

James 5: 13-20 – Prayer

1. Prayer: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

A. When to pray

- Struggling in life ➡ pray - v. 13
- Life is going well ➡ praise God - v. 13
- Sick ➡ ask God for healing - v.14
- The idea is that no matter what life is like, our prayer life ought to stay consistent.

B. How to pray

- In faith (v.15)
 - * James 1:6-8
- Confess sin (v.16)
 - * Psalm 66:18
 - * A righteous person is one who is in right standing with God, there is nothing between me and God.
- Pray for one another (v.16)
- “Fervently” - the idea is to pray intensely and consistently in alignment with God’s plan. (v. 17-18)
 - * Elijah prayed for a miracle, and God used his request to teach his people.

2. Questions about faith and healing

A. What is “anointing”? – v. 14

- 2 Greek words translated for anointed
 - * “Chrio” = Anointed of God, Anointed One (Christ) – reference to Christ
 - * “Aleipho” = the common word for applying oil for medicinal purposes
- The word in v. 14 is the common word
- The idea is simply that when I am sick, I should have fellow brothers and sisters in Christ pray for my healing and get the medical attention I need.

B. If we have enough faith, will God heal me? – v. 15 (Two thoughts)

- Sometimes God will heal a person as a result of prayer and sometimes He chooses not to heal them here on earth. (Revelation 21:4)
 - * Praying in faith means that we have to trust that God has the best plan in mind, even if it is not complete healing. (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)
 - * To think that God will heal every believer if we pray for healing in faith means that we believe it is never God’s plan to let a believer die – immortality on earth!
- Sometimes sickness is a result of sin (1 Corinthians 11:30)
 - * Confession of sin (v. 15-16, 19-20, 1 John 1:9, Matthew 5:23-24)

Thoughts to Ponder

1. What is your prayer life like?
2. In what circumstances do you find yourself praying the most?
3. What new things have you learned from James? How can you put them into action in your life?

