



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
**Fall Quarter - Lesson 10 - Week of November 10, 2024**

**LESSON: PRAYING WITH FAITH**

**Bible Verses:** James 5:12-20; Psalm 6:8-10; Proverbs 15:8; Jeremiah 33:2-3; Matthew 6:5-8;  
John 15:5-8; Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-6

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

1. What have you learned about yourself this year?
2. What negative self-talk do you struggle with?

**DISCUSSION**

*"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." - James 5:16*

**Reflection:** From time to time, it is helpful to consider our prayer habits to reflect on whether we are praying with faith or just praying out of routine. Take a few minutes to think of a time when God answered a specific prayer for you. How did that make you feel? How did it change your life?

**Situation:** James began his letter by encouraging his readers to pray for God's wisdom when needed (James 1:5-8). He ends his letter with a call for them to pray about every situation they face, whether they are troubled, happy, sick, or need forgiveness. James reminds the believers that their prayers will accomplish much in their lives and the lives of others as they continually rely on God. He urges them to be real and to support one another. If they do this, they will continue living out their faith together as the body of Christ. Read James 5:12-20 (NKJV).

1. How would you summarize James' final instructions about controlling your speech?
2. What advice does James give to the troubled and the cheerful?
3. What steps does James give a believer who needs God's healing?
4. What kind of prayer makes great things happen?
5. Read I Kings 17:1-4 and I Kings 18:41-45. What does Elijah's prayer teach you about prayer?
6. What does James say about the importance of guiding those who have fallen into a pattern of sin back to Christ?

**Inspiration:** Computer viruses have had names like Klez, Anna Kournikova, and ILOVEYOU. Mental viruses are known as anxiety, bitterness, anger, guilt, shame, greed, and insecurity. They worm their way into your system and diminish, even disable, your mind. These are DTPs: destructive thought patterns.

Heaven is the land of sinless minds; virus-free thinking. So, what are you waiting for? Apply God's antivirus and "*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth* (Colossians 3:2 NKJV)." Give Him your best thoughts and see if He doesn't change your mind.

Remember, God wants us to believe in the power of prayer. Hence, we should pray believing that God will make it happen. God answers prayer! He changes the person by changing the mind. And how does it happen? By doing what you are doing right now: considering the glory of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV).

### **How to Pray With Faith:**

1. Live the life of faith.
2. Seek God's will for every particular matter you pray about.
3. Cherish good desires.
4. Diligently plead for a definite thing based on His desires and promises.
5. Believe that for which you are praying.

### **Reaction:**

1. James says in verse 16, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." When have you seen this to be true in your life?
2. James states in verse 17 that Elijah was human "even as we are." How does this encourage you to pray and ask God to do great things in your life?
3. What great things would you like to see God do in your life or the lives of others?
4. How can you develop more discipline and patience in your daily prayer life?

**Life Lesson:** Prayer should be the default setting for a Christian's life. In I Thessalonians 5:17, Paul instructed us to "pray without ceasing," and James would have concurred. We should always keep our minds and thoughts in a prayerful mode. What begins as a conscious and deliberate habit can become, over time, a way of living that maintains constant contact with God. The challenges of life and the needs of other people become opportunities to continuously bring to the forefront the prayer life that is going on in the background of our minds. That is the effective prayer life that avails much! How often do you contact God?

**Devotion:** Father, we cherish your promise to answer our prayers. Yet, we often come to you with muddled ideas, unsure of what is best, uncertain of your will, and unwilling to wait for your answers. We thank you for your assurance that our imperfect prayers cannot hinder your incredible power.

**Journaling:** What is a situation that's troubling you? Write a prayer to God about it.

**Prayer Focus:** Father, help us to call on you more.