
James 5:13-16

¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Does Prayer Really Work?
Discussion Questions

1. What has been your experience with prayer? Blessings? Frustrations? Struggles? All the above? What has that led you to conclude about the *efficacy* of prayer?
 2. As you study the prayers of the Apostle Paul or the teachings of Jesus, what do you believe Scripture teaches about the *purpose* of prayer?
 3. Many of the Bible's promises on prayer (such as James 5:13-16) could lead us to believe that "proper or correct" prayer should deliver a predictable result. What are the pros and cons of such an assumption?
 4. Does the power (efficacy) of prayer lie in the prayer itself, in the pray-er, or in the Lord? How does your answer to this question relate to you answer to the previous question?
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If you would like to discuss the subject of prayer further with Pastor Jim, feel free to email him at jbirchfield@fpchouston.org.

In addition, here are several additional resources on the question of whether prayer really works:

Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home, by Richard Foster
Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God, by Tim Keller
Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?, by Philip Yancey