

James 5:13-18

Elixir: Spiritual Healing From The Prayer Of Faith

Introduction

1. A Pill that will Save your Life will not be Forgotten
2. The Church is under Trial (Persecution & Poverty)
3. If Communion with God is not cherished and kept, we will be tossed around and not make it
4. A Biblical Church is a Praying Church

Main Point: A Biblical Church that promotes healing, joy, and praise to God is one where Christians pray for themselves individually, pastors (elders) pray for the flock of God, and the Church corporately confesses sins one to another.

The Praying Christian for Self (v 13)

1. The Suffering Christian
 - a. PRAY! This is a command
 - b. Suffering = broad scope
 - c. Pray for Wisdom (**Jas 1:4-8**)
 - d. Temptation in Suffering is to Complain (**Jas 5:9**)
 - e. Trust, Depend, Lean into the Lord = guards against temptation to grumble
 - f. Pray for: Advance of the Gospel through Suffering, You will remain steadfast, He will work out the suffering for your good and His glory, expectation!
 - g. Suffering is expected in a Fallen World
 - h. God Subjected the Word to Futility which means Bad things will happen to God's people
 - i. Pray God will bend our suffering to serve His glorious purposes
2. The Cheerful Christian
 - a. SING PRAISE! Worship! This is a command
 - b. The Father tests with suffering and prosperity
 - c. Temptation in prosperity is to forget God's grace
 - d. All good and perfect gifts come from our Father
 - e. Reminder to turn to God with Praise and Thanks
 - f. Reasons for Cheer – You heard the Gospel, Your breath is on loan from God, if you believe you were given salvation in Jesus Christ

The Praying Pastor for the Sick (vv 14-15)

1. This is a Misunderstood Text by Man – Difficult Text
2. Sick – not a cold or flu, but something that debilitates
3. Pastors never replace a Physician (not true faith)
4. The Sick make a House Call for the Elders
 - a. Does not say call the faith healers
 - b. The elders have an ongoing ministry to the sick
5. Prayer of faith saves the sick; God raises them up
 - a. Seems to be a Guarantee; Not saying that any prayer will heal, only the prayer of faith
 - b. Elders do not always pray the prayer of faith
6. What is the prayer of faith?
 - a. A special gift from God to the elder, different from simple trust in God and saving faith
 - b. Gives the recipient an assurance that God intends healing in a specific situation
 - c. The prayer of faith is the gift of faith (**1 Cor 12:9**)
 - d. James echoes his brother, Jesus (**Mark 11:23-24**)
 - e. *If it is God's will*, the elder will be given the gift of faith, assured the sick will be healed
7. Sin and Sickness
 - a. All sickness and suffering is because of the Fall
 - b. Some suffering is not the result of sin (**Luke 13:1-5**)
 - c. Some sickness (death) IS the result of sin (**1 Cor 11**)
 - d. James does not discount the reality of sin creating sickness, and unanswered prayers (**Jas 4:23, Heb 11:6, 1 Jn 3:21-22, 1 Pt 3:7**)
 - e. Confession of Sin creates Spiritual/Physical Health

The Praying Church for Sins (v 16)

1. James' Church dealt with many sins
2. Confession one to another creates Unity in the Church
3. The object of our prayers (God) is the power of prayer

The Praying Example from Scripture (vv 17-18)

1. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours – ordinary man!
2. Elijah was righteous by grace through belief/faith
3. The righteous person has strong prayers
4. Healing by God still exists through gifts to His appointed servants
5. Praying like Elijah requires patience and persistence
6. Draw near to God (Pray, Sing Praise, Call for the Elders, confess sin one to another) = satisfaction for heart