



# Finding Help & Healing in Weakness

JAMES 5:13-20

# Ways James saw believers struggling

- ▶ Lacking of wisdom and faith (1:5-8)
- ▶ Being tempted into sin (1:13 - 16)
- ▶ Being hearers of God's word, but not doers (1:22 - 24)
- ▶ Showing favoritism to the rich to benefit yourselves (2:1-11)
- ▶ A faith that is in word only, but no deeds of mercy and grace to others (2:14-26)
- ▶ Struggling to control your tongue (3:1-12)

# Ways James saw believers struggling

- ▶ Quarreling and fighting with, and slandering/judging other believers (4:1-4, 11-12)
- ▶ Becoming friends with the world (4:5-6)
- ▶ Boasting about tomorrow rather than trusting God (4:13-16)
- ▶ Oppressing those with less power and money (5:4-6)
- ▶ Grumbling against other believers (5:9)



<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them **pray**. Is anyone happy? Let them **sing songs of praise**. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you **sick** (*asthenei*)? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and **anoint** (*aleipsantes*) them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith **will** make the **sick** (*kamnonta*) person well; the Lord **will** raise them up. If they have sinned, they **will** be forgiven.

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- ▶ “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I **will give** you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **you shall find rest for your souls**. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).



<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.**



▶<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed (*iathete*). The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.



<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, **even as we are**. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.



<sup>19</sup> My **brothers and sisters**, if one of you should wander (*planethe*) from the truth and someone should bring that person back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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▶<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. (*Eph. 6:12*)



<sup>19</sup> My **brothers and sisters**, if one of you should wander (*planethe*) from the truth and someone should bring that person back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.



“Wandering ones need to be brought back to the fold. James referred here not to evangelism, but to restoration. Revival, not redemption, is in view. The rescue action is of great significance. A lost sheep is saved from destruction, and sins (those of the restored one) are covered as if a veil were thrown over them.” (Walvoord & Zuck, 1983)

# Application

1. Regardless of our circumstance, we turn our faces towards Godward and either pray to or praise God.
2. In the midst of spiritual weakness and weariness, we are called to not go it alone, but ask others to pray with and over us for spiritual healing.
3. In that process of healing and turning from our pride and unbelief, we are reminded to confess our sins to each other and pray for each other to effect deep healing.
4. And we are called to lovingly confront someone who is wandering from the truth and point them back to Jesus where true hope and joy exists.