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Love That Prays

James 5:13-20

Just yesterday I was a parent of small children, infants and toddlers. Today, I am the parent of adolescents and young adults. Yesterday, with just a word or a hug or for sure with an M&M, I had great influence upon my children. Today, I seem to have very little. Or at best, the less I say the greater the influence. Unless, of course, I am talking about them to our Heavenly Father.

When a friend of ours said, "I am praying for your children daily," I gratefully replied, "There is no better way to love them or us."

1. How do you feel when you know someone is praying for you regularly?

2. Read James 5:13-20. In your own words describe all the situations in which prayer is recommended

3. What is your usual first response when you are in trouble?

4. Why do you think we are encouraged to call the elders of the church to pray for and anoint us when we are sick (v.14)?

5. Describe a time when you prayed for physical healing for others or when others have prayed for you.

6. How is praying for others when they are sick or in trouble the same as loving them?

7. What are the promises given concerning praying for each other (vv.15-16).

8. Verse 16 tells us to confess our sins to each other. What hinders you from confessing your sins to others?

9. When have you experienced the healing (physical, emotional, spiritual or psychological) effect of confessing your sins to others?

10. The story of Elijah demonstrates what can be accomplished by someone’s prayer. How do you respond to the promise that “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”?

11. Verse 19 suggests a vital way of loving brothers and sisters. What does it mean for someone to “wander from the truth”?

12. What role do you think prayer plays in bringing back a wandering brother or sister?

13. How would you like to grow in living a life of love that prays?

Ask God to reveal to you those for whom you should pray regularly. Ask him to give you people who will pray for you. Thank him for those who have demonstrated their love to you by praying for you.