

# TRUE VINE MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY ALIVE

*Zoom Edition*

## Working the Word Becoming Praying People

James 4:2; 5:13-17

James the Just was a man of prayer. A first-century historian reported that James spent so much time in prayer, his knees became hard and calloused like a camel. Church history remembers the author of this letter as “Camel Knees.”

Prayer and faith are inextricably tied together. Your profession of faith is suspect if your knees are soft and smooth. Genuine faith is demonstration by a prayerful dependence upon God in every situation.

- To be prayerless is to be non-Christian.
- Prayer is to faith what oxygen is to the lungs.
- Show me a person who does not pray, I'll show you a person who is spiritual dead.



Prayer is a divine command. And it is in a grammatical emphasis that denotes continual action. The benefits of prayer are not mentioned because the act of prayer is as vital as the answer to prayer. Prayer may not yield the answer you want, but it will yield the answer you need. Prayer will bring you out or through your sufferings. Paul had a thorn in the flesh. He repeatedly asked the Lord to remove it. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Prayer can take away your pain. Moreover, prayer can transform your pain.

James tells us that we should pray for ourselves and others in righteousness and faith with power. James gives us Elijah as an example. Please know that Elijah’s prayer was not powerful because of who he was, it was about the power of God. We are not especially gifted with power; God is powerful! Elijah’s prayer was also answered because it was the will of God.

### Conclusion

Prayer has been a strong emphasis throughout the whole letter. James’s point is plain. No matter what life brings our way, let’s make sure we do not forget to pray. It is not a last resort, but a first step. And let’s make sure that our praying is not merely mouthing words, but an earnest seeking after God. Only then do we truly pray, and only then do we experience our own great things.