

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

James 5:13-18
August 2, 2015

Life - Handle with Prayer!

FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE - easily broken or damaged

James teaches: deal with life - troubles, happy times, sickness - Pray! Why? Prayer is more than a coping tool or more than a way to fix bad things!

Life - Handle with Prayer!

What makes life real life? We all were born *dead - separated from God our Heavenly Father*. We got real life, when through baptism God worked faith's new life in us - reuniting us. God is *our Father*. We're his beloved.

Real life is lived in a constant relationship with God. Living life with God: listening, receiving, trusting, loving, sharing, thanking...

- ◆ Life with God: we *breath in* his word and *breath out* prayer/praise
 - His word is the source of life. Life's food. Live giving/renewing.
 - Life responds in constant communication with our dear Father.
 - ◆ Troubles - pray first and continually while dealing with it.
 - ◆ Joys, narrow misses - talk to God with thanks and praise
 - ◆ Live talking to God as your BFF
 - Jesus = *Best Friend Forever*
 - God = *Best Father Forever*
 - ◆ *Life* without prayer = *living* separate from God - God in a box
 - A failure to understand: trouble = being separate from God = dead
 - Measure of life's health/vibrancy: investment in vibrant relationship with the Living God
 - ◆ Making time for listening to God's word
 - ◆ Making time to pray to God: praise, ask, share, seek wisdom
 - ◆ Time spent in a day dialoguing with God in view of his word
 - ◆ **Life - Handle with Prayer** - Prayer in the broad sense = worship that listens to the Word then speaks to God.
 - With God as my BFF, prayer is as much a part of life as exhaling.

- ❖ Prayer is faith's new life in action
 - ◆ Faith prays trusting God - he loves and acts according to his promises
 - Faith knows God's nature from the Bible.
 - Faith knows God's love, faithful work, and power.
 - Faith knows and shares God's will - asking for what God wants
 - ◆ Just like Elijah - show Baal isn't God. Stop rain for 3.5 years
 - This trust prays boldly, persistently: **Life - Handled with Prayer**
 - ◆ Prayer is an act of worship - treating God as your God
 - Prayer is not merely a 911 service!
 - Prayer is not on-line ordering - grumbling: *What, no Next Day?!*
 - Prayer never forgets: approaching God - an act of worship.
 - ◆ Prayer to Saints is not an innocent alternate channel!
 - ◆ The one you rely on is your god. Pray to God alone!
 - ◆ Prayer is living with my God - treating God as my God.
 - ◆ Prayer is an obedience of faith.
 - God says: come, pray, ask, praise, pour your heart out. Faith does.
 - Obedience that is easy. Privilege. Expect good things. Love God.
 - Faith prays. That's what it does. It's in the nature of the relationship
 - Communicating with God is a way of life - a way of the Life.

Where does James say that? *The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective*. Righteous = believer. (Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness.) Believers want what God wants. God loves to give his own what he promises and they in faith desire. He directs his full love and power in response to our prayers. It's

Life - Handle with Prayer!