

THE PRAYER OF FAITH
JAMES 5:13-20

WE HAVE REACHED THE FINAL SECTION OF THE EPISTLE WRITTEN BY JAMES, THE HALF BROTHER OF JESUS AND LEADER IN THE JERUSALEM CHURCH. WHAT A RICH LETTER WITH SO MUCH TO APPLY TO A BELIEVER'S LIFE. JAMES DOESN'T GIVE EXUSES NOR DOES HE BLAME OTHERS WHILE BEING PERSECUTED. INSTEAD, HE EXAMINES HIS HEART THROUGH TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS AND ENCOURAGES THE CHURCH TO DO THE SAME. OUR MOTIVATIONS, BEHAVIORS, ACTIONS, AND SPEECH ARE EXPOSED WHEN WE ARE AT OUR WEAKESSED. THIS LETTER HAS GUIDED THE CHURCH, TO FIND JOY IN TRIALS, TO BE GENEROUS WITH OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND MONEY, NOT TO HOLD ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE HIGHER THAN ANOTHER, AND THAT TEMPTATIONS TO SIN CAN BE OVERCOME BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND A COMMITTED LIFE OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD. WE MUST DO MORE THAN JUST HEAR THE WORD OF GOD, WE MUST BE DOER'S OF THE WORD. LEARN A LITTLE AND APPLY IT, LEARN A LITTLE MORE AND APPLY IT. THERE IS VICTORY IN THE LIFE OF A BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN. SURE, TROUBLE HAPPENS TO ALL OF US. THE QUESTION IS: DO WE REALLY BELIEVE WHAT WE PROFESS TO BELIEVE WHEN THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD. THIS IS WHEN FAITH COUNTS THE MOST, WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH. IT'S MUCH EASIER TO SAY, "GOD IS GOOD" WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WELL. BUT WHEN THINGS GO SOUTH, IS GOD STILL GOOD? YES, HE IS. FOR HE HAS BROUGHT SALVATION TO THE SINNER. ETERNAL LIFE WITH A HOLY GOD.

WE CAN ALL SAY “THANK YOU JESUS” FOR THE SACRIFICE. HIS PERFECT LIFE SUBSTITUTED FOR OUR SINFUL LIVES. HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS BECOMES OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OUR SIN BECAME HIS ON THE CROSS AS THE FATHER Poured OUT HIS WRATH ONTO JESUS. SIN JUDGED RIGHTEOUSLY ONCE AND FOR ALL. FOR ALL WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST SHALL BE SAVED. JAMES CLOSES THIS LETTER BEAUTIFULLY WITH A CALL TO PRAYER TO ALL CHRISTIANS. PRAYER IS THE WAY WE WAR AGAINST EVIL, RECEIVE HEALING, ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH, AND OVERCOME SELF AND SIN. BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD!!

James 5:13 NIV

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

FIRST JAMES ADDRESSES THE INDIVIDUAL IN PRAYER,
COMMUNE WITH GOD IN BAD TIMES AND GOOD TIMES

TROUBLE/KAKOPATHEO/TO SUFFER, ENDURE HARDSHIP

THIS IS THE GIFT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY JESUS, WE HAVE
DIRECT ACCESS TO THE FATHER THROUGH HIS SON
GO TO THE THRONE BEFORE YOU GO TO THE PHONE

SINGING SONGS OF PRAISE IS ALSO PRAYER

REMEMBER, THIS WHOLE LETTER TALKS ABOUT GENUINE
FAITH. GENUINE CHRISTIANS PRAY

Psalm 34:17-19 NIV

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all.

IT MAY NOT WORK OUT LIKE YOU THOUGHT, BUT IT WILL
WORK OUT

James 5:14 NIV

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the
church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name
of the Lord.

NOW JAMES ADDRESSES THE PRAYERS OF THE ELDERS

SICK/ASTHENEIO/TO BE WEAK, ILL

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO LOOK AT THIS; PHYSICAL SICKNESS
AND SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS. MOST INTERPRET THIS AS THE
PHYSICAL

CALL ON YOUR PASTORS WHEN YOU'RE SICK OR WEARY,
PHYSICALLY OR SPIRITUALLY

ANOINT/ALEIPHO/TO POUR ON (USUALLY WITH OLIVE OIL)

ANOINTED/CHRIO/ANOINT WITH OIL SPIRITUALLY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, A SPECIAL TASK GIVEN BY THE POWER OF GOD

