

JAMES

A Faith That Works Study 17

Healing and Spiritual Restoration

James 5:13-20

James 5:13-20

“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.”

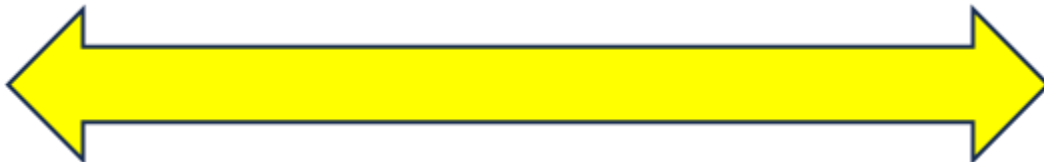
James 5:13

“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



Suffering	Circumstances	Cheerful
Support	Results	Praise
Comfort		Worship
Hope		Grace
Faith		
Prayer does not express faith in God to deliver us from trials but through trials	Purpose	Prevents pride
		Provides perspective
		Enjoy His grace

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.”

- Prayer
- Genuine
- Endurance
- Timing
- Authentic

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: Pray

Secondary function: Anoint with oil

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

- Religious or ceremonial act as a symbol for consecration
- Medicinal use

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

- Medicinal use

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

- A. Use of medical intervention is a sign of the lack of faith
- B. Salvation and all healing is achieved by Jesus' atonement
- C. Jesus healed all that came to him to show God is always willing to heal all now - this is only hindered by unbelief
- D. Lack of health is a sign of a lack of faith
- E. "If it be your will" prayers are viewed as unbelief
- F. Our symptoms are temptations to unbelief hence must be denied

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

- No

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

- 1 Tim. 5:23
- Hezekiah's healing - Isaiah 38:2-6, 16, 21

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

- 2 Cor. 12:7 - Sickness to prevent sin
- John 9:3 - Sickness so healing glorifies God

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?

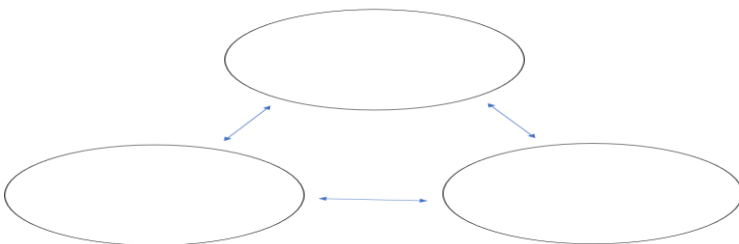
9. a) Discussion question. Does miraculous healing mean that a person is righteous?

- Not necessarily

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?

- Because of His great mercy
- Nevertheless, John 15:7-8 refers to the Lord listening to us if we were to abide in Him
- Hebrews 11:6 states that without faith, it is impossible to please God

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



- Our Desires vs God's Wisdom
- Faith vs Doubt
- Righteousness vs Sin

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”?

- False Teaching
- Sinful Living

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?

Of course!

2) Discussion question. What was faulty with Sek Lee’s perspective?

She thought that righteousness can earn God’s favour and that the Lord owes her because of her faithfulness.

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.

- Paul - 2 Cor. 12:8

5) Reflection question. Would you still trust God if He chooses not to grant healing for a sickness?