

# JAMES STUDY

## CHAPTER 5:13-18

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Suffering, Prayer, and the Will of God”

### THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
- deceiving yourselves.

**INTRODUCTION:      The Reading of The Text      vv. 13-18**

### James 5:13-18

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

### The Sentence of the Textual Summation

James here gives us some real practical instructions about what to do when we ourselves or others that we might know arrive at a place requiring prayer! Many nonbelievers, even lukewarm Christians often respond to the invitation to pray about a situation as though it's the last dig efforts of an impossible situation!

Let's Pray... Is it That Bad?

# “Suffering, Prayer, and the Will of God”

## 1.) The Christian Response to Life’s Difficulties

vv. 13-16

**Is** anyone among you **suffering**? Let him pray. **Is** anyone **cheerful**? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup> **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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

There are 3 distinct questions that are asked by James that set up the biblical doctrine of what we’re to do if we are suffering, if we’re cheerful or if we’re sick and the involvement of the body of Christ.

#1

**vv. 13 Is** anyone among you **suffering**? Let him pray.

#2

**vv.13 Is** anyone **cheerful**? Let him sing psalms.

#3

**vv. 14 Is** anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders of the church,

## You and I & The Church

Acts 4:32

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

## Find One Now

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, **and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

## Hang In There (with us together)

James 5:7a

Therefore be patient, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord.**

## Question #1

vv. 13 **Is anyone among you suffering?** Let him pray.

# “Suffering, Prayer, and the Will of God”

The Christian Response to Life’s Difficulties

1a.) Understand: Suffering is Allocated for Every Believer

**Is anyone among you suffering?**

**Is anyone among you suffering?**

(Those who are suffering. There will be those suffering)

\* suffering grk 2553 kakopatheo (kak-op-ath-eh'-o);  
to undergo hardship of the emotions, of the mind. To be stressed  
be afflicted, endure afflictions (hardness), suffer trouble.

# “Being Stressed - Painfully”

This is a Suffering of an  
**Emotional and/or Mental State**

The Christian’s Response to Life’s Difficulties

God has a Sure Prescription: Prayer

(13b) Let him pray.

**Let Him Pray to Whom?**

Do not go to other people within

One of the Great Reasons Why We get So Stressed  
is that We are so Often Slow to go to God in Prayer

# We Pick Up The Phone Rather Than Fall to Our Knees!

Psalm 27:5

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle he shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

Psalm 37:39-40

But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their strength in the time of trouble. <sup>40</sup> And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.

## The Lord's Phone Number

**1-800-Jeremiah 33:3**

'Call Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

## There's a Difference

Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you;  
He shall never permit the righteous to be **moved**.

- 1.) There's a **Serenity** to those who Pray
- 2.) There's a **Perspective** to those who Pray
- 3.) There's an **Influence** to those who Pray

## Are you under emotional stress? - Pray!

Is there a weight that seems to be pressing down on you?

-- it can be felt!

“What I am I Going to Do?”

## Are you under mental stress? - Pray!

Is there a confusion that seems to cloud your decisions?

Fear is often associated with this -- a panic feeling!

# “Where am I Going?”

Psalm 62:6-8a

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be moved.

<sup>7</sup> In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. <sup>8</sup> Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him;

## I will Guarantee you This

that if you take the time to pray, your stress will go away

It's the supernatural window that's opened to our situation

**Philippians 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**1 Peter 5:7**

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

## The Christian's Response to Life's Difficulties

### 1b.) Understand: Cheerfulness is to be Expressed

**Is anyone cheerful?** Let him sing psalms

## Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms

(Those who are Cheerful. There will be those )

\* Cheerful grk 2114 euthumeo (yoo-thoo-meh'-o);  
to be cheered up, to be made or enabled to cheer internally !!!

## NOT EXPERIENTIALLY BASED

This Greek Word is a Root to a very Familiar English Word  
“Enthusiasm.”

“En”, to dwell within. “Theos”, God. “Iasm”, action  
Activity of Life, because of God, Who Dwells Internal

# Only Christians can be Truly Enthusiastic

We're the world's only true

## Enthusiasts

Psalm 100:4-5

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

## True Enthusiast

Psalm 95:2

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;  
let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

1 Chronicles 16:9

Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works!

Ephesians 5:19-20

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

## “Let him sing Psalms”

\* Psalms grk 5567 psallo (psal'-lo);  
to stroke or to touch. to celebrate with an instrument in divine worship with both music and voice

## We Do Not Praise Him Enough in This Life

**When Things are Going Great !!!  
-- Tell The World About it**

Psalm 150:1-6

Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary;  
praise Him in His mighty firmament! <sup>2</sup> Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! <sup>3</sup> Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp! <sup>4</sup> Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! <sup>5</sup> Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! <sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

*i.e.* Ashley  
Israel and her shofar (the rams horn)  
on Beni Yehuda Street

Matthew 4:23-25a

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. <sup>24</sup> Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. <sup>25</sup> Great multitudes followed Him

Psalm 89:1

I will sing (publicly) of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 97:6

The heavens declare His righteousness, and **all the people** see His glory!

That's a fact

We Are To Be Cheerfully “Enthusiastic”  
Before this Pitiful World

Nehemiah's Example

Nehemiah 8:10-11

**after the reading of the law the people wept for their sins**

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." <sup>11</sup> So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

Praise God When Things Are Going Well -  
Not Someone or Something

We're Almost Shy About It  
“Suffering, Prayer, and the Will of God”

## The Christian's Response to Life's Difficulties

### 1c.) When Failing Health Comes Our Way -- *and it will*

**Is anyone among you sick?**  
Let him call for the elders of the church,

\* **sick** grk 770 astheneo (as-then-eh'-o);  
to be without strength. To be diseased or impotent. Beyond medical help. Implying that medicine has not helped you

Doctors & Medicine are ordained by God.

