

## **SPIRITUAL TASK —PRAYING FOR OTHERS** (James 5)

*by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley*

**Story** There are several examples of people praying for others in the Word. Interestingly all the people who are said to have done this are very powerful characters—Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Samuel, Moses, and Jesus.

**Meaning** Two things are very clear in the Lord's Word: 1) that we should pray, and 2) that we should be charitable and kind and wish well for others. From these two principles it seems obvious that we should pray for others. Perhaps it is said most clearly by James: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.... Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

**Task** There are many people who could benefit from the good wishes, thoughts, and prayers, of others (as perhaps we could at times). This week pick a few people that you would like to pray for. Make a petition for them in your daily prayers. Also pick someone you have difficulty with or who you may even dislike and try praying for them. See how these prayers change you this week.