

## I. Introduction.

**James 5:13-18** | <sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- A. The book of James is chock full of insight and perspective. I love how he ends his brief but instructive letter with various insights and encouragements related to prayer.
- B. Although, we could look at this passage from a number of angles, I'd like to hone in on a particular truth from verse 16 in which the apostle links confession with effectual prayer—in other words, prayer that is answered with breakthrough such as physical healing.

## II. Let's look at this idea a bit closer.

**James 5:16-18** | Confess your trespasses (sins, NIV) to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- A. **Confess your trespasses**—The idea here is to regularly share with trusted brothers and/or sisters where we have fallen short in the current season of life. This requires, of course, that we exercise discretion, tell the right trusted people and in the right setting/right way. Typically, this would happen in smaller meetings among trusted friends familiar with each other, but there are exceptions.
- B. **Your trespasses/sins**—In my experience, Christians are often unaware that they are deeply judgmental of the sins of the nation or the sins of this or that group without taking seriously their own personal sins. This often gets compounded even more among those who are seeking to be dedicated or among intercessory prayer groups—groups like us. We must know this about ourselves!
- C. **Righteous man**— James is taking about our day-to-day living condition being right, not about the legal position of righteousness that comes with faith in Christ. Christ followers are righteous before God in the legal sense because of Jesus' death on the cross, but we still sin and move out of right standing with God. We fall short with our speech, thoughts, actions/inaction, etc. To imagine that we no longer sin is a great deception that typically, in my experience, leads to a life of immorality and an antinomian belief system.

**Proverbs 20:9** | Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

**Proverbs 28:13** | He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

**1 John 1:8-10** | <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

**1 John 2:1** | My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (Also see Hebrews 4:14-16.)

## III. Practical benefits of genuine confession.

1. **Becoming more authentically humble.**—God give grace to the humble, not the fake. Confession of sin brings us down to the level we're really at. It deflates our pride. We often imagine we're higher up than we really are. Telling someone our secret sins brings us back to reality. We easily drift into deception when we're not regularly being honest about our moral shortcomings.
2. **Gaining the peace that comes from a cleansed conscience.**—Having grown up catholic, confession was a regular part of my life. Many times I told the priest all the sins I could think of and immediately felt like I was lighter and more calm. There's a very real peace that comes to our soul when we know we've let it all out and we're not hiding anything. (By the way, God already knows!)

*Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.*

## Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for December 7, 2018

- 1. Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
- 2. UPCOMING EVENT:** Kids Prayer Night is from 5-8 p.m. tomorrow night (Saturday, December 8).
- 3. Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org). We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org). Contact Mandy Kistner at [mandy@gphop.org](mailto:mandy@gphop.org) if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
- 4. Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
- 5. Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at [derek@gphop.org](mailto:derek@gphop.org) if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
- 6. Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
- 7.** We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
- 8. Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org).
- 9. Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website ([gphop.org/donate](http://gphop.org/donate)) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*