

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him...."

James 5:13-14

A YEAR OF PRAYER

WEEK 49

PRAYER OF PRAISE

(2 Samuel 7:18-20)

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS LORDSHIP

"[K]ing David ...said, 'Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ...And what can David say more unto thee? For thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.'"

James 1:17

God is often referred to by the term "Lord." This word is a term of reverence showing respect to the authority of God. When David learned of God's plan for his bloodline, he was humbled and amazed. God had been in control of history - including David's life - to accomplish His purpose of bringing salvation to the world. Truly, He is Lord.

In prayer, let us seek to honor God for His Lordship. Let us come before Him with humility and reverence, recognizing how wise He is. Yet, let us pray with boldness, for part of His plan was to bless us by hearing and answering our prayers.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

(Revelation 1:20)

PRAY FOR THE LIGHT OF THE CHURCH

"...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."

Revelation 1:20b

The church is symbolically pictured as a lampstand. This emphasizes that the church is to be a light in a dark and wicked world. Jesus is the light, but we let our lights shine by obeying Him and by teaching His word.

Let us pray for the church - locally and worldwide. Pray that each congregation will see the need to shine forth in teaching and example. Pray that we will seek to bring light to a world lost in sin.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

(Psalm 71:18)

PRAY FOR THE AGED

"Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come."

Psalm 71:18

The Bible places an emphasis on respecting, listening to, and caring for those who are growing older. Their years of experience, service, and sacrifice produce wisdom that should be treasured. The challenges they face are worthy of our prayers.

“Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him...”

James 5:13-14

Let us pray for the aged. Pray that they may have strength and opportunity to continue to serve God. Pray that they may have health and ability to work in the kingdom. Pray that their faithful example may endure.

PRAYER FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS

(Matthew 4:4; John 4:31-34; 6:35)

PRAY FOR FOOD

“But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. ...My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

John 4:32, 34

We are to pray for our daily bread. However, we must remember that we stand in greater need of spiritual food. As we pray for and consume our food each day, let us make sure that we nourish our spirits with the Word of God.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

(1 John 1:5-10)

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ...If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:7, 9

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

(Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:1)

PRAY FOR KINDNESS

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.”

Romans 12:10

The Greek word for ‘brotherly kindness’ is *philadelphia*. It means, “Fraternal affection, or brotherly love.” “In the NT, the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren” (Thayer). Let us pray that we may learn to love and treat one another as brethren in Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18