

# Sunday, September 14, 2025

*1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

## Title: Praise, Pray and Plead

Series: James ... 12; Text: James 5:13 - 20

**Purpose:** I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to FOLLOW the Holy Spirit's instruction in James 5:13 - 20, to Believers, to PRAISE, PRAY and PLEAD.

### Introduction:

'The King is Coming,' was the title for the devotional last Sunday. There were four major observations:

- ~ 1) The KING Will Judge Those Who Trust in Their Riches;
- ~ 2) The KING Admonishes Us to Be Patient;
- ~ 3) The KING Desires Believers Guard their Tongue;
- ~ 4) The KING Desires That We Be True to Our Word
- ~ The Holy Spirit uses the last eight verses of James to give vital direction to Believers. There is something profound about the last words given to your family. Years ago my father was having a procedure done at the Calgary Foothill's Hospital; one that he may not survive. I was prepared to stay with him! But he instructed me to go, saying I will see you later; either on earth or in heaven. You need to go home and care for your family!!! I shall not forget.

~ Hear again these closing words of James. These verses are not meant to be debated based on our personal biases of understanding of the Scripture. They are meant to be obeyed in faith...faith that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit and transcend my understanding; I just need to obey.

~ *"The gift of speech is a marvelous blessing, if it is used to the glory of God."*

~ The tongue can be used to complain (5:9) and speak ungodly oaths (5:12) or it can obey the Holy Spirit to speak Praise, Pray, and Plead!

### 1. Commanded to Offer Praise:

~ vs. 13, *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise."*

~ 'cheerful' - "to be put in good spirits, gladden, make cheerful" Used 3 times:

~ Acts 27:22 and 25, *"Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. (25) So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told."*

~ James 5:13

~ Hebrews 13:15, *"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name."*

~ Ephesians 5:18 - 20, *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, (19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving that's always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

~ Colossians 1:12 - 14, *"giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

~ Romans 8:28, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

### 2. Commanded to Pray:

~ 'Pray' and 'prayer' is mentioned seven times in these eight verses: Verses 13, 14, 15, 16 (twice), 17, 18

~ The command is to pray in faith knowing that:

~ 1 John 5:14 - 15, *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (15) And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we have the requests that we have asked of him."*

~ Ephesians 3:20 - 21, *"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work in us, (21) of him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generation, forever and ever. Amen."* Illustration of E. V. Hill

~ Luke 22:42, *"saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, done."*

~ I confess that there is often confusion and conflict in my soul over the will of God. I am persuaded that it is a sin on my part to presume that I know the will of God in every individual situation and prayer request that I engage in! Do I believe in divine healing? Absolutely! Do I think I know God's will in every situation? NO! I need to HEAR God, NOT tell God!

~ Philippians 2:19 - 30

### 3. Commanded to Plead:

~ vs. 19 - 20, *"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, (20) let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."*

~ Matthew 18:15 - 20

~ 1 Corinthians 5:1 - 5 and 2 Corinthians 2:5 - 11

~ 1 Corinthians 11:23 - 32

### Conclusion:

Baptismal at Lake (Weather permitting)