

James 4:8

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, October 24, 2021)

James 4:7-10

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

How can we resist the devil?

By using our spiritual weapons, like prayer and the Word of God...

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [b]wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— **19** and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

We also draw near to God through prayer and Bible study.

Prayer is especially effective if it is

1)from the heart

Psalm 37:3-4

3

Trust in the Lord, and do good;

Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

4

Delight yourself also in the Lord,

And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Being from the heart means its your heart's desire.

2)In this passage we also see that delighting yourself in the Lord means you are living right before Him.

Likewise

James 5:16-18

16 [j]Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, [k]fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

3)It's persistent

Luke 18:1-8

18 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, **2** saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor [a]regard man. **3** Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, [b]'Get justice for me from my adversary.' **4** And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, **5** yet because this widow troubles me I will [c]avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. **7** And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? **8** I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

We are a church that believes in praying until God blesses us:

Genesis 32:24-32

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the [g]breaking of day. **25** Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He [h]touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. **26** And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.”

But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”

27 So He said to him, “What *is* your name?”

He said, “Jacob.”

28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but [i]Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell *me* Your name, I pray.”

And He said, “Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the name of the place [j]Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” **31** Just as he crossed over [k]Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which *is* on the hip socket, because He [l]touched the socket of Jacob’s hip in the muscle that shrank.

4)Effective prayer lines up with God’s Word.

1 John 5:14-15

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

That's why it's so powerful to incorporate Scriptures into our prayers.

Today I have sent out to the church a textable series of prayers, which is also on our Web site in two formats.

One format is a prayer you can pray for yourself. The other format is a similar prayer that you can use to pray for other people. The prayer is entirely based on the Word of God,

We are going to take at least some doses of these spiritual vitamins together now...