

The Prayer Of Faith (James 5:13-18)

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Review Of James

- Dealing With Temptations. 1:2-4
- Receive With Meekness. 1:21
- Fulfilling The Royal Law. 2:1-13
- Faith And Works. 2:14-26
- Taming The Tongue. 3:1-12
- Heavenly Wisdom versus Earthly Wisdom. 3:13-18
- Draw Near To God. 4:1-10
- God Gives Grace To The Humble. 4:6, 10; - 5:12
- The Prayer Of Faith. 5:13-18

2

Review Of James

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

- “Do not speak against one 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 go together.

- “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (**Psalm 46:1**)
- “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.” (**1 Peter 3:12**) (Quoting **Psalm 34:15-16**)
- Man is to pray for all his needs. **Luke 11:2-4**

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The Prayer Of Faith James 5:13-18

Prayer and Praise go together.

- “Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.” (**Psalm 62:8**)
- “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” (**Matthew 7:9-11**)

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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,
“without any doubting” (verse 6)
- Pray in every circumstance of life. **James 5:13-16**
 - We are commanded to pray, for self (verse 13), and “for one another” (verse 14-16)
- Prayer changes things. **James 5:16-18**
(referencing 1 Kings 17-18)

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When Should One Pray?

When we are suffering or afflicted. **James 5:13**

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

- Times of trouble and hardship.
 - (Bridges this text with James 5:10)
- The prophets suffered. **James 5:10**
 - **Jeremiah 38:6** (Jeremiah thrown into a cistern)
 - **2 Chronicles 24:20-21** (Zechariah killed, cf. Luke 11:45ff)
- Disciples of Christ will suffer. **Matthew 5:11-12**, **2 Timothy 3:12**

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When Should One Pray?

- *Kapopatheo*: “Suffer hardship” (W.E. Vine); “Suffer misfortune; bear hardship patiently” (Arndt and Gingrich)

• Used in:

- **2 Timothy 2:3**, “Suffer hardship”
- **2 Timothy 2:8-9**, “Suffer hardship”
- **2 Timothy 4:5**, “Endure hardship”

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When Should One Pray?

In Contrast ...

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

Greek “*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. **Acts 16:25; 5:40-41; James 1:2**.

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When Should One Pray?

Consider the attitude of David, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

- “It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness by night ...” (**Psalm 92:1-2**)
- “Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.” (**Psalm 96:1-2**)
- “I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, to You, O Lord, I will sing praises.” (**Psalm 101:1**)
- “Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly.” (**Psalm 111:1**)

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When Should One Pray?

Consider the attitude of David, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

- “Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.” (**Psalm 113:1-3**)
- “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.” (**Psalm 146:1-2**)
- “Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is becoming.” (**Psalm 147:1**)
- “Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.” (**Psalm 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**

Two different Greek words for “sick” in verses 14-15

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

- Used for physical maladies. **Matthew 10:8; Acts 9:37; Philippians 2:25-27**
- Used to refer to a weak faith or a weak conscience **Acts 20:35; Romans 6:19; 14:1; 15:1; 1 Corinthians 8:9-12**

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When Should One Pray?

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

2. *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**
 - 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, it is suggested that the healing in verse 15 is not physical healing, but spiritual, the forgiveness of sins.

“... and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (**1 Peter 2:24**)

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.” (**Isaiah 53:5**)

“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!” (**Psalms 32:1**)

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Why Call For The Elders?

They were to pray over him. **James 5:14-15**

- Spiritual leaders in the church.

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (**Hebrews 13:17**)

“But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (**1 Thessalonians 5:12-14**)

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Why Call For The Elders?

They were to anoint him with oil. **James 5:14-15**

- 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. **Luke 10:33-34**
 - “Is there no balm in Gilead?” (**Jeremiah 8:22a**)
 - “Go up to Gilead and obtain balm ...” (**Jeremiah 46:11a**)
- 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” (**Matthew 6:16-18**).
- 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

- Spiritual guidance is implied.
*"... and the **prayer of (offered in) faith** will restore the one who is **sick**..." (James 5:15a)*
*"... The **effective prayer of a righteous man** can accomplish much." (James 5:16b)*
- Strength for the weary is the objective.
*"My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."
(James 5:19-20)*

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer (cont'd)

- *Natural healing is aided by those who are physicians.*
 - *"But when Jesus heard this, He said, 'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)*

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The Effectiveness Of Prayer (cont'd)

- The work of elders is in shepherding the church and watching over souls.
 - *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." (Acts 20:28)*
 - *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17)*
- The work of elders is not in becoming guardians of church members' physical health. They are not miracle workers or medical doctors.

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One Purpose Of Prayer

- A very important purpose of prayer is to focus upon God's providence. Jesus tells us:
 - *"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'"
(Matthew 6:7-13)*

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One Purpose Of Prayer

- We are commanded to pray for those who are in authority, that we may live the kind of life God desires us to live.
 - *"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

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How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Hear the word of God
 (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message
 (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins
 (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ
 (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins
 (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient
 (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

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