

## How Do We Pray for the Sick?

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. **(James 5:13–15)**

There is surprisingly little in the way of instruction for how to pray for the sick among us. The only real direction James gives us here is that it should be “the prayer of faith.” What does that mean? Does it mean we pray *with* faith? *For* faith? *In* faith? Any of those are possible meanings.

Twice, the psalmists write about prayer that rests in the faithfulness of God (Pss 69:13, 143:1), and it is likely that James is referring to this kind of prayer. It is one thing to say we “have faith” that God will heal. It is another thing altogether to say we pray believing in God’s faithfulness. If we are trusting His faithfulness, then we are trusting that He knows better than we do, and that He is faithful on a level beyond our own understanding and desires.

Prayer has the power to move mountains (Matt 21:18–22), but *only* when the mountain’s removal is part of God’s will. We cannot demand the mountain be moved because we believe it should be moved. The faith that defines the power of our prayers is not ours, but God’s. So, when we pray, we are placing our trust in God’s faithfulness to us and to all of creation.

## Financial Summary

<b>2023 Budget</b>	\$224,885	<b>Budget to Date</b>	\$185,975
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$4,325	<b>Giving to Date</b>	\$192,691

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