

God's Hedges (IV)

(Prayer)

- “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees”
- 1 Th.5:17
 - Paul did not spend every minute in prayer

- Dn.6:10
- Ro.12:12
- Ep.6:18
- Col.4:2

We may pray . . .

- 1) At any place
- 2) For any blessing
- 3) For any person

I. Pray for Wisdom 1:5

1:2-4: endure until it reaches its goal

- Trials will come, 2b
- Trials come in varieties, 2c
- Trials call for proper response, 2a
- Trials can bring blessings, 3-4

1:2-4, 5 . . . Seek wisdom. Lk.17

1. We must ask God, 5.

– Endurance by itself would not supply wisdom. 1 K.3

- Gives to all
- Gives liberally
- Does not reproach

1:2-4, 5 . . . Seek wisdom. Lk.17

1. We must ask God, 5.

2. Ask in faith, 6. Doubters . . .

a. need not apply, 6. Mk.6:5

b. are like waves, 6.

c. do not receive anything, 7. Isa.1:15;
58:3-4.

d. are double-minded, 8. Mt.22:37

I. Pray for Wisdom 1:5

II. Pray without
Worldliness 4:1-4

1a: wars and fights come. 3:14-16

1b: desires for pleasure cause wars.

2a-c: worldly lust, murder, covetousness...

2d: failure to ask does not get us what we want. Mt.7:7

3: asking does not get us what we want
(when we ask amiss)

4: worldliness is spiritual adultery (1:27).
Mt.6:24; 1 Jn.2:15

I. Pray for Wisdom 1:5

II. Pray w/o Worldliness, 4:1-4

III. Pray for Weak and
Wayward 5:13-18

James discusses two kinds of prayer

1. Not-miraculous, 13. Pray...
2. Miraculous, 14. Call for elders...
 - a. If non-miraculous, why call elders?
 - b. Anoint with oil, 14b – Lk.10:34; Mk.6:13; Jn.9:6.
 - c. James credits cure to prayer of faith, not to oil (15a).

Two kinds of prayer

1. Not-miraculous, 13. Pray...
2. Miraculous, 14. Call for elders...
 - d. Spiritual gifts came through apostles,
Ac.8:18 (1 Co.12:9; 12:28-30)
 - e. Without revelation, could not guide flock
 - f. If not a miracle, why call for elders? (16)
 - g. Miraculous gifts not available today...
- 15a: prayer of faith will save the sick.

Mt.17:19-20

Two kinds of prayer

1. Not-miraculous, 13. Pray...
 2. Miraculous, 14. Call for elders...
 3. Non-miraculous, 15b-16a.
 - a. Prayer for sinner will forgive
 - b. Prayer for one another heals (spiritually)
- 16b: the prayer has great effectiveness
- 17-18: prayer can change the weather.

Two kinds of prayer

“But Elijah was a prophet...”

Power is in the prayer, not the man praying

Features a man whose nature is like ours
(17). 1 K.18:42-45.

Some misunderstand James' instructions

- Roman Catholics
- Pentecostals
- Elders
- Zodiates

James' vocabulary

1) Ask, 1:5-6

2) Ask, 4:2-3

3) Pray, prayer, prayed, 5:13-18

- Assurance:

- God's love wants the best for us
- His wisdom knows what is best
- His power can achieve it