

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Kevin & Pam Barthel | Arizona



- PRAISE**
- 3 nights of VBS with great attendance, sadly the last night was hurt by the murder of the father to two of the “neighborhood kids” who usually attend.
 - Kevin and Pam have been able to visit his daughter, Jennifer in Ohio, Kevin’s 94 year old father in Illinois, and their son, Jonathan in Wisconsin for a few days each.
 - The Barthel have recent been able to start discipleship Bible studies at Gilson Wash Baptist Church. Pray that this Bible leads to continued spiritual growth.

- PRAY**
- Pray the people of San Carlos, and for ongoing violence in the community.
 - Pray for both Kevin and Pam as they recover from a recent bout with COVID. Also, pray for Pam as she recovers from a stress fracture in her left foot.



Handout: 05/26/24

Study Date: 06/02/24

Pray For One Another

THEREFORE CONFESS YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER

We all have things in our life that we need healing from. One of the things that has brought death and destruction into our life is sin. And here in **James 5:16** James is encouraging Christians to confess this sin to each other.

This likely seems unnatural and uncomfortable to us when we think about doing this. And James offers no details about what this should actually look like.

It’s doubtful that he intends for us to stand in front of our church each week and publicly list all the sins we committed in the last week. Most likely what James means is that this confession should come from close relationships with a few people where we can be vulnerable in private.

James is acknowledging an important truth that we often ignore today. We NEED each other. We were designed to do life in community. In order for our faith to grow and for us to move past the sin that we are stuck in, we need the help of others. Hidden things don’t heal, they fester.

Again, you don’t need to be known by everyone. But you do need to be known by someone. James is encouraging us to find a few people who we can confess our sins to.

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER SO THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED

Once we confess our sins we are to pray for each other. This is the process that leads to healing.

For many people when they hear the word “confess” the image that is conjured up is one of shame and judgement. The person who confesses is looked down upon. And unfortunately this has taken place in many churches.

But that’s not the meaning of **James 5:16**. The purpose of confession is that it would provide a path to healing. And that’s what we all need; we all have sin and are in need of healing.

Just imagine what the Church would look like if confession and prayer for one another became the norm. The Church, and each individual, would be much healthier. We would be able to overcome our sin and our faith would flourish.

THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE

James ends this verse with a promise, in essence prayer works. God listens and he responds.

In other words, God doesn’t want you to be stuck in your sin. He wants you to find healing and step into the incredible life that he has for you.

And what **James 5:16** does is it gives you a road map for how you can overcome the sin and brokenness in your life. Confess, pray, and let God work. If you do that you will find healing.

Resource: Rethinknow.org

KEY3VERSE

James 5:16 (NKJV)

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: James 5:16; I Timothy 2:1; I Samuel 12:23

Pray Obediently For One Another

1. In I Timothy 2:1 Paul begins with *“Therefore I exhort first of all.”* What commandment is Paul conveying to us regarding praying for each other?
2. We are called not to *“sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray.”* What lesson is I Samuel 12:23 teaching us in regard to *“the good and the right way”*?

Tuesday: James 5:13; James 5:14-16; Proverbs 28:13

Pray Specifically For One Another

3. In James 5:13 the question is asked *“is anyone among you suffering”*? As followers of Christ how are we to react to someone who is?
4. James 5:16 calls us to *“confess our trespasses to one another.”* What impact has following this command had on your relationships?

Wednesday: James 5:16b; James 5:16c; I John 3:22

Pray Effectively For One Another

5. How specifically does James 5:16b instruct us to pray?
6. In I John 3:22 what can we expect to *“receive”* because we pray with integrity and *“keep His commandments”*?

Thursday: James 5:17-18; Galatians 6:2

Pray Powerfully For One Another

7. In James 5:17 Elijah *“prayed earnestly that it would not rain.”* It didn't for over three years. What does this say about the power of earnest prayer?
8. In Galatians 6:2 we as believers are called to *“bear one another's burdens.”* How is prayer used in enabling us to do exactly that?
9. When was the last time you prayed powerfully and what was it for?

Friday: I Thessalonians 5:25; II Peter 3:1; Acts 20:36

Pray Practically For One Another

10. In II Peter 3:1 he writes his second epistle to *“stir up your pure minds by way of a reminder.”* How do YOU remember to pray for other's needs?
11. What does Acts 20:36 teach us about the need to sometimes pray for people *“on the spot”*?
12. What encouragement do YOU gather from I Thessalonians 5:25 to ask for prayer?