



5. Read James 5:13-16.

These verses tell us prayer is effective to _____ the sick and for _____ of sins.

Notice that this involves the efforts and prayers of others in the body of Christ. Also, powerful and effective prayers come from those who are _____.

These few verses teach us much about prayer and its power. Reread them asking God to remind you of needs you can put on your prayer list. For instance, you may be facing a difficult challenge. As 1 Chronicles 16:11 says, “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”

Prayer and effectiveness

We have already mentioned we need to confess our sins and pray in God’s will. Here are two more conditions that are important for prayer to be effective.

6. In the following verses underline what happens when each condition is fulfilled.

Humility – “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Obedience –. “Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.” 1 John 3:21,22

Prayer and evangelism

In Ephesians 6:18-20, the Apostle Paul, a great preacher and missionary, told believers to pray for one another all the time and in many ways. Then he asked, “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

7. For what two things did he feel a need?

8. What does this tell you about prayer and your efforts to share your faith?

Prayer and God's silence

What if you pray and nothing happens? Can God say “No”? If we pray with selfish motives (James 4) or cherish sin in our hearts (Psalm 66:18), God will say “No.”

However, God’s silence can also mean *wait* as he brings other things into place. Perhaps you are praying for the salvation of a loved one. God may work certain events into that person’s life to soften their hearts and make them willing to listen. Some prayers take time, yet God does promise to answer. While you wait, you can praise and thank him for his faithfulness.