

March 24, 2023

**Power of Prayer**  
[James 5:14-16](#)

*Are any among you sick? They should send for the church elders, who will pray for them and rub olive oil on them in the name of the Lord. The prayers made in faith will heal the sick; the Lord will restore them to health.*

Prayer is powerful. The power of prayer is real, and when Christians pray in unison and in one accord, mighty things can be accomplished.

I know a story of a baby that when it was 11 months old caught a fever and went into a convulsion. The parents took their son to a doctor and were told that there was nothing he could do for him. He suggested the parents take him to the hospital and have the pediatrician examine him.

Once tests were run, the pediatrician told the parents that their son had a blood clot on the left side of his brain, and that he would most likely be paralyzed on the right side of his body for the rest of his life. If he lived, he would be nothing but a vegetable. The pediatrician would check on the baby for the next three months while he was hospitalized. The pediatrician got to the point that he told the parents that it didn't look good and that the family should prepare for a funeral.

Being the Christian family they were, the parents shared what the pediatrician told them with their church family. Word spread throughout the little coal mining town of East Gulf, WV, that prayer was needed for a little baby.

This all happened during the period of segregation when black and white weren't allowed to worship together but had different churches they attended. This didn't stop the Christians, whether black or white, from coming together to pray for this baby.

A prayer vigil was setup at both churches so that there was someone at both churches praying for this baby around the clock. Three ladies from the black church came to the home of the parents and rubbed olive oil on the baby's head and had prayer for him before he was admitted to the hospital.

There is power in prayer. Just like the word of God tells us in Matthew 17:20, "if you have faith as a grain of a mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain. Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (KJV).

That is what these Christians did when they were praying for this little baby's life. They believed when they were praying, believing that what they were asking for they were going to receive.

Because of the power of prayer and the faith that these brothers and sisters in Christ had, their prayers were answered. Today this baby is a 67-year-old man who is involved greatly in his church. For you see, that little baby was yours truly.

***Prayer:*** *Heavenly Father, We thank you for the power of prayer and your promise that whatever we ask for and if we believe and have faith the size of a mustard seed when we pray that we have already received it. We can't praise you enough for answered prayers. We love your Lord. Amen.*

Jerry Meadows  
Cross Lanes United Methodist Church - Cross Lanes, WV  
WV United Methodist Men Prayer Advocate; CLUMC Communication Chairperson;  
Author of the book, *Saved from Death (The Baby from The Grave)*