

"Don't Just Stand There! Pray Something"

Ralph Rittenhouse

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"...we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas." Matthew 13:55

Prayer does **not prepare** us for greater work. Prayer **is** the greater work.

1st: When should I pray?

- When I am hurting emotionally.
 - **"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray."** V. 13
 - **"In my distress I call unto the Lord."** Psalm 18:4
 - **"Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise."**
 - **"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."**
Romans 12:15
 - **"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord."**
Psalm 122:1(NLT)

- When I am hurting physically.
 - **"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven."** v. 14-15
 - Sensationalists
 - Confessionalists
 - "Those who suffer according to the will of God."** Peter 5:19
 - Dispensationalists
 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."** Hebrews 13:8
 - Rationalists
 - Realists
 - "... And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up."**

- When I'm hurting spiritually.
 - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."** v.6

2nd: Who Can Pray?

"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain on the land for three and a half years. He prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops." I Kings 19

3rd: How Can I Pray Effectively?

- I must ask.

"You do not have because you do not ask." James 4:2

- I must have the right motive.

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3

- I must have a clean life.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

"If I hide [regard, conceal] iniquity [sin] in my heart then the Lord will not hear."

- I must have faith.

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..." James 1:6