

***“Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.
The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”***

James 5:16

Praying is an important part of our life as students and followers of Jesus. He is the one whose birth and life we will be celebrating as we do each year during Advent. Christmas puts in motion innate desires to pray for and associate with people who are dear and meaningful in our lives.

People often ask us for personal prayers or for a message to God on behalf of a friend, family member, or lately for peace in our country and around the world. It's not certain what James had in mind when he wrote the words at chapter 5, verse 16, but his commandment to pray for one another is direct and to the point.

Spiritual leaders encourage the practice of praying for others. They are aware of how the power of prayer can unite people in love and create a positive flow of energy to permeate the planet. The infant we will be welcoming on Christmas Day became the man who taught the concept of the Golden Rule. You know the words from Luke 6:31, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Because of my upbringing and spiritual decisions made by others and by myself, there is a prayer routine in my daily life, and I want to share a snippet of it in this Talk.

Prayers begin with words of gratitude to the universal God. Many of you know I include Von Dearol, a brother who died at seventeen and only knew me as an infant and toddler. Through the reminders from my Mother that Von and God would be taking care of me and always protecting me, I became a student and believer of God's love in a most uncommon way. Yes, I often pray aloud, “Thank you God and Von”. My family never allowed me to doubt that my God and my brother were looking down from heaven and protecting me. For that image and resulting belief, I am grateful.

You and I have learned that prayers for others create a flow of love, abundance, peace, and gratitude that spreads from person to person and returns for comfort and peace. It helps people who pray regularly believe they are perceived as love in action. It is “do unto others” in action. Whether I know someone or not, I know that we are connected, and the love of God is the essence of our being. When you and I pray for someone, we can feel and believe our divine connection as we affirm the goodness of God. We open our hearts and minds to divine love. We let this love flow through us and become an image of God's love people will always remember.

Peace always,
Ted