



Pray, Prayer, Prayed

By Johnny Caruso on March 3, 2021

TODAY'S READING: James 5

James Chapter 5 is full of instruction including a warning to the rich, being patient in suffering, and praying in faith. All of this is good stuff because it is sent by God through the Holy Spirit so that we will become more like Christ.

In today's devotion I want to write about the Prayer of Faith in James 5:13-18. In Trish's and my early ministry at First Baptist Fort Mill, I noticed some strange things happening in my body. We learned that I had a tumor in my head that was affecting my hearing and sight. We were in the middle of growing a student ministry and I did not have time for that crazy kind of stuff. I was aware of James 5:14 admonition, in time of sickness "call for the elders of the church and have them pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord." I was part of the Jesus movement back in the 70's and experienced with my own eyes a woman in the hospital healed of cancer that had ravaged her body. One moment she had a tumor the size of a basketball in her abdomen and the next second it was gone (kind of freaky). I tried to keep things to myself. However, one Sunday night Pastor Jeff called the church together (in what we call the Chapel now). He put two chairs in the front of the Chapel -- one for me and one for Benny Wade who was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma (inoperable kidney cancer).

Many people who get bad news about illness, like me, decide to try to handle it on their own. But that is not God's design. He designed the body to "bear one another's burdens and in doing so we fulfill the law of the Lord" (Galatians 6:2). We believe that God heals, and it is proven in the scripture and in the lives of the people around us. I think that night in February when the church prayed for Benny and me it went much deeper than the physical stuff we were dealing with. I felt the love of God, through the body of Christ, that evening.

So, what was the result of those prayers? I am not sure as of now, but I do know this: Benny lived 10 more years, which was eight years past the time they gave him. I am totally deaf in my left ear, but I know that many people heard the gospel from me and from Benny. I guess I will find out later the reason I had the tumor, but I learned a great lesson. We do not have to endure our suffering and illness alone; we can reach out to our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You that we have a family of faith. We can pray for You to work a great work to accomplish Your will.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 15

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