (Psalm 139) and Job (Job 13) listed below.

### ***Scripture references for confession of sin and God's cleansing.***

1 John 1:8-10 <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Isaiah 59:1,2 <sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> **But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,** And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.

Psalm 32:5 **Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.** I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Psalm 51:1,2 <sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

Psalm 103:2,3 <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- <sup>3</sup> **who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,**

Psalm 103:8-12 <sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

Proverbs 28:13 **"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."**

Psalm 139:23,24 <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Job 13:23 How many are mine iniquities and sins? **make me to know my transgression and my sin.**

### **Righteousness**

We are **not** righteous — **only Christ is righteous.** We can be made righteous by faith in Christ and by claiming the righteousness of Christ. Few were counted righteous before God. Abraham. Job. Elizabeth. Zacharias

Psalm 34:15 **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.**

Psalm 34:17 **The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.**

Romans 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**

Psalm 14:2,3 <sup>2</sup> The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. <sup>3</sup> They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham **believed** God, and **it was accounted to him for**

Matthew 19:16,17 <sup>16</sup> And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? <sup>17</sup> And he said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God:** but if thou wilt enter into life,

keep the commandments.

Luke 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6 And           , walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, **not having mine own righteousness**, which is of the law, but **that which is through the faith of Christ**, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

1 Peter 3:12 For **the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers**: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; **that we might be made the righteousness of God in him**.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, **and righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption:

Romans 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, **ye were free from righteousness**.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; **but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**.

Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through **righteousness** unto eternal life **by Jesus Christ our Lord**.

James 5: 17,18 <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

### ***Observations:***

- We can be like Elijah. We are chosen by God unto good works.
- Elijah prayed earnestly. He prayed big!
- God answers the prayers of a righteous man

### ***Thought***

- God answers prayers. We are to earnestly ask.

### ***Action***

- Pray big. All things are possible with God.

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible**.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, **whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours**.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, **all things are possible to him that believeth**.

Luke 18:27 And he said, **The things which are impossible with men are possible with God**.

James 4:2, 3 <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup> Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Philippians 4:6,7 <sup>6</sup> **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God**. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Other thoughts to consider while praying:*

*Do all things with love.*

1 Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in love.

*Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray.*

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

*Devote yourself to prayer.*

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, **with prayer and fasting**, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

*Do not place judgement on those you are praying for. Jesus Christ is the one who will judge.*

Matthew 7:1 **Judge not, that ye be not judged.**

John 7:24 **Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**

Luke 6:37 **Judge not, and ye shall not be judged:** condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, **I judge: and my judgment is just;** because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Romans 14:10 **But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**