

**Got FAITH?
Get WISE!
How to Pray...Wisely
March 15, 2009**

The earnest prayer of a righteous person
has great power and produces wonderful results.
James 5:16b

What **Causes** us to Pray...

...circumstances that are uncontrollable.

James 5:7 Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.

...people that are unchangeable.

James 5:10 For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

...problems that are unexplainable.

James 5:11a We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance.

Why Be Patient through Prayer?

- Because God is in control

James 5:8 You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

- Because God rewards patience

James 5:11b For instance, you know about Job...You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

I Should **Pray When** I am...

...hurting emotionally.

James 5:13a Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

...hurting physically.

James 5:14-15 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

...hurting spiritually.

James 5:16a Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

How to Pray for Others

- Be specific

Colossians 1:9-12 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

- Have the right motives

James 4:3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

- Have a clean life

James 5:16b The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

- Ask in faith

James 1:6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.

My Requests...