

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** No. 204 The importance of prayer



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES:** James 5:13-16

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And 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. Therefore, 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.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Luke 11:1-13, Romans 8:26-39

### What does the Bible passage tell us?

This passage reminds us about the importance of prayer.

God is always ready to hear our prayers for each other and for ourselves. We all experience times of trouble, times of joy and the illness of either ourselves or our loved ones. Also, we all mess up. As we turn back to God and say sorry, He forgives us and gives us His peace.

When we pray, we bring all these situations before God so that we are no longer carrying the burden of them by ourselves. As we read the Gospels, we see the importance of prayer in Jesus' life, showing His deep relationship of love with God. Remember, Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer and promises that the Holy Spirit will help us. We are encouraged to trust and to hope for God's help in every situation. Prayer helps us to grow in our Christian faith.

Our prayers may be answered immediately or sometime later. We may not feel that anything is happening. At times, when we look back, we can see that God was helping us and our prayers have been answered in unexpected ways.

There are times when life is incredibly difficult. Then it is good to remember the teaching of Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans. He reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and the Holy Spirit will help us when we can't find the right words.

### Reflection

- Do you have a regular prayer time? Why not set aside some time each day?
- How do you find prayer helps you?
- Some people keep a diary of their prayer requests and find it helpful to look back and see where situations have changed, sometimes in very unexpected ways. Would this help you?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

