

## The Prayer Of Faith

James 5:13-18

## 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

## Review Of James

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

- *“Speak not one against another ...”* James 4:11-12
- Avoid arrogance & 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

## The Prayer Of Faith James 5:13-18

Prayer and Praise go together.

- *Psalms 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*
- *1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil.”*
- Man is to pray for all his needs. Matthew 6:5-11

## The Prayer Of Faith James 5:13-18

Prayer and Praise go together.

- *Psalms 62:8 “Trust in him at all times, ye people; pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.”*
- *Matthew 7:9-11 “Or what man is there of you, who, if his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone; or if he shall ask for a fish, will give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

## 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. *“nothing doubting”* (verse 6)
- Pray in every circumstance of life. James 5:13-16
- Prayer changes things. James 5:16-17

## When Should One Pray?

When we are afflicted. James 5:13

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

- Times of trouble and hardship.
  - (Bridges this text with James 5:10)
- The prophets suffered. James 5:10

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## When Should One Pray?

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

### • Used in:

- 2 Timothy 2:3, “Suffer hardships.”
- 2 Timothy 2:9, “Suffer hardships.”
- 2 Timothy 4:5, “Suffer hardship.”

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## When Should One Pray?

### In Contrast ...

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

*euthumeo*: “Good cheer” (W.E. Vine);

“... Keep up one’s courage” (Ardnt and Gingrich)

- Word used in the context of Paul’s shipwreck. Acts 27:22, 25
- We can sing in adversity. cf. Acts 16:25; 5:41; James 1:2.
- Consider the attitude of David, the sweet singer of Israel - Psalms 92:1-2; 96:1-2; 101:1; 111:1; 113:1-3; 146:1-2; 147:1; 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 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 2:26-27
- Used to refer to a weak faith or a weak conscience (cf. Acts 20:35; Romans 6:19; 14:1; 15:1; 1 Corinthians 8:9-12).

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## When Should One Pray?

When we are sick. James 5:14-15

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 the forgiveness of sins.

(cf. 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5; Psalms 32:1 )

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## Why Call For The Elders?

They were to pray over him. James 5:16

- Spiritual leaders in the church. Hebrews 13:17; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

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## Why Call For The Elders?

They were to anoint him with oil.

- 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. Matthew 6:13
  - The Good Samaritan. cf. Luke 10:34; Isaiah 1:6; James 5:14-15
  - "Is there no balm in Gilead?" Jeremiah 8:22; cf. Jeremiah 9:2; 46:11
- 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 6:17). 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

"The **prayer of faith** shall save him that is **sick** ..." James 5:15

"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." James 5:16

- Spiritual guidance is implied.  
NOTE: The distinction between the sickness and confession of sins. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Strength for the weary is the objective.  
Verse 19

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## The Effectiveness Of Prayer (cont'd)

"The **prayer of faith shall save** him that is **sick** ..." James 5:15

"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." James 5:16

- Natural healing is done by those who are physicians. Matthew 9:12
- The work of elders is in ruling the church and watching for souls (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17); not in becoming guardians of men's physical health. They are not miracle workers or medical doctors.

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