

## *The Priestly Benediction*

### *Numbers 6:22-27*

<sup>22</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:  
<sup>23</sup>Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,  
Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, <sup>24</sup>The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup>So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

### *James 5:13-20*

#### *The Prayer of Faith*

*(Cp 1 Kings 18.41—46)*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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# Effective Prayer

By Pastor Bob Freeman

Scripture James 5:13-20; Nehemiah 6

*Two weeks ago I spoke from the book of Joshua and how Joshua stood up for God. That same Sunday men of Trinity Church stood before the altar to express their desire to seek after God and stand strong like Joshua. We give thanks as well for the young man who gave his life to Christ and reunited with Trinity Church, to God be the Glory!*

*Today I am beginning a series on how to develop an effective prayer life. Reflect with me on a group of persons who task it was to stand before God and solicit God on behalf of all the Jewish people. They were called the Levites, one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Their role was three fold as shared in Numbers 6. First they had to manifest their calling by demonstrating and carrying themselves different than the rest of the Israelite people (Numbers 6:1-21). Like them we are now asked to demonstrate our difference from other individuals by demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit, which are Love, Joy, Peace and etc according to Galatians 5:22. Second, the Levite Priest was asked to bless the people. (vs.24a). This was done to remind the people that all Good comes from God and to remind them to live as God requires them by doing all the good they can. The Levites were also asked to pray for the people. This was to be done to let them know God is the one who will keep them (vs.24b). Third they were to pray for God's grace and mercy to be shed on the people of God. For when God's face is turned towards them His mercy is granted and all falseness disappears from the people (vs. 25). When mercy is given the Levite prays for the face of the people be turned up to the Lord, thus bringing a peace to them that only God could give. Only God gives us the peace we need to face the world each and every day.*

*We are not Levite so, how does this relate to us? When Christ died on the cross He gave us the right to be called*

his children. His victory over death gave us the position to stand before the Living God and bear witness of His grace to His People. We have been commanded to bear fruit of the Spirit as delineated in Galatians 5:22. As true followers of Christ we are then called to fulfill the task of the Levite role by making disciples, healing the sick and raising the dead in the power of Holy Spirit, thus demonstrating God's power. (Matthew 28:18-20; 10:1)

**Revelations 1:5b-6 says "To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."**<sup>1</sup>

What an awesome joy to know that God has placed us in this awesome position of being Priest. As believers we are called to be people demonstrating His authority over evil and this world.

One phrase I have always tried to live by is "Do all things in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God" lesson learned from my days with Campus Crusade for Christ. When I witness I witness in God's power and leave the results up to God. When I pray for healing I pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God. When I pray I pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God.

The writer of the book of James shares with us how we must pray effectively as Priest. Turn with me to James 5:13 so we can learn elements of an effective Priestly prayer life.

1. **We must know our purpose when we approach our God.** (Vs. 13.) In order for us to truly position ourselves to communicate with God and see the results in our prayer life we must have our purpose in mind as we approach our Father. When James calls them to, "pray" he was calling them to their position of purpose.

2. **We must pray with authority and the confidence that we have since we are Priest.** (Vs. 13) God's authority runs through His Priestly Children because of their relationship with God. Thus James asks them to, "Pray for one another" reminding them that it is God who will fight our battles, it is God who can calm the storms in our lives, and it is God who can meet our needs.

Prayer is the simple act of talking to God but, with an added twist. When we pray knowing Christ as our personal Savior, knowing God will provide, knowing that God can defeat the enemy are we not praying in our **purpose**. The results of our prayers are not manifested with discord and confusion as I Corinthians 3:1-3 reveals but it is manifested in Galatians 5:22, Love, joy, peace, patience, endurance and etc.

Action Steps:

1. Make sure Jesus is your Lord. John 3:16; Romans 1:12
2. Remember your Priestly role in having Jesus as Lord of your life. Numbers 6

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version. Nashville : Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989, S. Re 1:5-6

3. *Pray asking God about what you see that your brothers and sisters in Christ need as well as yourself. James 5:13*