



Faith Filled Prayer **JAMES 5:13-18** Message Reflection Guide

God sometimes answers our prayers in marvelous ways, but He does not want us to become preoccupied with the miraculous. That's why Jesus gently rebuked the nobleman who begged Him to come and heal his son (John 4:48). But in response to the father's repeated appeal He said, "Go your way, your son lives" (v.50). The father came to "believe" on the basis of Jesus' word alone. The reality of his faith is seen in the fact that he obeyed Christ's simple command and "he went his way."

Upon returning home, the nobleman discovered that his son had been healed "at the seventh hour" on the previous day. From his servants he learned exactly what had taken place and when. His son was made well at the same instant that Jesus said, "Your son lives" (vv.50-53). At times we are amazed by God's perfect timing and miraculous intervention when He answers our prayers. We must be careful, though, not to become so preoccupied with the miracle that we forget the One who performed it. We need to remain focused on Christ, whether a miracle takes place or not.

Conversation Starter What was your least favorite food as a child? Do you still hate it or do you love it now?

Getting Into The Scriptures Read James 5:13-18

Pastor Jason said: "The prayer of faith is asking God to accomplish what He has promised in His word." When have you come the closest to wandering from the faith? What (or who) helped bring you back?

The prayer of faith encourages authenticity. How easy is it for you to be truly authentic and transparent with God? What do you think prevents you from sharing fully with Him?

The prayer of faith relies on the anointing of God. What do you think anointing with oil symbolizes? Why do you feel God instructed us to follow this practice?

The prayer of faith heals us physically, spiritually and emotionally. In which area do you need healing right now? What are you specifically asking God to do? **take time in the group to pray for these needs, if you feel comfortable you can lay hands on people while praying.*

The prayer of faith is for the ordinary and the extraordinary. How does it make you feel to know that the "great" prophet Elijah was "a man with a nature like ours"? What are the dangers of putting people up on pedestals?

Making It Real

Scripture is the best judge of our prayers. Do you generally communicate with God in various types of prayer (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication) or do you typically just list off our requests? Which practice can you begin to incorporate into your prayer life?