

August 2, 2015  
James 5:17-20

## EARNEST PRAYER

### I INTRODUCTION:

### II. WHAT KIND OF PERSON CAN PRAY? \_\_\_\_\_

*"Elijah was a man just like us ..." (vs.17a)*

See 1 Kings 19:1-10; 18:42-45

### III. HOW CAN I PRAY EARNESTLY?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should **ask** God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."*  
James 1:5

*"You do not have, because you do not ask God" James 4:2*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3*

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective"*  
James 5:16b

Ps. 66:18; Isaiah 59:2

4. \_\_\_\_\_

*"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..."*  
James 1:6

**Points To Ponder**  
**Earnest Prayer**  
**James 5:17-20**

**Open It:**

1. What are some of the most memorable moments of your life?
2. \*What are some situations in life when most people pray?

**Explore It:**

3. What should a person do when he or she is in trouble?  
Why? ([5:13](#), [15](#))
4. What should a person do when he or she is happy?  
Why? ([5:13](#), [15](#))
5. What should a person do when he or she is sick? Why?  
([5:14-15](#))
6. \*Why is prayer important? ([5:15](#))
7. What are the elders of the church to do for someone who is sick? Why? ([5:14-15](#))
8. How can prayer affect a person's health? ([5:15](#))
9. How can a person have his or her sins forgiven? ([5:15](#))
10. Why should we confess our sins to one another? ([5:16](#))
11. \*What is the effect of a righteous person's prayers?  
([5:16](#))

12. \*Who is a good example of how God answers prayer?  
How? ([5:17-18](#))
13. What is a Christian's responsibility toward a fellow  
believer who has wandered away from the truth? ([5:19](#))
14. What is the benefit of helping a person get back into  
following the truth? ([5:20](#))

**Get It:**

15. How can we use prayer to help someone who is sick?
16. When have you had the opportunity to pray specifically  
for someone or for a special need?
17. How have you seen prayer bring changes in people or  
circumstances?
18. \*What hinders Christians from praying with confidence?
19. What hinders Christians from confessing sins and  
praying for each other?
20. If we confess our sins to God, why should anyone else  
have to know about it?
21. \*What circumstances beyond our control can we affect  
through prayer?
22. What causes Christians to stumble and fall away from  
their faith?
23. How could you help someone who has drifted away  
from his or her relationship with Christ?

24. How have others helped you when you were drifting in your relationship with Christ?

**Apply It:**

25. \*What situation or person will you pray for in faith this week?

26. What personal needs can you ask others to pray for through the coming week? Whom will you ask?

27. Whom do you know who has been drifting away from the Lord and who needs an encouraging word from you this week?