

A Field Guide for the Waiting (Part 2)

James 5:13-20

July 31, 2022 | Will Jackson, Executive Pastor

James 5:13-20 | 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 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 one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. 19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

BIG IDEA: Be a Community of Faith and Love.

Be a Community of ...

- 1. Growth (Part 1) – Be Strengthened**
- 2. Purity (Part 1) – Fight Sin**
- 3. Faith (Part 2) – Cultivate a Prayer Culture**
- 4. Love (Part 2) = Cultivate a Gospel Culture**

I. Cultivate a Prayer Culture

A. Pray without ceasing (vv. 13, 16-17)

Colossians 1:9-12 | 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- **FAQ #1: Does James mean that all prayers will be answered?**

B. Pray with confidence (vv. 14-15, 17-18)

- **FAQ #2: What is the effect of anointing oil in prayer and healing?**
- **FAQ #3: What is “faith healing?”**

II. Cultivate a Gospel Culture

A. Rest in Righteousness (vv. 14, 16-17)

B. Rejoice over Repentance (vv. 15-16, 19-20)

John Piper | “[Confession] necessarily includes being truthful about our sinfulness and our struggle with sin. It doesn’t mean you need to broadcast to the whole world your specific sins. That wouldn’t be good for them, and it wouldn’t be good for you. It does mean that you need to be known as an open book, appropriately read by accountable, mature people in your life.”

Benediction

Jude 20-23 | 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.