



Add Verbs questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

In the Bible, “Christian” is a noun, and nouns need verbs. To be authentically Christian you must ADD VERBS to your faith. Let’s search for verbs to add to our faith, starting in the book of James.

- 1** The greatest misuse of prayer is not ever praying. One might think that Christians do not need to be told to add “pray” to their list of faith verbs, but the reality is that most Christians affirm, defend and advocate prayer more than they actually pray. Why is that often the case? Why is prayer essential for healthy faith?
- 2** **“PRAY” is the all-time verb!** Prayer is not our last resort; it is our first response. We should lay every moment of our lives before the Lord (**Philippians 4:6**). Read **James 5:13-18**. According to James, when should we pray? Which of these situations are easier/harder for you to pray?
- 3** **PRAYER...verbalizes the worth of community.** James just assumes that his readers are part of a local church- that they have a spiritual family they can count on. Private time in your prayer closet is important, but we all need friends who will talk to Jesus about us and for us- especially when we are struggling with sin. Why is there more value in praying with other believers than simply praying by yourself?
- 4** **PRAYER...verbalizes the truth of sovereignty.** The purpose of prayer is not to get God to surrender His will to yours. Prayer is the deliberate act of surrendering our will to His. Read **Matthew 6:10**. How does this truth impact the way you should pray and live?
- 5** Sometimes we have no doubts about what God longs to do, like when it comes to freeing people from sin and darkness. But sometimes we are not sure what God wants, like when it comes to praying for the sick. So, we live with this tension: God still heals, but not everyone. How should this influence the way we pray and live (consider the example of Jesus in **John 12:27-28**)?
- 6** **PRAYER...verbalizes the myth of impossibility.** **Ephesians 3:20** reminds us that **“God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.”** God is not bound by earthly realities and limitations. The way things are does not mean that is the way things have to stay. How should this change the way we pray? Share an example of how you have seen this truth be a reality in your life or at our church.
- 7** **PRAYING is saying “God does verbs!”** Think through the verbs this series has focused on from the book of James (**Do, Love, Submit, Wait, and Pray**). Which one do you need to most ADD to your faith today? Spend some time talking about it and then ask God to ADD it today.