The text Does Not Mean Stay Away From Doctors

It means we have already been, there is nothing that they can do

### 1.) The practice in times of failing health

a.) The **condition** of the sick

**Is anyone among you sick?**

b.) The **calling** of the elders

Let him call for **the elders** of the church,

## This is God's Prescription

**Is anyone among you sick?**

### An Example of Serious Illness

John 4:46-47

So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, **for he was at the point of death.**

### Another Example

Philippians 2:25a, 27a

Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier... For indeed he was sick, to the point of death; but God had mercy on him,



## An Example

John 11:1-3

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. <sup>3</sup> Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

### 1.) The practice in times of failing health

#### b.) The calling for the elders

Let him call for **the elders** of the church,

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick?

Let **him** call for the elders of the church, (a willful request)

and let **them** pray over him, (in faithful obedience)

anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (In compliance with God)

This **call** is to request a private visitation

Plurality of "Prayers" from the church

This is what God has Called them to Do in Times of Crisis  
the pastors, and or bishops, and or overseers

The Pastor and Associates of the Church

### 2.) The prayer that is to be offered

#### a.) The necessity that the elders are to pray

**James 5:14-15**

....and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

The Faith of those Praying  
(not the sick person's faith)

# WARNING:

Be careful not to have:

- Faith in faith... “if you just have enough faith”
- Faith in man... “in need the reverend so & so”
- Faith in self ... “I know I can whip this thing, I’m going to beat it”

## b.) the **Protocol** for anointing with oil

- \* over him            meaning with outstretched arms
- \* anointing him    meaning to rub it in, to smear or to apply

Mark 6:12-13

So they went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

## To rub with the oil

Mark 16:1

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

Luke 7:37-38

And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, <sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

## An Example

John 12:2-3, 7

There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil..... <sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the **day of My burial**.

## View #1

The Oil was used as a medicinal to comfort those sick

## View #2

It was / is to be used in a symbolic sense for the Holy Spirit

(Will Olive Oil from the Middle East, if Rubbed on  
Your Body Heal You of Cancer?)

# Then Why Pray at All - Just Get some Olive Oil

## James 5:14

.... anointing him with oil **in the name of the Lord.**

c.) the **nature** of this type of prayer

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. <sup>16</sup> Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The “Will” of God here is Paramount

## The word “prayer”

\* prayer grk 2171 euche (yoo-khay’);  
a very simple wish, to express your desire by petition to God. To ask of him according to your own desire. No urgency, no demands, no stressing

## “You-Kay” A Yielding to the Requested

Luke 22:41-42

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, **if it is Your will**, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

An unusual Greek word is used here  
unlike many other passages, which used a different word

## Look Who Does The Healing

(15) and **the Lord** will raise him up.

## Why Doesn't God Always Heal

Answer, because healing is not always the best thing for the sick

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup> Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

# Sometimes God chooses to Heal Other Times He chooses not to Heal

2 Timothy 4:19-20

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup> Erastus stayed in Corinth, **but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.**

## Why Didn't Paul Heal Him

Death is often the great liberator for the Christian

In Acts 12

Prayer is made for Peter's release from prison - Peter's released

Acts 12:1-5 KJV

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. <sup>2</sup> And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. <sup>3</sup> And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) <sup>4</sup> And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. <sup>5</sup> Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

(15) And if he has **committed** sins, he will be forgiven.

Ongoing sin will result in sickness

\* **Committed**      **grk**

to be sinning day in day out, again and again for weeks, months, and years. To live in a sinful state

## All Sickness is Traced Back to the Origin Sin

*but your particular sickness may not be a result of you having sinned*

John 9:1-3

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

# This World is Sin-filled thus it is in Sickness

Romans 5:12

tells us that there was no death until sin entered the world

Your sickness / your handicap / your frailty  
does not mean you're a habitual sinner, living in sin

## LETS BE ACCURATE HERE / EQUAL TIME IS NEEDED

Friend, Listen Carefully. You can enter into a sinful lifestyle as a believer. And harden your heart against God's conviction...

**And He will send sickness, hardship, even death!**

1 John 5:16-17

If anyone sees his **brother** sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and God will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

## No Longer Praying for a Brother

1 Samuel 15:35

And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD was grieved that He had made Saul king over Israel.

## Matthew Henry States,

"God has Determined His Own assignment of Misdemeanors and Capitol Offenses. Each is sin. But there be those by which continues living in a certain sin or sins weakens the cause and witness of Christ, thereby God removes such a one sparing the sinner any greater judgment and protecting the name of His Holy Son!"

1 Corinthians 5:5

"Continuous sinning at Corinth"

deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

## Example

1 Corinthians 11:27-31

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many even dead. <sup>31</sup> For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

# “Suffering, Prayer, and the Will of God

## 2.) The Christian’s Effect Upon Life’s Difficulties vv. 17-18

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

### 2a.) The Christian, Any Christian, All Who are Christian

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much

#### A more literal translation

The effectual (The Working power of God) in the life of a Saved Man can bring the power of God to the situation

### 3.) The proof of offering such prayer

#### 3a.) Has anyone who prayed such a prayer

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,

Elijah had to learn just like us

Elijah at Carmel

Elijah a Few Days Later

## Super-Saints Need Not Apply

And he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months