Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: *" Let Us Pray" Part 2*

SCRIPTURE: James 5:14-16

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.

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.

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.

I. Key Words:

1. Sick
2. Elders
3. Anointing
4. Oil
5. Faith
6. Prayer
7. Confession
8. Righteous

II. People, Places, & Times:

1. James
2. Church at Jerusalem

III. Background:

James 5:14–16 calls the church to active community, prayer, and confession during times of physical or spiritual weakness.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1 The Call to the Sick and Suffering (Verse 14)

A. The Question of Weakness:

James asks, "Is anyone among you sick?" (Greek: astheneō, which can mean physical illness, exhaustion, or spiritual/emotional weakness).

B. The Action Required:

The sick person initiates contact by calling for the church elders rather than handling the burden alone.

C. The Role of the Elders:

Leaders represent the local body, bringing the weight and support of the entire church into the home or sickbed.

D. Anointing with Oil:

Symbolic of consecration, care, and turning to God for help.
Done "in the name of the Lord"—resting power in Jesus, not in the oil or the leaders themselves.

2. Lesson Emphasis: 2 The Promise and the Prayer of Faith (Verse 15)

A. The Prayer of Faith:

A prayer offered in complete trust, submission, and alignment with God's sovereign will. Not a formula that forces God's hand, but a confident plea anchored in Christ.

B. Restoration and Healing:

"The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." Acknowledges that God is the ultimate healer—bringing physical recovery, emotional strength, or spiritual renewal.

C. The Connection to Sin and Forgiveness:

"And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." Links some forms of suffering or weariness to unresolved spiritual or moral brokenness.

3. Lesson Emphasis: 3 Mutual Confession and Healing in Community (Verse 16a)

A. Horizontal Accountability:

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." Moves care beyond just the leadership and into the fabric of everyday relationships among believers.

B. Breaking Isolation:

Confession brings hidden struggles into the light, removing shame and inviting collective spiritual support.

4. Lesson Emphasis:4 The Power of Righteous Prayer (Verse 16b)

A. The Efficacy of Prayer:

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Righteousness is anchored in Christ's work rather than human perfection.

B. Kingdom Impact:

Prayer is not a last resort, but an active, dynamic force that genuinely accomplishes God's purposes in the lives of His people.

V. Make It Happen

1. Support vs. Isolation: When you are going through a season of physical illness or deep exhaustion, do you tend to reach out for prayer or withdraw? Why?

2. The Role of Oil and Elders: Why do you think James instructs the sick person to call the elders specifically instead of praying quietly alone?

3. Healing Scope: How does viewing "sickness" as both physical and spiritual change and how can we care for hurting people?

4. Practice of Confession: What makes confessing our faults to one another difficult, and how can we build a safe culture for it?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?