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The haunting thing about what James says is... you ask (pray) and don't have because your prayers are all about you and what you want to make life easier and more comfortable. Wow, how much of your prayer life is contained in that statement? If we are honest about it, more than we would like to admit. A self-indulgent, self-absorbed society has a stranglehold on many of us, just like it did in the time of James.

So we have to learn to pray differently. Jesus talks about our praying for our enemies, those who get a joy from their mistreatment of us. Did you include them in your last prayer? Were you praying for a blessing for them or for a big rock to fall on their heads? Returning a blessing for a curse isn't just good for them, there is a blessing in it for us as well. We move out of our self-absorbed world and into a spiritual place, living above our emotions and reactivity. Sometimes it is tough to admit that this feels awkward because we are so accustomed to living in a less than spiritual manner.

So, can I give you an assignment for the week? Could I ask you to spend 15 minutes (not a real long time, unless you are doing something you aren't good at yet), praying only for the wellbeing of specific people you don't like. Think back through the people who have been mean to you, ex-wife, ex-boyfriends, ex-bosses, current bosses, the gossips in your office, the one who has you do their work then takes credit for it.... You know the folks. But spend 15 uninterrupted minutes praying for their wellbeing, for their relationship with God, for their success with their family, for needs you know they have. Pray for them like you do for your child.

Then, when you've done it, drop me a note... a text message, a comment on Facebook, or a card. Let me know that you've put in the time in a different kind of prayer, and what it was like. If your note says only, "Did it... brutal", that is fine. "Did it... 15 minutes is a long time" or "Done Helpful"... it doesn't matter what it is. Just try a different prayer discipline this week.

Grace and Peace,
Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
St John, KS 67576
620-549-6146



It was early this morning when I got up to pray for you. I do that frequently, just so you know. Prayer is a very fundamental and important part of ministry. In prayer we seek both the will of God and clarity to know how to act on God's behalf in this world. Many of our world do not know how to pray as they should. Their prayers are limited solely to requests from God to avert some momentary emergency. While God listens, heeds, and acts on the behalf of some of those kind of prayers, there is a structure revealed in Scripture about prayer.

James says.... *What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? ² You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. ³ You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings. James 4:1-3*

Take a big picture look at what James is talking about... thinking about things from a fleshly point of view or being "natural". When we live life (and Christians can) thinking just like our neighbors, without the big picture view of God's kingdom on earth, we end up worried and focused on the same things as everyone else. So our thoughts are about paying bills, how comfortable we are, and if life is fair. We want a new car because the neighbor has a new car. We need the latest game system, recreational opportunity, or some other feature of our standard of living because our friends or enemies have them. After all, we work hard and it is fair.

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SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
 Worship Service—10:45 am
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

ELDERS: Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Breensing

Worship Order for November 9 , 2014

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing
 GATHERING SONG: No. 103—He Has Made Me Glad
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:9-17 (Joe Cornwell)
 SONGS: No. 396—No, Not One
 No. 800—What a Friend We Have in Jesus
 No. 406—Just a Closer Walk with Thee
 No. 789—Father
 PRAYER: Tom Turner
 SONG: No. 376—He Paid a Debt
 COMMUNION: Teddy Gingrich
 Gary Hornbaker
 Chris Mansel
 Jon Mansel
 MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 678—More About Jesus (vs 1, 2, & 4)
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Garland Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased you have joined us in worship-please come again!

Wednesday Night

- Adult Bible Class will meet here at 7:30 pm.
- Youth Group will meet at Carl & Janet's at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming Events at Silver Maple Camp

- **Adult Retreat:** Saturday, Nov 15—John W. Smith will present lessons on the Holy Spirit; event goes from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$30, which includes noon meal and snacks. Contact Tom for more information.
- **Teen Retreat:** Nov 21-23 — Cost is \$75 for the entire weekend; see flyer posted or go to www.silvermaplecamp.org for more information. (Carl will be speaking during this retreat.)

Secret Santa Fund—St John School

Monetary donations are beginning to be collected for the Secret Santa Fund at the St John School. This effort provides clothing for Stafford County children who are in need. Last year a package of clothing was provided to 30 children. Checks should be made to "Secret Santa Fund" and can be turned into the St. John School. Contact [Lisa Cornwell](#) for information.

Stocking Stuffers of Kansas

Mark your calendar for the Stocking Stuffers third annual soup supper on Dec 6th at the IOOF Lodge. There will be soups & desserts provided by the Wheatland Café. Contact [Hannah Sallee](#) for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Don Rugan 11/11
 Marilyn Thornburg 11/13
 Terry Sallee 11/15

Prayer Requests

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Don Hornbaker—Kenwood Plaza—recent surgery
Denise Bailey (Meagan's mother) - recent surgery
Elmer Schuette (Marla's brother-in-law) - recent shop accident
Wilbur Kinnamon—Leisure Homestead-Stafford
Keri Morphew (Janet's sister-in-law in Lubbock) - recovering from extensive back surgery; came home last week
Jett Weber—on a new medication
Shirley Breensing (Richard's mother)
Landon Neidig—continues to do well
Myron Breensing—The Arbors at Waldron Place
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother)—HomePlus in Stafford
Dennis Lyons (Chet's brother)
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law, Dennis' wife)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother)
Danny Ivy (Marilyn's brother)
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Barbara Schuette (Marla's half-sister)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law; brain tumor)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Vic & Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Margaret Marks (Ned's mother)

Church Website - www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

Women Walking with God 2015

Conference Theme—"Hope anchors the soul" - April 17-18 at the Hartman Arena in Wichita. Registration is now open! Check out the website: www.womenwalkingwithgod.org