

JAMES

Hands-On Christianity

The Power of Effective Kneeling

James 5:13–18

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Sometimes we think of prayer as something we do as a last resort after we've exhausted our resources, called in our last favor, and run out of options. "Well, all I can do now is pray," we say, resigned—as if prayer is impotent and inconsequential.

Not true.

Prayer to the God of the universe is never useless. Prayer is the honest admittance of our utter dependence on the Lord, no matter how few or how many resources He's given us. God is *always* able and He is *always* willing to listen to us. Let's remember that we have the ear of the God of the universe and can call on Him at all times.



Getting Started: Prayer Changes Everything

When searching the Scriptures, a helpful first step is to gather resources that will guide you in your study. Make certain you have handy a Bible dictionary and a concordance, as well as a reliable commentary on the book of the Bible you're studying. For this study of James, we recommend you get a copy of *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary: James, 1 & 2 Peter*. You'll find a description of that and other resources on the last page of this study.

NOTE: You might notice bolded page numbers in parentheses next to a question or comment. These page numbers correspond to the section in *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary: James, 1 & 2 Peter* where that particular point is discussed.

Take a few minutes to read through James 5. Read these verses carefully, as if it's the first time you've read them.

Quotable

*True faith
exhibited
through patience
manifests itself
in prayer.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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Helpful Hints

- Reading different Bible versions can help you to read the same passage with fresh perspective. If you don't have different versions handy, there are plenty of Web sites that can help you.
- Remember: *Observation* is a critical beginning technique you will want to use to put together the pieces of a passage of Scripture. Paying particular attention to James 5:13–18, make some initial observations about what you see—for instance, *are there any repeated words? Did James use any connecting words that offer clues into what he was emphasizing?* Write down your observations and discoveries.



Your Turn in the Scriptures

Using James 5:13–18, apply the four primary techniques—*observation*, *interpretation*, *correlation*, and *application*—in the searching the Scriptures process. Take some time first, however, to read any material you find in your commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and online tools that covers this section of James 5. *Pray* for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Jot notes in the margins of your Bible as you go or on a separate sheet of paper.

Pause . . . take a few minutes to do two things prior to beginning your study. First, reflect on what you already know and even feel about the passage you are about to study. Recall some past lessons or sermons on this passage and how those impacted you. Second, bow in prayer and ask the Lord to guide you in your study. Ask specifically that He reveal insights that you have not discovered previously and how they may apply to your or someone else's experience.

Observation: What do you see?

Use the space below to record your findings as you look closely at the text. Remember: Look for repeated words, commands, questions, emphatic statements, and images or figures of speech. Your notes can be specific and detailed as you examine the passage.

James 5:13–15



James 5:16–18

Interpretation: What does it mean?

James 5:13–18

According to James, what are some specific circumstances that call for prayer? List them.

Praise is another form of prayer (James 5:13). How is praise distinct as a form of prayer?

Is prayer strictly an individual activity? When should prayer involve other people, according to James 5:13–18?

How did James associate confession and forgiveness with healing? Is this healing just physical? Just spiritual? Both?



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Correlation: How does it compare?

Read the following passages, and write a note or two as to how they help confirm the meaning of James 5:13–18.

1 Kings 8:27–53

Psalms 54

Proverbs 15:8

Matthew 21:21–22

Mark 11:25



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Acts 2:42

Ephesians 6:18

Philippians 4:6

1 Timothy 2:1–8

Application: What difference does it make?

Here are four simple, practical, relevant lessons to invigorate and encourage your prayer life:

- *Prayer is to be continuous.*
- *Prayer is designed for every part of life.*
- *Prayer is not a substitute for responsibility and intelligent thinking.*
- *Prayer is not for the perfect; it's for the imperfect.*



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In the space below, write out a few specific personalized applications (responses) to what you have studied in James 5:13–18.



A FINAL PRAYER

Lord, thank You for hearing my prayer. By Your Spirit, help me to patiently wait for Your timing in all things. Remind me that prayer is not a last resort but a continuing act of dependence and submission. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



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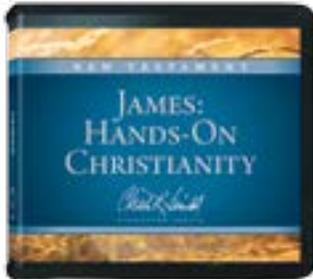
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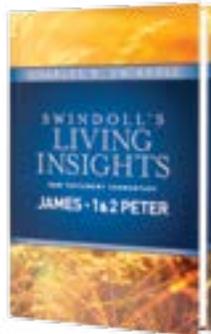
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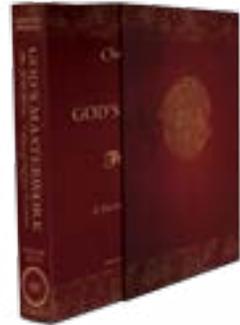
Tools for Digging Deeper



**James: Hands-On
Christianity**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**Swindoll's Living Insights
New Testament Commentary:
James, 1 & 2 Peter**
by Charles R. Swindoll
hardcover book



**God's Masterwork, Volume
Seven: The Final Word—A
Survey of Hebrews–Revelation**
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For the 2016–2017 broadcast, this Searching the Scriptures study was developed by Mark Tobey in collaboration with Charles R. Swindoll based upon the original outlines, charts, and sermon transcripts.



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