
Studies in the Book of James

Power of Prayer (James 5:13-20)

Lesson #13, Sunday, March 31, 2019

I. Prayer in suffering (13)

1. What is prayer?
2. How did God answer the prayers of the following?
 1. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1-7)
 2. Paul (2 Cor. 12:1-10)
 3. Elijah (1 Kings 19:4)
 4. Paul (Rom. 10:1)
3. God answers all prayer according to His _____. (1 Jn. 5:14)

II. Cheerful singing (13)

1. List some of the songs from the Psalms that lift our hearts.

III. Call for the elders (14-15)

1. Why call for elders to pray?
2. Four different positions on “calling for the elders to pray”:
 1. The “sick” are the spiritually ill worn down by sin. If they will repent and confess their sin, the elders will pray for them and they will be forgiven. The “anointing with oil” was symbolic and was used to encourage and strengthen them.
 2. The “sick” are physically sick and the elders are to pray for them. The “anointing with oil” is the same as getting good medical help to start the healing process while calling upon the Lord for his help.
 3. The “sick” are physically sick and the elders who had the spiritual gift of healing would heal them. The “anointing with oil” was used to encourage and strengthen them. Those elder’s gift was miraculous and limited to the first century.
 4. “Sick” in this passage is not physically illness but emotional or spiritual weakness brought on by the oppression of the evil rich. The Greek word, “astheneo” translated

“sick” is used in 2 Cor. 12:10 describes weakness produced by the sufferings of life. It is used in the same way here. (MacArthur)

3. The position that is correct.
 1. While is it always right to call for spiritually mature men or women to pray for us when we are physically or spiritually sick, the key to understanding the passage is the phrase, **“The prayer of faith will save the sick and raise him up.”** Not **IF** but “the prayer of faith” **will** heal him.
 2. So, considering that positive statement, the best interpretation is that the elders had the spiritual gift of healing. That gift was limited to the first century.
4. What are the benefits of confessing our faults one to another? (16)

5. James illustrates the power of prayer by Elijah’s prayer. Tell the story. (1 Kgs. 19)

IV. Reaching the erring (19-20)

1. Why is it so important to restore the erring?

2. What are the best methods to use in restoring the erring?
 1. An unfaithful child?

 2. An unfaithful relative?

 3. An unfaithful church member?

3. Sometimes we fail to try to restore the erring. Why don’t WE engage in this work?