

James 5:13-18 *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. [14] 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. [15] 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. [16] 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. [17] 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. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

4/22/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

"Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior – Frances J. Crosby – sung by Joslin Grove Choral Society

1. Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.
 - Refrain: Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry, While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.
2. Thou the spring of all my comfort, More than life to me, Whom have I on earth beside Thee, Whom in Heav'n but Thee. (Refrain – 2X)

If afflicted, PRAY! If cheerful-sing psalms – Psa 48:1-2 *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.[2] Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*
Psa 50:14-15 *Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. [15] Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."*
Psa 91:15 *He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.*

James 5:13-18 - Prayer for the Suffering (Jam 5:13) *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.*

- The *suffering* need to pray, the *cheerful* should sing psalms of praise to God, and the *sick* should call for the elders of the church, asking them to pray for their need.
 - James has the same advice for both the *suffering* and the *cheerful* one: take it all to the Lord. In fact, the two commands could be reversed: sufferers should sing also, and the cheerful should also pray.

Prayer for the Sick (Jam 5:14-16) *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. [15] 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. [16] 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.*

- James clearly puts the initiative on the person in need: *let him call*. The hesitancy of people to ask for or to seek prayer from the leadership of the church in such circumstances is a true mystery.
- **Let them pray over him:** James also says that the *elders of the church*, as they pray, should anoint the sick person *with oil in the name of the Lord*. This *anointing with oil* has been interpreted as either seeking the best medical attention possible for the afflicted (oil massages were considered medicinal), or as an emblem of the Holy Spirit's presence and power.
 - *Anointing* the sick *with oil* is also mentioned in Mar 6:13. Luk 10:34 mentions the application of oil in a medicinal sense.
 - The Roman Catholic Church mutated this command to anoint the sick into the "sacrament" of Extreme Unction, administered to someone to prepare them for death. Something James intended to heal was made into a preparation for death!
- **(Jas 5:15-16) God's answer to the prayers of His people.**
- 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.
- **And the prayer of faith will save the sick:** Many have wondered if James "guarantees" healing here for the sick who are prayed for in *faith*. Some have interpreted the idea behind *save the sick* as not specifically being healing, and *raise him up* as being a reference to ultimate resurrection. The reference to sins being *forgiven* adding to the idea that James is considering a spiritual work and healing, not necessarily a physical healing.
- Yet, the context of the statement demands that James does not *exclude* physical healing as an answer to prayer, though he does seem to mean something broader than *only* a physical healing. We should pray for others in

faith, expecting that God will heal them, then leave the matter in God's hands.

- Clearly, God does not grant immediate healing for every *prayer of faith*, and the reasons are hidden in the heart and mind of God. Still, many are not healed simply because there is no *prayer of faith* offered. The best approach in praying for the sick is **to pray with humble confidence** that they will be healed, unless God clearly and powerfully makes it clear that this is not His will. **Having prayed, we simply leave the matter to God.**
- Often we do not pray the *prayer of faith* out of concern for God's reputation if there should be no healing. We should remember that God is big enough to handle His own reputation.
- **Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed:** James reminds us that mutual confession and prayer brings healing, both physically and spiritually. These free us from the heavy burdens (physically and spiritually) of unresolved sin, and removes hindrances to the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - **To one another:** Confession to another in the body of Christ is essential, because sin will demand to have us to itself, isolated from all others. **Confession breaks the power of secret sin.** Confession need not be made to a "priest" or imagined mediator; we simply confess **to one another** as appropriate. Confession is good, but must be made with discretion. An unwise confession can cause more sin.
 - Sin should especially be confessed where physical healing is necessary. It is possible, that a person's sickness is the direct result of some sin that has not been dealt with, as Paul describes in *1Cor. 11:30*.
 - The one who hears the confession should have the proper response: **loving, intercessory prayer, and not human wisdom, gossiping**, or "sharing" the need with others.
- **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much:** In writing about the need for prayer for the suffering, for the sick, and for the sinning, James points to the *effective* nature of prayer - when it is *fervent* and offered by a *righteous man*.
 - Much of our prayer is not effective simply because it is not *fervent*. It is offered with a lukewarm attitude that virtually **asks God to care about something that we care little about**. Effective prayer must be *fervent*, not because we must emotionally persuade a reluctant God, but because **we must gain God's heart by being fervent for the things He is fervent for.**
 - Additionally, effective prayer is offered by a *righteous man*. This is someone one who recognizes the grounds of his righteousness reside in Jesus, and whose personal walk is generally consistent with the righteousness that he has in Jesus.

Prayer for the Nation (Jam 5:17-18) *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. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

- **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours:** Elijah is a model of earnest prayer that was answered by God. His effectiveness in prayer extended even to the weather! Yet, this shows that Elijah's heart was in tune with God's. He prayed for the rain to stop and start only because he sensed the heart of God in His dealings with Israel.
- **Prayed earnestly** is literally *prayed with prayer*. To truly pray, by definition, is to pray *earnestly*.
- If **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours**, then we can be men with the power of prayer like him.

SUMMARY:

- **Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.**
- **Effective prayer must be fervent because we gain God's heart by being fervent for what He is fervent for.**
- **To truly pray, is to pray earnestly..**
- **Prayer power is the greatest power in the world today**

Pray Today For:

Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Energy – Rick Perry; Interior – Ryan Zinke; Defense – James Mattis; Treasury – Steven Mnuchin; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; HUD – Ben Carson; Commerce – Wilbur Ross; Health & Human Services – Tom Price; Education – Betsy DeVos; Trans. – Elaine Chou; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; Labor – Alexander Acosta; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; SBA – Linda McMahon; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; Nat'l Security Advisor – H. R. McMaster; White House Council – Donald McGahn; Counselor to Pres. – Kellyanne Conway; Press Sec. Sean Spicer; Agriculture –Sonny Perdue; Vet. Affairs – Donald Shulkin; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo; Amb. to Israel – David Friedman; Nat Econ Council Dir. – Gary Cohn; Nat. Intell. – Dan Coats; US Trade Rep. – Robert Lighthizer; Sr. Adv. to Pres. – Jared Kushner; Homeland Sec. Adv. – Thomas Bossert; Spec. Adv. Reg. Reform – Carl Icahn; Dir. Trade Policy – Peter Navarro; Cyber Security – Rudy Giuliani

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