

**James (the book):**

**Intro:**

**Backstory/reason for James.**

**Purpose:**

**A. To unfold New Testament wisdom for living and not doctrinal issues so much.**

**B. The epistle is practical and designed to correct certain known tendencies in behavior.**

**C. James encourages in a cause and effect manner for his his readers who are under trials to continue in obedient faith before the Lord. so that they might receive blessing and help from Him rather than discipline in their disobedience.**

**- James 5:13-20 ESV**

**“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 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. 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. 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. 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. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 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.”**

**James is very practical. He tells us how to respond to the things in life that happen to us. In this final section of the final chapter of James, he gives us some key advice. Specifically on prayer, and communicating with God.**

**- James 5:13**

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”

**- James 5:14**

“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.”

**The Greek word for sick here can mean physical struggles, but in Acts and the Epistles it is also used to mean weak faith or a weak conscience. There can be moral or spiritual issues in the midst of sickness and suffering.**

- **James 5:15 says** “<sup>15</sup>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.”

**main point of verses 13-18 is prayer. It is prayer—not anointing alone—which leads to the healing of the sick person.**

- **Exodus 33:19 God states, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”**

**Getting well is always a God thing.**

- **James 5:16** <sup>16</sup>“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.”

**The greatest assistance any believer can offer another is FAITHFUL prayer. Prayer is evidence of care.**

**Verse 16 refers to the prayer of a righteous man.**

**Romans 3:21-22** “But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

**-James 5:17-18.**

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

**Knowing the God’s will is the sure foundation for effective prayer**

**- James 5:19-20**

<sup>19</sup>My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone <sup>g</sup>brings him back, <sup>20</sup>let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering <sup>h</sup>will save his soul from death and <sup>i</sup>will cover a multitude of sins.”

**In summary, James is all about developing maturity in the life of**

**the believer. It is a road map. If we do what James says, we will overcome the temptation to live only for the present. We will live with more of God's mindset, for eternity.**