



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

# 01

DAY 01

JANUARY 9, 2023

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### KEY SCRIPTURES

James 5: 13-16

As we begin a New Year, the question that is foremost in many of our minds is, “What can I do differently this year that will make my life richer?” Our first impulse is usually to think of ways to change our physical environment, like diet and exercise. Or, often we lean toward improving relationships and financial situations.

But the Bible has a very different starting point. In the pages of truth we discover that our first step should always be prayer. The audacious claim is that if we can become effective in this area, things that seem impossible become possible. Here is what we read in James 5:13... “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

My first impulse on reading this is to fashion prayer into a formula... if you do this, then this will happen. But I don't believe that was the intention of James. When it comes to praying, singing, or having elders pray, all of those are great things. But how do you know when you're supposed to do those things? I think what James is emphasizing is this key point: that it is only God who can truly deliver us. And when we orient our lives with His Will, that's when we find the strength and wisdom to navigate our situation.

The word “righteous” used in verse 16 is not to be interpreted as, “a perfect person”, or “the person who does everything right”, but rather the prayer here pertains to “the person who wants to discover, and is committed to, living in God's Best.”

I want to invite you on a 21 day journey of discovery. During this 21 day journey, our prayer is that by taking intentional time to listen for God's voice, you will find the freedom you need in your trouble, the joy you need in your victory, and the healing you need in your body, mind, and spirit. Welcome to 21 Days of Prayer.

