

JAMES

A Faith That Works Study 17

Healing and Spiritual Restoration

James 5:13-20

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“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:13

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”

1) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, fill in the blanks below.

Expression of our Daily Walk

Pray Constantly



	Circumstances	
	Results	
	Purpose	

2. Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, fill in the blanks for Charles Swindoll’s quote below regarding prayer and faith.

“_____ not only reflects an attitude of _____ faith; it also reveals patient _____ as we turn to God to handle life’s struggles, in His _____ and according to His promises. As such, prayer becomes a quintessential mark of _____ faith.”

James 5:14-15

“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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

3. Comprehension question. Based on James 5:14 and the video lecture, what are the primary and secondary functions of an elder regarding the sick?

Primary function:

Secondary function:

4. a) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, what are the possible uses of olive oil?

b) Comprehension question. Which of these uses does James 5:14 refer to?

5. Objective question. Based on the video lecture, which of the following are false teachings about healing?

6. a) Discussion question. Is there a conflict between the simultaneous use of medicine and healing by God? Why or why not?

b) Discussion question. Give one example / passage / verse as evidence for your answer.

7. Discussion question. Based on 2 Cor. 12:7 and John 9:3, what are two possible purposes of sickness?

James 5:16-18

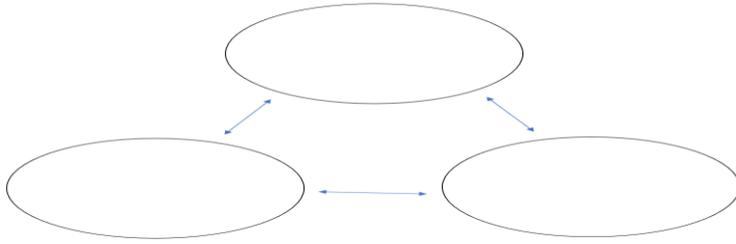
“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

8. Reflection question. Why do we find it hard to share our temptations / weaknesses / sicknesses?

9. a) Discussion question. Does miraculous healing mean that a person is righteous?

b) Discussion question. Refer to Daniel 9:18. If God does not respond to our prayers because of our merits/righteousness, why does he respond to our prayers?

10. a) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture about our struggles in prayer, fill in the blanks below.



b) Reflection question. Of these three, which do you struggle with most?

James 5:19-20

“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

11. Comprehension question. James 5:19 speaks about “wandering from the truth”. Based on the video lecture, what are two ways that a believer can “wander from the truth”?

Takeaway

- A. Prayer does not express faith in God to deliver us from trials but through trials**
- B. Prayer reflects an attitude of genuine and authentic faith**
- C. The simultaneous use of medicine does not conflict with healing by God**
- D. The anointing of oil refers to medicinal use instead of ceremonial anointing**
- E. God responds to our prayers because of His great mercy**
- F. A believer can wander from the truth through false teaching and/or sinful living**

Case Study

Case 1 – Prayer and Healing

Sek Lee is a believer who has faithfully attended the First Baptist Church since her youth and has been zealously serving in multiple ministries for many years.

One day she was diagnosed with lung cancer despite taking good care of her health (she exercised consistently, ate a healthy diet, and even avoided restaurants when she saw people smoking).

Upon this discovery, Sek Lee was not too worried because she remembered from James 5:16 that the “fervent, righteous prayer of a righteous man avails much”. She had faith that God would heal her since she was righteous and prayed fervently for her recovery.

A few months later, Sek Lee was shattered and devastated to find out that the cancer had spread to other organs instead. She thought that her faithfulness to God should have been rewarded with good health and a long life. She became depressed and felt that God was being unfair towards her in not answering her prayers.

- 1) Discussion question. Could God have healed Sek Lee?**
- 2) Discussion question. What was faulty with Sek Lee’s perspective?**
- 3) Discussion question. The situation that Sek Lee faces is a prevalent one in churches today. Should we still continue to pray for the sick then? Why or why not?**
- 4) Discussion question. Give a Biblical example of a person who wasn’t healed despite continually praying for recovery.**
- 5) Reflection question. Would you still trust God if He chooses not to grant healing for a sickness?**