

James 5:17,18
“A Man with a Nature Like Ours”
September 13, 2026

Summary of **vv. 14-16a**: The weakness and sickness caused by willful sin will be healed when the person calls for the elders of the church, they anoint him with oil, pray for him, and he confesses his sin. We prevent this in our lives by a continual attitude of confession and spiritual honesty. Having said that, we are to bring all our physical and emotional weaknesses and ailments to the Lord. In some cases, He may use surgery and medication to bring about physical healing.

V 16b “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” As an example, James gives us Elijah, an OT prophet considered a paragon of spirituality. After all, it was he and Moses who appeared alongside Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (**Mark 9:2ff**).

James’s point seems to be that we can expect an answer to our prayers just as Elijah did. He was a man just like us, and the basis for his prayers was what God had already said. God does what He chooses, but He also asks us to join Him in what He is already doing; we actually have a role in God’s doings.

V 17 “with a nature like ours” Gr *homoioopathes* experiencing similarity in feelings or circumstances; affected in the same way

We and Elijah...

Are in the same situation

We speak God’s Word - **1 Kings 17:1** “the LORD...before whom I stand...” Elijah the prophet spoke God’s Word to the people.

Acts 1:8 “you shall be My witnesses...” Jesus ascended, and He left us here to speak for Him.

God provides our needs - **1 Kings 17:6** “The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening...”

Matthew 6: 31ff “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’
God supernaturally meets the needs of His witnesses

God speaks through us - **1 Kings 17:16** “...according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 ... as though God were making an appeal through us...” d was not present “in person” so He spoke through Elijah; He likewise speaks through us.

Have the same shortcomings

Fear - **1 Kings 19:3** “And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life...”

1 Peter 3:14 “...and do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled...”

God knows that human beings are subject to fear.

Feelings of failure - **1 Kings 19:4** “...It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.”

Acts 15:38 “But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia...”

God does not stop using us after a failure; we might take ourselves out of the race, but God will not.

Thinking we’re the only faithful ones left - **1 Kings 19:14** “... I alone am left...” **18** “Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel...”

1 Corinthians 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?...

My local church may only need one “me,” but there are committed believers serving other functions.

Can have the same successes

Through obedience - **1 Kings 17:5** “So he went and did according to the word of the LORD...”

James 1:21 “...receive with meekness the implanted word...”

By praying the will of God - **1 Kings 18:36** “...I have done all these things at Your word.”

John 14:12ff “...And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do...
If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

We can rest assured that God answers our prayers when we pray for what He has said will take place. We know that He hears our prayers when we pray for something that He has said is His will.