Luke 4:18 NIV

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

A COMMON ANOINTING IS NOT CEREMONIAL, MORE OF A MEDICAL PROCEDURE...OIL HOWEVER, IS A SYMBOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

James 5:15 NIV

¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

WELL/SOZO/TO SAVE, RESCUE, DELIVER, RIGHT WITH GOD

WHEN WE PRAY, WE PRAY WITH FAITH, AN EXPECTATION THAT GOD CAN AND WILL HEAL AS HE WILLS

RAISE UP/EGEIRO/RAISE TO LIFE, GIVE BIRTH TO

DOES THIS MEAN EVERYONE GETS HEALED? NO

WE PRAY WITH FAITH IN OBEDIENCE AND UNDERSTAND THAT GOD'S WILL BE DONE, NOT OURS. GOD HAS ETERNAL REASONS FOR EVERY HEALING AND EVERY NON-HEALING, WE CANNOT SEE WHAT GOD SEES, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT GOD KNOWS

ALSO, THOSE THAT ARE SPIRITUALLY WEAK CAN BE REFRESHED AND HEALED THROUGH PRAYER. THE LORD WILL SOZO....IF THERE IS SIN INVOLVED IN THE SICKNESS (WEARINESS), CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE CAN TAKE PLACE

James 5:16 NIV

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

NOW JAMES ADDRESSES PRAYER AMONGST EVERY BELIEVER

TRANSPARANCY AND HONESTY WILL KEEP OUR CONCIENCE CLEAN, MAKING ROOM FOR REPENTANCE, HEALING, AND FREEDOM

SIN WILL CAUSE US TO WANT TO ISOLATE, THAT IS WHAT SATAN WANTS...FOR US TO LIVE IN THE DARK, ISOLATED, SLAVES TO SIN

Romans 6:5-7 NIV

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the

body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

WHEN YOU SAY YES TO JESUS, YOU SAY YES TO THE DEATH OF YOURSELF, MEANING YOU NO LONGER LIVE HOW EVER YOU WANT TO LIVE, YOU LIVE IN CHRIST NOW. THIS IS WHY STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD IS SO IMPORTANT, IT'S LEARNING HOW TO LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, THE LIGHT, THE TRUTH

James 5:17-18 NIV

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

ELIJAH WAS JUST LIKE US. HE HAD GREAT FAITH AND SOMETIMES HE HAD LITTLE FAITH

1 Kings 17:1 NIV

17 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

1 KINGS 18 DOCUMENTS ELIJAH CHALLENGING AHAB'S PROPHETS OF BAAL, MOCKED THE PROPHETS BECAUSE THEIR GOD WOULD NOT ANSWER THEIR PRAYERS AND CONSUME THE SACRIFICE WITH FIRE, REPAIRED THE ALTER OF THE LORD

WHICH HAD BEEN TORN DOWN (ISRAELITES HAD BEEN WORSHIPPING BAAL), PUT HIS SACRIFICE ON THE ALTER, FILLED THE TRENCH AROUND IT WITH WATER, SOAKED THE PIECES OF BULL AND THE WOOD UNDERNEATH WITH WATER, PRAYED WITH FAITH TO THE LORD AND THE LORD SENT FIRE FROM HEAVEN AND CONSUMED THE SACRIFICE, THE WOOD, THE STONES OF THE ALTER, THE SOIL, AND THE WATER IN THE TRENCH

AFTER HAVING ALL THE FALSE PROPHETS KILLED,

1 Kings 18:41-45 NIV

⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." ⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

⁴³ "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked.

"There is nothing there," he said.

Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."

⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea."

So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'"

⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

THEN, RIGHT AFTER THAT MAGNIFICANT DISPLAY OF FAITH

1 Kings 19:1-5 NIV

19 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”

WE ARE JUST LIKE THAT AREN'T WE? WE CAN HAVE GREAT FAITH, THEN “I’VE HAD ENOUGH, JUST KILL ME LORD

GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH FAITH TO DO GREAT THINGS

JAMES WRAPS UP THIS MAGNIFICANT LETTER WITH THIS:

James 5:19-20 NIV

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error

of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

WHAT A PROMISE!!!

OUR GENUINE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST SHOULD DRIVE US TO BE BOLD ABOUT IT. SEEK OPPORTUNITIES THE HE SETS UP FOR YOU TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH PEOPLE THAT ARE STRUGGLING

NO ONE SHOULD GET LEFT BEHIND

END