

The Prayer Of Faith

James 5:13-18

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Review Of James

- ▶ Dealing With Temptations. 1:2-4
- ▶ Fulfilling The Royal Law. 2:1-13
- ▶ Faith And Works. 2:14-26
- ▶ Taming The Tongue. 3:1-12
- ▶ Draw Near To God. 4:1-10

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Review Of James

**God Gives Grace To The Humble. 4:6, 10;
- 5:12**

Humility is manifested.

- ▶ *"Speak not one against another ..."*
James 4:11-12
- ▶ Avoid arrogance and self-sufficiency.
James 4:13-17
- ▶ Right attitude toward riches. James 5:1-6
- ▶ Patience. James 5:7-11
- ▶ Their word is binding. James 5:12

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The Prayer Of Faith James 5:13-18

Prayer and Praise - natural responses of the child of God ...

- ▶ *Psalms 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*
- ▶ **The faithful are assured ...**
1 Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil."
- ▶ *Psalms 62:8, "Trust in him at all times, ye people; pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us."*

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The Prayer Of Faith James 5:13-18

Prayer and Praise.

- ▶ Man is to pray for all his needs. Matthew 6:5-11
- ▶ *Matthew 7:9-11, "Or what man is there of you, who, if his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone; or if he shall ask for a fish, will give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*

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When Should One Pray?

James has already addressed the subject of prayer.

- ▶ Rejoice in Trials. James 1:2-6
 - Wisdom to deal with trials is to be sought in prayer. *"nothing doubting" (verse 6)*
- ▶ Pray in every circumstance of life.
James 5:13-16
- ▶ Prayer changes things. James 5:16-17

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When Should One Pray?

When we are suffering. James 5:13

kapopatheo: “Suffer hardship” (W.E. Vine); “Suffer misfortune; bear hardship patiently” (Arndt & Gingrich)

- Same word describing the prophets. James 5:10
- ▶ Times of trouble and hardship.

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When Should One Pray?

▶ “Suffering” *kapopatheo*:

◦ Used in:

- 2 Timothy 2:3, Paul: “Suffer hardships ...”
- 2 Timothy 2:9, Paul: “Suffer hardships ...”
- 2 Timothy 4:5, Timothy: “Suffer hardship ...”

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When Should One Pray?

In Contrast ...

We should “sing psalms” when we are cheerful. James 5:13

euthumeo: “Good cheer” (W.E. Vine)

“... Keep up one’s courage” (Arndt and Gingrich)

- Word used in the context of Paul’s shipwreck. Acts 27:22, 25
- ▶ **We can sing in adversity. cf. Acts 16:25; 5:41; James 1:2.**
- ▶ Consider the attitude of David, the sweet singer of Israel – Psalms 96:1–2; 101:1; 111:1; 113:1–3; 146:1–2; 147:1; 149:1

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When Should One Pray?

When we are sick. James 5:14–15

Questions:

- ▶ Is the sickness physical or spiritual?
- ▶ Is the anointing with oil medicinal or symbolic?
- ▶ Is the healing through providential means or miraculous?
- ▶ Is the healing spiritual or physical?

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When Should One Pray?

When we are sick. James 5:14–15

Interesting fact:

Two different words for “sick” in verses 14–15

asthenei (verse 14) literally means “to be weak.”

- Used for physical maladies. Matthew 10:8; Acts 9:37; Philippians 2:26–27
- Used to refer to a weak faith or a weak conscience (cf. Acts 20:35; Romans 14:1; 15:1; 1 Corinthians 8:9–12).

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When Should One Pray?

When we are sick. James 5:14–15

kamnonta (verse 15) literally means “to be weary.”

“literally ‘to become tired in spirit,’ to gradually lose one’s motivation to accomplish some goal – ‘to become discouraged, to become tired of.’” (Greek–English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

- ▶ Used in Hebrews 12:3; cf. verses 12–13
- It “signifies to suffer hardship.” (W.E. Vine)
- **“the prayer of faith shall save the EXHAUSTED one.”** (Berry’s Greek Interlinear)

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When Should One Pray?

When we are sick. James 5:14–15

By definition and by context ... the healing in verse 15 is not physical healing, but the forgiveness of sins.

