

“...pray one for another, that ye may be healed.”
James 5:16

We are all sick with sin. Fortunately, for the believer, it isn't terminal. When we sin, we sin *“willfully after the flesh.”* We choose sin over righteousness for whatever reason, and separate ourselves from the power of God's grace and mercy in our lives. *“If we confess our sin,”* He will forgive, cleanse, and restore us to fellowship with Himself and His Word. Only then, can we expect our prayers to be effective when we pray for others.



How often have you said, “We'll be praying for you!” and never given it another thought? *“To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”* We should confess our unfaithfulness, so our prayers can be effective for others. We can't expect God to answer our prayers as long as we allow sin to hold a place in our hearts. *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”* Is it any wonder that the heavens seem made of brass? I must confess my sin to be cleansed. I must be righteous before my prayers for others can have any effect. Pray for my brethren, I must. We must pray daily for one another as the Lord brings us to each other's remembrance. If you're thinking about a brother or sister in the Lord, it's not a coincidence. God is prompting you to pray for them. More than that, it's a prompt to check your life for unconfessed sin, so you can pray effectively for that particular Christian. The only prayer that we should pray for the lost person is that God will bring them to a place of repentance. God will use misfortune to bring a man to his knees. However, we can't honestly pray for a person to repent, if we haven't given them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been commanded through the apostles to *“preach the gospel to every creature.”* Like a good Father, God isn't going to grant our requests if we're disobedient. We must be right with the Father before He can grant our requests. God wants to bless us and provide for us. Why would He make so many promises to do so if He never intended to honor them? He wants to heal us of our sin-sickness, and have fellowship with us. What parent doesn't delight in spending time with an obedient child? Our Heavenly Father is no different. We can bask in His delight when we are obedient. When He is delighted with us, He will give us our requests.

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24

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