

A **#Hack4Faith** Discussion-based Study for Groups and/or Individual Enrichment
The Letter of James

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete lacking nothing.” James 1:4

Discussion Nine: *Genuine in Prayer*, James 5:13-20.

Key Phrase: “...*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*” James 5:16 NIV

1. Discussion Scenario:

- a. Prayer, an on-going, bi-directional, conversation with the ever-present God. What insights can we learn from James about this on-going conversation? What compels us to practice this bi-directional conversation with the ever-present God?

2. Being Genuine in Prayer:

- a. Read James 5:13-20, [James 5:13-20 AMP - Is anyone among you suffering? He must - Bible Gateway](#).

3. Digging in:

- a. Verses 5:13-18:
 - i. When should you pray?
 - ii. Why should you pray?
 - iii. How should you pray?
 - iv. Who should pray?
 - v. What can be the results of prayer?
 - vi. Why might we not pray?
- b. **Optional reading** – the account of Elijah and the rain – 1 Kings 17 & 18: [1 Kings 17-18 NIV - Elijah Announces a Great Drought - Now - Bible Gateway](#)
- c. Looking back at other “tips” James provides us about prayer:
 - i. James 1:5-8, What is/are James’ “tip(s)” for prayer here?
 - ii. James 4:2-3, What is/are James’ “tip(s)” for prayer here?
 - iii. James 4:7-10, What is/are James’ “tip(s)” for prayer here?

- d. Highlighting a couple of Jesus' teachings on prayer:
 - i. The Lord's Prayer: [Matthew 6:5-15 NIV - Prayer - "And when you pray, do not - Bible Gateway](#)
 - 1. What are your bullet list takeaways from this passage?
 - ii. Ask, Seek, Knock... how much more...: [Matthew 7:7-12 NIV - Ask, Seek, Knock - "Ask and it will - Bible Gateway](#)
 - 1. What are your bullet list takeaways from this passage?
- e. Verses 5:19-20:
 - i. What is James' closing call to us as believers?

4. Bringing it home:

- a. What are your key takeaways from this study/discussion? List up to 3 and be prepared to share at least one.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- b. Being "genuine in prayer" -- what two actions can you take this week?
 - i.
 - ii.
- c. Write a short prayer to your ever-present God regarding being genuine in your on-going, bi-directional conversation with Him.

Acknowledgement: Some of the content in this study was inspired by William Barclay (1976). *The Daily Study Bible Series, Revised Edition, The Letter of James and Peter*. The Westminster Press.