

## A Righteous Prayer Life

### James 5: 13-18

- The likely audience that James is addressing, since he was the prominent Elder in Jerusalem, would be those scattered after Saul (Paul) began ravaging the church after they put Stephen to death - Acts 8:1-4 - James 1:1
  - We have come full circle back to the introduction in James 1:2
- I. Where does my help and comfort come from? - James 5:13
- A. The “suffering” comes from people and not physical illnesses James 5:10 same word
  - B. The Apostle Paul proclaims God to be the God of all comfort and mercies
    - 1. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Comforted by God so we pray only to God the Father in the Spirit through the name of the Son, Jesus - Trinitarian
    - 2. “He must pray” is a present tense verb so it conveys a continual pleading
    - 3. Prayer and praise work together and are closely related to bring peace beyond our understanding - Philippians 4:4-7
  - C. “What a Friend We have in Jesus” - “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer”
  - D. Those who maintain a cheerful attitude in suffering are to sing praises - Ephesians 5:19-21
- II. The help we need is Spiritual, not necessarily physical - James 5:14-15
- A. The context of these verses is not a physical healing - 1 Corinthians 12:7-10
    - 1. The word translated sick “astheneo” can also be translated “weakness”
    - 2. This refers to those who have been weakened spiritually and are exhausted and feel defeated on their own therefore they need those who are spiritually strong -
      - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-25 - Paul is asking for prayer as one who is spiritual
  - B. So the Elders of the Church are to respond in the admonition of Galatians 6:1-2 and to come alongside those allotted to your charge - 1 Peter 5:1-4 “Sufferings of Christ and Glories to Revealed”
  - C. The comfort is to be Spiritual as those who are in Christ - Colossians 3:1-4
  - D. The anointing with oil - “after having oiled him” or “rubbing him with oil in the Name of the Lord” - Isaiah 1:1-9 - (v.6) - A sinful nation, weighed down with iniquity - Isaiah 49:14-16
    - The Elder’s work is to be done in the “Name of the Lord” based on who God is and how Christ would minister to them - John 14:13-14
    - Restore is “sozo” means “save” - Soteriology - James is talking about spiritual health
- III. Spiritual Health in the Body of the Church - James 5:16
- A. David know the forgiveness of God through confession - Psalm 32:5, 1 John 1:9-10
  - B. The Pastor James knows that his audience needs to expose their sins to one another in a loving fellowship since isolated believers are in great peril - 1 Peter 5: 6-11
  - C. Spiritual defeat often is the result of sin and the cause of further sin.
- IV. The Power of Prayer for Those in Christ - James 5:17-18
- A. The repentant heart is one that is righteous by God’s doing - Psalm 66:16-20
  - B. A perfect illustration of God pouring out His Holy Spirit on His people