



A Heart Like His

Session #12

James 5:12-20

"The Power of Prayer"

Start

- Have you ever received a gift that you really loved? What was it, and why did you appreciate receiving it?
- How do you think people in our society view and treat prayer? How do you view and treat prayer?
- Read James 5:12-20**

Watch

Use the space below to take notes while you watch the video.



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Discuss

- In the video, Brian made the comment, "So often I view prayer as something that I'm supposed to do instead of something that I get to do." **Have you ever felt this way? What are your thoughts about seeing prayer as a 'gift'?**
- Why do you think James instructs Christ-followers to pray in all of their circumstances? What do you think prayer accomplishes that makes it so valuable?**
- Have you ever seen or experienced someone receive dramatic healing as a result of people praying? If so, then please share with the group.**

Side Note on "anointing with oil"

In the video, we did not have time to go into detail about the value of 'anointing with oil'. There are a couple of different thoughts on the significance of this practice.

Some see it as having a potentially medicinal purpose, meaning that the leaders of the church provided both medicine and prayer to the sick individual. While I personally don't believe this is what James



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intended here, I do believe that we should use the medical resources and technology that we've been given along with prayer.

I believe the main purpose of 'anointing with oil' is symbolic. As one commentator put it, "These symbolic anointings show God's special blessing, power, and status placed upon the person."

Anointing with oil is a practice that sets a person apart for God in a special way, much like Israel did when they anointed their kings and priests. Also, the physical act of anointing, I believe helps strengthen the faith of all participants because it is providing a physical and tangible action to our spiritual requests. Regardless of what 'anointing with oil' signified, James is very clear that the power for healing comes through praying in the name of Jesus.

- Based on what James writes regarding 'anointing with oil' and praying in the name of Jesus for those with serious health conditions, **do you think that this is something that should be practiced more within the body of our church? Why or why not?** (It is important to note that it was the sick individual that was supposed to take the initiative to reach out for anointing and prayer.)

(See back of page for more questions)



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- I think as Christ-followers, we often associate faith with trying harder to believe, but James actually alludes to three important characteristics that relate to what it means to pray with faith. 'Praying in faith' means: praying confidently, intensely and clearly (no dead zones of sin).*

Based on these criteria, how often would you say that you truly pray with faith?

- James says that the way that you and I overcome disunity and division and promote healing within the body of Christ is by "...confessing our sins to one another and praying for one another."*

How well do you think that we as a church body at ACC do this? How would the overall body of Christ look different, if we were to seriously and consistently practice this instruction?

- As we've studied the book of James, which session and passage did you find to be the most significant to you personally? Why?**