

Faith In Action: A Study of James
Lesson 7 “The Prayer for Revival”

I. Introduction - We are closing out our study on the book of James. We have discovered it was the first letter written by one of the Apostles to the early church (written in 46 A.D.).

A. Was not written to an individual church. Was written to Christians who had been scattered everywhere because of persecution. **Acts 8:1** and **James 1:1**.

1. First major adversity after the crucifixion. Prior to this adversity, the church had lived in ongoing revival for 5 years where it looked like the kingdom of God was being set up in its fulness on earth.

2. This adversity threw off the equilibrium of many Christians who began to just live for themselves. **My thesis is this caused them to lose hope which caused them to lose purpose.**

3. For the purpose of this study, I’m comparing the adversity surrounding Steven’s death to the adversity the church has dealt over the last two years. **These events have caused many to lose hope. RECENT PROPHETIC WORD - THE CHURCH NEEDS TO WAKE UP!**

4. The adversity had a negative effect on the early church and people began to go through the motions of Christianity.

a. This is why James said to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only and faith without works is dead.

b. The focus is on our ability to influence and impact the world and not doing works to maintain our salvation.

B. **James 4** and the first part of **James 5** focus on the importance of humility and depending on God for everything. Last week we taught about how we need to live from this place of humility. **We don’t have to take matters into our own hands, but we can depend on His goodness and faithfulness!**

C. Tonight we are going to close by focusing on the **Prayer for Revival**. Remember, the church started in revival and was in revival until it got thwarted by persecution. James closes out with this theme of revival and praying for revival.

II. The Prayer for Revival

A. **James 5:7-12 Be Patient and Persevering**

1. **Verses 7-8** Early and latter rain - what was the early rain? Pentecost, **Acts 3**, **Acts 5**. James tells them to be patient because there is more rain coming.

a. Rain in scripture is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. James is encouraging the church there is more rain coming - Rain is a picture of revival.

- b. **Isaiah 44:3** *For I will pour water on him who is thirsty*
- c. Tells them to be patient because there is a divine timing involved. God's nature is revival - He never withdraws, but people do so God sets things up to achieve maximum impact for people. ex: Pentecost.
- 2. **Verses 9** don't grumble in hardship. Trust God in the process. When we grumble people will condemn us and they will judge us, not God.
- 3. **Verses 10-11** Makes comparison the prophets and Job who waited for a move of God in the O.T.
- 4. **Verse 12** Is talking about how we respond to our critics. Don't have to take oaths, just be honest and set a godly example while we are waiting.

B. James 5:13-18 Pray to Meet Specific Needs

- 1. **James 5:13-15** All of these verses are about acknowledging God (humility) in whatever we are going through.
- 2. It's not just prayer that saves the sick, it's praying with expectancy (faith) that brings breakthrough).
- 3. **James 5:16** While we don't have to confess to a priest to be forgiven, there is a power in sharing with others that brings breakthrough. Satan likes to keep things in darkness, while God wants to bring them to light. When we share with one another and pray for one another it brings things to light and our brothers and sisters can help us.
- 4. **James 5:16 (AMP)** *The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].*
- 5. **James 5:17-18** Example of Elijah, which connects back to **verse 16**.
 - a. Rain stopped at the word of the Lord released through Elijah - **1 Kings 17:1**. We call that prayer.
 - b. After Elijah's victory over the false prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel, he prays for rain again. **1 Kings 18:41-45**.
 - c. How many times did Elijah pray to get breakthrough? 7. This means when we know the will of God, it may take more than one prayer and/or persistent prayer to see the results God wants. ex: healing

C. James 5:19-20 - These verses are about believers.

- 1. Someone cannot wander from the truth unless they already had the truth.
- 2. Saving his soul is not talking about his spirit. A person can be saved spiritually, but have their soul (mind, will, and emotions) be messed up. This leads to death (example - sickness, depression). Also, if our mind thinks the wrong things long enough, it could a person to renounce their salvation.

III. Conclusion - I taught on prayer and revival tonight, so now I think we need to pray.

A. **Zechariah 10:1** Pray for Revival.

B. Call Up Prayer Team.