



How to Talk with God, Message #4

James 5:13-18

What's wrong with this prayer?

“Dear God, please bless our family. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Listen: This is not a horrible prayer but I hope to convince you that it is flawed.

Specific prayer requests for when you are:

- ...**suffering**—pray:
- ...**cheerful**—pray:
- ...**sick**—pray:
- ...**sinning**—pray:

Key Truth: The fervent prayer of a righteous person...is very powerful and effective.

The Example: Elijah, a human just like us, prayed fervently to stop rain and to start rain—and both of them happened!

Another Example: Honi the circle-maker.

In talking with God: Prayers of faith and true expectancy...are specific.

What specific request will you believe God for in 2012? Put it in the circle!



Please trust God and if you are going to err in some way please honor God by erring on the side of boldness—not on the side of smallness.

Walking Papers

“Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.”

In talking with God: Prayers of faith and true expectancy...are specific.

Every day please read James 5:13-18:

- **Today.** Reflect on your habitual prayer requests. Write them down. Are they too general to know if they are ever answered? Are they specific enough to see when God responds?
- **Monday.** What elements of your life involve *suffering*? What is your specific request?
- **Tuesday.** What elements of your life involve *cheerfulness*? What is your specific praise?
- **Wednesday.** What elements of your life involve *illness*? What is your specific request?
- **Thursday.** What elements of your life involve *sinning*? What is your specific request?
- **Friday.** What would it look like in your prayer life for you to pray fervently—literally to “pray with prayer?” (James 5:17)
- **Saturday.** Prayers of faith and true expectancy are specific. Please make a list of the top three things that you will trust God for in 2012—please be specific:

- _____
- _____
- _____

A prayer resource you can read in 20 minutes: *Be a Circle Maker* by Mark Batterson.

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at:
www.cypressbible.org (Quick Menu / Connect / Community Papers).