

James 5:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Analysis

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Confess faults to one another and pray for one another so you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer (energoumenē, ἐνεργουμένη) of a righteous person avails much. James links community confession, intercession, and healing.

Reformed churches value corporate repentance and intercessory prayer as means of grace.

Historical Context

House churches practiced mutual confession. This verse shaped liturgical confession and prayer meetings in the early church. It counters secrecy by promoting gospel vulnerability.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who knows your struggles and prays for you?
2. How can your community normalize confession?
3. What fervent prayer practices can you adopt?

Interlinear Text

ἐξομολογεῖσθε ἀλλήλων τὰ παραπτώματα, καὶ εὐχέσθε
Confess **another** ^{G3588} **your faults** **and** **pray**
G1843 G240 G3900 G2532 G2172

ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων ὅπως ἰαθῇτε πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις
for **another** **that** **ye may be healed** **much** **availeth** **prayer**
G5228 G240 G3704 G2390 G4183 G2480 G1162

δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη
of a righteous man **The effectual fervent**
G1342 G1754

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:29 (Righteousness): The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Matthew 21:22 (Prayer): And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Psalms 34:15 (Righteousness): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

John 9:31 (Parallel theme): Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

1 Peter 2:24 (Righteousness): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Jeremiah 33:3 (Parallel theme): Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

1 John 3:22 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Proverbs 15:8 (Prayer): The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Acts 19:18 (Parallel theme): And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

Job 42:8 (Prayer): Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.