

## Morning Worship

April 24, 2016

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Marcia Hart

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Hymn # 231    *"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"*    Tim/People

Worship Prayer    Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship    Allan/People

Chorus # 224    *"Holy Ground"*    Tim/People

Hymn # 182    *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*    Tim/People

Solo    Tim Waters

Hymn # 572    *"I Love to Tell the Story"*    Tim/People

Hymn # 573    *"Set My Soul Afire"*    Tim/People

Offering Prayer    John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings    People

Offering Music    Marcia Hart

Children's Worship    (Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading    Allan/People

Message    "Does Prayer Matter?"    Allan Lane

Hymn # 312    *"Softly and Tenderly"*    Tim/People

Prayer Concerns    Allan/People

Chorus of # 571    *"Let Others See Jesus in You"*    Tim/People

## Does Prayer Matter?

James 5:13-18

Prayer at its basic level is communication with God. Like all communication, it is prone to confusion, misdirection and misunderstanding. Prayer becomes magical if we're not careful. Magic seeks to control God, to get Him to do things our way. If we believe we can talk God into something we know isn't His will we are in fact, trying to cast a spell on Him to control God. We're guilty of this whenever we believe that the right words, attitude, position, or tone of voice will make God do what we want. We all need to grow in our prayer life. But can my prayer make a difference? Does it matter? Without a doubt, the answer is yes!

### **1) It's the proper thing to do.**

In verse 16, God's Word says, "Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

#### **a) Jesus set the example .**

"Pray for one another. . ." Over and over God tells us to pray and teaches us how. Jesus taught us by His example. Mark 1:35 lets us look into Jesus' prayer life. Then in Luke 6:12, Jesus was about to choose His 12 apostles and this verse says, "it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God."

#### **b) Jesus gave the explanation .**

Jesus teaches us to pray both by His example and by His explanation. Luke 11 is a great place to see the Lord explain prayer. God wants you to pray with a heart like His: A forgiving heart, always seeking to do the right thing.

#### **c) Jesus offered exhortation .**

Next Jesus teaches us to keep praying (exhortation), and He does this in Luke 11:5-8.

## **2) The answer has been promised .**

**Matthew 18:19      Mark 11:24      John 14:13-14**

Over and over God tells us to pray and He teaches us to pray, so pray because it's the proper thing to do. But also pray because the answer has been promised.

One of the greatest promises for answered prayer is in Luke 11:9-13. God made an amazing prayer promise there in verse 13. If you will pray, He will give you the best thing He can possibly give you, He will give you Himself. And you know that if He will give you the best thing, He will give you everything else you could possibly need - Through prayer.

God gives us many other promises of answered prayer. Here are some Scriptural examples.

**Matthew 18:19      Mark 11:24      John 14:13-14**

These are just a few of God's amazing prayer promises. Look at the promise in James 5:15-16. God promises to heal in answer to prayer, and many times He does. But it is not always God's will to heal, because this world is not our home.

## **3) The effect has been proven .**

### **a) The example of Elijah .**

In verses 17 and 18, James tells us that the power of prayer was proven by Elijah. Now we would tend to say, "Oh well, that was Elijah. He was one of the greatest men in the Bible." And surely he was, but this example wasn't given because Elijah was better than us. It was given because Elijah was a man like us.

The only perfect person who ever lived was Jesus. Everyone else in the Bible had faults and failures just like you, but over and over they proved that God answers prayer.

-**Moses** proved the power of prayer in Exodus 32, when the whole nation of Israel was spared through his prayer.

-In 1 Samuel 1, Hannah proved that God sometimes gives children in answer to prayer. And **Samuel** was born.

-In Psalm 51, **David** proved that God will forgive our sins in answer to prayer.

-**Solomon** proved that God will give wisdom in answer to prayer.

-**Jonah** was saved from the belly of a fish through prayer.

### **b) The testimony of millions .**

Over and over again in the Old Testament and New, God's people proved the power of prayer. The testimony of millions of believers can be added to their names.

