Praying Through James 5:7-12

Heavenly Father, as we read the Bible and consider the way we live, we learn how much we need your grace, lovingkindness, mercy, and forgiveness. Please grant us patience and help us to be patient during whatever trials and troubles we face each day and with whomever may be involved in our trials and troubles. Please remind us from the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit's work that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back again to make all things right according to the Bible in Your perfect timing. Please give us courage and strengthen our hearts when we think of how the principalities and powers of this world fight against You, Your Word, and Your people and seem to be prevailing—especially over us. Guard our tongues so we do not grumble against one another in the church, in our families, and in our working relationships. Please help us refrain from judging others from our point of view and grant us the love and wisdom to share the teachings of the Bible with others. As we consider the prophets, Jesus, James, Paul, and the other apostles, please grant us the ability to follow their examples. Indeed, they spoke and taught in Your Name as You led them, and sometimes they paid their ultimate price for their faithfulness. Grant us the endurance of Job, knowing how You commended Job at the end of his suffering and trials. We know that in all things You demonstrate Your true character, Your compassion, and Your mercy. Help us depend entirely on You and glorify Your Name in every situation before a world where people need to know You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about "Praying Through the Bible" from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own "Prayer Through the Bible" using the *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read *How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer*, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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