

Let Him Pray; James 5:13

- I. Communication
 - A. An essential part of any relationship
 - B. Without it relationships suffer
 - 1. Friendships
 - 2. Marriages
 - 3. Businesses
 - C. We spend a lot of time communicating with one another
 - D. How much time do we spend communicating with God
 - 1. Some would say, “He doesn’t communicate with me”
 - 2. That is a false statement
 - 3. God answers your prayers — maybe not the answer you wanted
 - E. Prayer is our communication with our Heavenly Father
- II. The Tongue
 - A. James 3:2 (ESV); For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.
 - 1. Horses
 - 2. Ships
 - 3. Our tongue
 - 4. James 3:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
 - B. We cannot curse people then ask for a blessing from God (verse 9)
 - C. Ephesians 5:3–4 (ESV); ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
 - D. We must ask God to help us tame our tongue so our relationship with him can grow
- III. Prayer
 - A. I don’t think it is coincidence that James puts prayer here in chapter 5 after rebuking his readers about their speech — prayer is speaking to God
 - B. Prayer is the complete context of this paragraph
 - 1. “Let him pray” verse 13
 - 2. “Let them pray” verse 14
 - 3. “The prayer of faith” verse 15
 - 4. “Pray for one another” verse 16
 - 5. “The prayer of a righteous person” verse 16
 - 6. “He prayed” verse 17
 - 7. “He prayed again” verse 18
 - C. James 5:13 (ESV); Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.
 - D. All our speech (prayers) — whether in times of persecution or times of peace — must be seasoned with grace
 - E. The Most Holy Place
 - 1. The Ark of the Covenant
 - 2. The Mercy seat
 - 3. The dwelling place of God during the Mosaic Law
 - 4. Hebrews 10:19–25 (ESV); ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened

for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

5. We are the Most Holy Place — the dwelling place of God
 6. 1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV); Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
 7. The temple meant EVERYTHING to an Israelite
 8. This statement was a very radical statement to make
 9. Ephesians 2:22 (ESV); In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- F. I used to say that when we bow our heads in prayer, we enter the most holy place and commune with God
1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV); pray without ceasing,
 2. We are the Most Holy Place — the dwelling place of God
- IV. All The Time
- A. It is of no surprise to me that God wants us to pray without ceasing
 - B. We are to be a people with an attitude of prayer
 1. Constantly talking to our Father
 2. Constantly "listening" for His replies
 - C. How often do you talk to God?