



PRAYER: A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

PASTOR BURNARD SCOTT
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James 5:13-18 (MSG) 13-15 Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out. 16-18 Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. **The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.** Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV) 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us [whatever we ask] we know that we have what we asked of him.

Why Pray?

1. We pray because we love God.
2. We pray because we depend on God.
3. We pray in order to resist temptation.
4. We pray because it is necessary for men to invite God to act in salvation.
5. We pray because God commands us to pray.

Principles In Prayer:

1. Depend on the Holy Spirit.

2. Realize who you are in Christ, and on what basis God will hear you.

3. Begin your prayer with thanksgiving and praise.

4. Worship God.

5. Pray the Word.

6. Ask God for definite things that you want.

7. Allow God to lead you to pray for others in the church and their needs, national and local situations, the government, the advance of the Kingdom of God, and the growth of the church.

