

James 5:13-18

Prayer: of the righteous

Outline for Congregation

The Prayer of a Righteous Person

- relationships provide helpful analogies to deepen our understanding of prayer and how our behavior is connected to our praying

A Life of Prayer Must Be Integrated With A Life of Faithfulness

- because of who God is, we should expect our prayers to be ineffective if our hearts and actions are not right

A Life of Unfaithfulness Must Become Integrated With Christ

- Elijah, a man with a nature like ours?
- grace for the humble is the way *to* God and the way *with* God

Questions for reflection:

1. In what ways is your own prayer (if you pray) part of a relationship with God? What is relating to God like? How is it similar to other relationships you have? Different?
2. Are there areas in your life where you know God would have you live differently? How should you be praying about those things?
3. How can the various components of your life (what you think about, what you do) be better integrated into a life of following Christ? How do things that seem unrelated to religion connect in your life (do the various pieces of your life connect in any way)?
4. God gives grace to the humble, and tells us to draw near to Him (James 4) – what still keeps you from drawing near to God fully? How can considering God's grace, or how Jesus humbled himself (Philippians 2) in order to exalt us (James 4), move you to a place of deeper connection with God?