(1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5)

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Why Call For The Elders?

They were to pray over him. James 5:14, 16

- ▶ Spiritual leaders in the church. Hebrews 13:17; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

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Why Call For The Elders?

They were to anoint him with oil. James 5:14

- ▶ Used in ritual appointments. cf. 1 Samuel 16:13
- ▶ Used in physical healing.
 - Jesus gave the disciples the power to heal the sick, and they anointed them with oil. Mark 6:13
 - The Good Samaritan. cf. Luke 10:34; Isaiah 1:6 *"Is there no balm in Gilead?"* Jeremiah 8:22; cf. Jeremiah 9:2; 46:11
- ▶ Used as a symbol of spiritual blessing. Psalms 23:5; Hebrews 1:9

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Why Call For The Elders?

- ▶ "A person who is fasting should not be sad and ungroomed, but should **'put oil'** (*aleipho*) on his head, and wash his face (Matt 6:17).
- ▶ "Thus James' point is that the 'weak' (*asthenei*) and 'weary' (*kamnonta*) would be refreshed, encouraged, and uplifted by the elders ...
- ▶ "For the fallen, discouraged, distressed weary believer, restoration is assured and the elders' prayer offered in faith will make the sick person (*lit.*, 'weary one') well (i.e., will restore him from discouragement and spiritual defeat), and the Lord will raise him up." (Bible Knowledge Commentary/Old Testament)

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

God Is The Ultimate Healer.

"The prayer of faith shall save him that is sick ..." James 5:15

"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." James 5:16

- ▶ Spiritual guidance is implied. NOTE: The relationship between the sickness and confession of sins.
- ▶ Strength for the weary is the objective. Verse 19

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

"The prayer of faith shall save him that is sick ..." James 5:15

"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." James 5:16

- ▶ Natural healing may be facilitated by those who are physicians. Matthew 9:12
- ▶ The work of elders is in ruling the church and watching for souls (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17); not in becoming guardians of men's physical health.

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

*"The **prayer of faith shall save** him that is **sick ...**" James 5:15*

"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." James 5:16

"Ask for wisdom ... believing ... it shall be given." James 1:5

"Ask [keep on asking], and it shall be given to you ... seek ... knock ..." cf. Luke 11:5-13

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

*"The **prayer of faith shall save** him that is **sick ...**" James 5:15*

"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." James 5:16

- ▶ Illustration: Elijah's prayer. 1 Kings 17-18
 - Not miraculous (where natural forces are suspended).
 - Providential (God uses natural forces).

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

Does prayer demand a miraculous response?

- ▶ Paul left Trophimus at Miletus sick. 2 Timothy 4:20
- ▶ Timothy had a chronic stomach problem. 1 Timothy 5:23
- ▶ Epaphroditus almost died. Philippians 2:25-26
- ▶ The apostle Paul. Galatians 4:13-15

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

▶ **Is God no longer interested in His children?**

- cf. James 1:17
 - Not miraculous. cf. Hebrews 2:1-4
 - Providentially. cf. Joseph. Genesis 45

▶ **Some do not believe God acts on behalf of His people today? WHY?**

- Is He indifferent to His people?
NO! 1 Peter 3:12
- Is He unable to act on our behalf?
NO! Ephesians 3:20
- Has He abandoned His children?
NO! Hebrews 13:5-6

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer

Psalms 34 – Description Of The Kind Of Man God Hears.

- ▶ Blessed is the man who trusts in Him. Verses 8, 22
- ▶ There is no want to those who fear him. Verse 9
- ▶ Those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. Verse 10
- ▶ His eyes are upon the righteous. Verse 15; cf. John 9:31
- ▶ *"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."* Verse 14
- ▶ *"Jehovah is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as are of a contrite spirit."* Verse 18

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer ... GOD IS ABLE!

- ▶ 1 Peter 5:6-7, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you."*

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Conclusion: James 5:13–20

- ▶ The suffering will pray.
- ▶ The joyful will sing praises.
- ▶ The discouraged will seek encouragement from those qualified to give it.
- ▶ The sinful will confess and pray for forgiveness.
- ▶ The zealous will seek truth and spiritual growth for himself and his fallen brother.
- ▶ Those who endure will receive the crown of life.

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