Prayer Is Not a Substitute
James 5:16

Introduction:
A. Prayer is a wonderful privilege of Christians.
   1. Pray often (1 Thess. 5:17; cf. Matt. 6:11; Acts 2:42)
   2. Pray publicly and privately. (Matt. 6:5-6; 1 Cor. 14:15,16)
B. Prayer avails much (Jas. 5:16)
   1. To some it avails nothing.
   2. To others it avails everything.
C. Prayer is not a substitute for other commands of God.

Discussion:
I. Prayer Is No Substitute for Bible Study.
   A. Scriptures make us wise unto salvation. (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
      1. Some pray instead.
      2. Want to do all the talking.
   B. Prayer cannot take place of study. (Hos. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15).
   C. Faith come by word of God, not prayer (Rom. 10:17).
   A. Cannot take the place of faith.
      1. Faith essential to coming to God. (Heb. 11:6)
      2. Faith essential to acceptable prayer. (Jas. 1:5-7; Matt. 21:23)
   B. Cannot take the place of repentance
      1. Repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38)
      2. Repent or perish. (Luke 13:3)
      3. Repent or God will not hear. (Psa. 66:18)
      4. Repent and pray for child of God (Acts 8:22)
   C. Cannot take the place of Baptism.
      2. Baptism, not prayer puts on into Christ. (Gal. 3:26ff)
III. Prayer Is No Substitute for Church Attendance. (Heb. 10:25)
IV. Prayer Is No Substitute for General Obedience. (Lk. 6:46; Mt. 7:21)

Conclusion: There is no substitute for prayer. (Jas. 5:16-18)