

Show me your faith

James 2:18

11. Pray and Sing, Saints

James 5:13-18

¹³ Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

1. Pray when problems pester

▲ Sing praises

¹³ Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

▲ Start praying

¹³ Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

- ▼ Authority
- ▼ Anointing
- ▼ Anticipation
- ▼ Alleviation

2. Pray with prayer partners

▲ Confess as you pray

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other

- ▼ Confession removes hindrances among the saints
- ▼ Confession restores humility and holiness to the spirit

▲ Combine and coordinate and cooperate as you pray

¹⁶ and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

3. Pray when problems persist

▲ Elijah was a common person

¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us.

Elijah UNDERSTOOD the SCRIPTURE CLEARLY

► Rain had been promised by God

Deuteronomy 28:1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ² All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: — ¹² The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.

► Ruin had been predicted by God

Deuteronomy 28:15 However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: — ²⁴ The LORD will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

Elijah USED the SCRIPTURE CONFIDENTLY

► Rain stopped at Elijah's prayer and pronouncement

¹ Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

► Rain started at Elijah's prayer and pronouncement

¹ Kings 18:41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." ⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." ⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'" ⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ The power of the LORD came upon Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

▲ Elijah was a confident prayer

¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Action Assignments

1. Pray with faith and fervency – all things are possible with God
2. Pray with the force of fellowship – agreement is powerful among God's people