## **4) The way has been provided .**

God tells us how to pray in verse 16, "Confess your trespasses [or faults, the KJV says] to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

### **a) Pray with intense energy .**

God makes two crucial points about how to pray in this verse. First, He wants us to pray with intense energy. The words "effective fervent" come from one Greek word, and that word is the origin of our word "energy." So, James is telling us here to have energized prayer.

Usually, this is the kind of praying that you do by yourself: The kind of prayer that James talks about in verses 17-18, when Elijah prayed for God to stop and then to start the rain. Elijah prayed that prayer for rain in 1 Kings 18:42-45. Verse 42 in the KJV tells us that Elijah cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his

knees. This was a sign of his great energy and passion in prayer. One preacher said that this was the same position that the women of that day used when giving birth.

If you've ever been present when a woman is giving birth, it can be a very draining experience. Now it's exciting time, but when that baby gets close to coming out, a woman sometimes becomes more than excited. She becomes energized. She wanted those babies to come. James says that there will be times when we need this kind of energy in our prayers.

**b) Pray with God's goodness .**

God wants us to pray with intense energy, but we also have to pray with God's goodness. Verse 16 points us to this when it says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

This verse could make us lose hope in praying, because as we honestly examine our lives, we can see faults and failures. But James is not trying to say that only perfect people's prayers get answered. If that were case, he wouldn't have asked us to confess our faults in the very same verse.

The only real righteousness we ever have is the righteousness we receive from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We see a glimpse of that in Jeremiah 23:5-6. All of us have sinned, but Jesus Christ died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Then He rose from the dead to give us His righteousness, if we are willing to receive it. The only way we can ever get the righteousness James is talking about here is to acknowledge our sin, turn to Jesus Christ, and trust in His sacrifice on the cross for us.

**Conclusion**

Calling on the Lord to save you is the starting point. Then you can begin to see more great things happen through prayer.

***Prayers Can Make A Difference!  
Stand on God's Word***

One pastor said that several months before they moved into their new church building, their ministry staff met at the new site for a special staff meeting. Most of the building still wasn't carpeted, and some of the rooms still had no drywall. Handing out magic markers, they instructed the staff members to go to the classrooms and offices in the building and write Scripture verses on the floors. The pastor told them, "Someday soon the Scriptures will be covered with carpet. But I hope you will always remember what you have written today. What we do today will be a visible reminder that we are always to stand on God's Word."

The staff really got into it. Some of them even used cans of spray paint so the words would show up better. Watching them work bothered the pastor a little because some of them acted as if they had experience doing that kind of thing. Those in the children's ministry wrote things like, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." In the education wing, the adult education ministers wrote things like, "Study to show yourself approved unto God," and "Your Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you." In the music practice rooms, the music ministers wrote, "Sing and make music unto the Lord," and "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." In the offices of the preaching team, they wrote passages like, "Preach the Word in season and out of season," and "Watch your life and doctrine closely...if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

The idea caught on, and soon hundreds of church members followed suit. In a matter of weeks, there were Scriptures all over the concrete floors – down hallways, on stairways, even on the steps leading up to the pulpit. He saw moms and dads bring their children to the building just to write their favorite Scriptures on the concrete floors. They actually considered asking people to stop because they started writing in places they hadn't planned to cover with carpet. But then decided it wasn't a good idea to suggest people quit writing Scriptures.

One day after helping to clean up after the construction workers, a group decided to write the passage where Jesus said, "Where two or three of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of you." Someone thought the reference was Matthew 18:28 so they wrote it

and the group's name on the floor in permanent marker. Later that evening one of them double checked the reference in his Bible. You guessed it. The correct reference was Matthew 18:20, not 18:28. Verse 28 says, "When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded."

The pastor said, "I suppose if you are ever in our building and, while standing in a certain classroom, suddenly have the urge to choke someone, you'll know why!" Aside from that the building became a dramatic reminder to all of them that the church has been called to stand upon the Word of God.

