

James: Laboring in Prayer

November 27, 2022

James 5:13-20

Instead of James going for his typical punch in the gut approach, James ends his letter with a push—a push to pray. In James 5:13-20, James lists out a variety of scenarios that we should labor in prayer: when we are suffering, sick, and in sin. We should labor in prayer in a similar way to a woman in labor so that we can birth whatever it is that God has for us in the same way Elijah did.

Getting Started

Have you heard any funny or interesting stories of women giving birth? Or do you have one of your own?

Read

James 5:13-20

Digging Deeper

- What are some of your personal experiences with prayer? (can be both good or hard ones)
- As Carly listed off different reasons why we often resist prayer, is there one that you could relate to? Or is there anything else?
 - Maybe we've kept our lives so busy that we don't even have time to process through the suffering we're facing.
 - Maybe we've been disappointed by unanswered prayer and we don't want to get our hopes up and be disappointed again.
 - Maybe you're not so sure about God's goodness or if He cares to be that involved in your life. So why talk to him about it?
 - Maybe we've gotten so good at self medicating with entertainment, food, social media, porn, and alcohol that we've numbed ourselves to our need for prayer.
 - Or maybe you're like me and we've worked hard to create a life that we can manage on our own so that we don't need God or anybody else for that matter. Can I really trust God? (Self-reliance/self-sufficiency)
- Is there an area or issue in your life that you feel like God is asking you to labor in prayer for?



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