God Bless You!

*Bro. Allan*

## **Opportunities For Service**

### **Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

#### **Sunday, April 24, 2016**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

#### **Monday, April 25**

Sunday School Workers Meeting.....6:30 pm

#### **Tuesday, April 26**

Associational VBS Workers Clinic at First Baptist Church .....6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, April 27**

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study .....6:30 pm

Adult Choir ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Sunday, May 1, 2016**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, May 4**

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study ..... 6:30 pm

Adult Choir ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Thursday, May 5**

G Team.....6:30 pm

**MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 8**

#### **Up-Coming Events.....**

**April 24 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**April 25 — Sunday School Workers Meeting**

April 26 — SJBA VBS Workers Clinic, FBC Saint Joseph, MO

May 1 — Mission Trip Meeting, Calvary, 3:30 pm

May 2 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

May 5 — SJBA Senior Adult Event

May 8 — Mother's Day

May 11 — Prayer Warriors

May 15 — Business Meeting and Luncheon at Noon

— Food Pantry Collection Day

## **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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### **Sunday Nights**

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Plan to attend!

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

### *In Sympathy*

We offer Christian Sympathy to the family of Lester Buck, who passed away Saturday, April 16, 2016.

### **Fellowship Dinner and Business** **Meeting**

**May 15 at Noon**

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we conduct the business of the church.

### ***SJBA*** ***Senior Adult Event*** ***Whitesville Baptist*** ***May 5, 2016*** ***10:00 am***

### ***Associational Youth and Adult Mission Trip***

The Associational Mission Trip for this summer will be June 8 - 12. We will be going to Fairview Heights, Illinois to work with **Crossover St. Louis**. We need for both adults and youth to go. We will be doing different work than we did last year in Omaha, but similar to what we have done in the past.

If you have any questions, call Allan Lane at [816-261-6831](tel:816-261-6831) or the SJBA office, [816-233-2504](tel:816-233-2504).

## Vacation Bible School Workers Clinic

April 26, 2016

6:30— 9:30 pm

First Baptist Church, Saint Joseph

1225 Francis, Saint Joseph

All church VBS Directors and Workers are encouraged to attend this training.

### *For the Record*

**Attendance:** April 17, 2016

Sunday School.....	48
Visitors.....	5
Total.....	53
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	60
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night .....	7
Wednesday Night .....	15

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 1,927.77

### **Offering Received by Mail:**

### **May Counting Team:**

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

### **May Van Driver:**

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

### **May Member Birthdays:**

03... Vicki Long  
11... Hannah Schottel  
12... Rev. A. B. Brown  
17... Arlette Duty  
20... Pam Eldredge  
20... Erin Molloy  
20... Mike Green  
26... Isaac Waters

### **May Anniversaries**

## **Russ and Nancy McCamy**

May 22, 1982

## **Tim and Joyce Izer**

May 24, 1975

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

The Family of Lester Buck

Joyce and Tim Izer—pray for healing

Dorothy Post—healing

Pat Puckett—strength

Susan Patten—strength

Mike Green—recovery

David Schottel—recovery

Ken Nice—surgery recovery

Alicia McKinnon—healing

LoLeta Middleton—eye infection

Maxine and George Ferbert

Betty Anslinger—surgery recovery

Sue Higgins—regain strength

Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew

Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—

Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris Richardson's sisters

Grant Schottel—advanced training

Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister

Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew

Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health

Bob Barquist            Kathryn Beavers

Louanne Laurence    Keon McKahan

Allen Jennings      Ann Riddle

Jim Winans            Jozy Winans

Nellie Reynolds      Leona Reynolds

Kevin Duty            Kenny Duty

Madeline Swink      Bobby Griswold

Bill Haskins          Debbie Sands

Brenda Burgess      Judy Anderson

Carolyn Houts        Roscoe Lane

Missionaries Don and Diane Combs

Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church

David and Deborah Grace

Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders

Our Military Service people

### **Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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### **Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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### **Five More New Families...**

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