

James 5:13-20
“Closing Statements”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 5:13-20) NKJV

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Closing Statements”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CLOSE OUT JAMES...

- Remember that we've learned practical skills
 - For living out our *Christian faith*...
 - In a culture that rejects God!

NOW... THIS WEEK...

- We consider a few final ideas for growing in the faith
 - While being mindful of what can derail our progress!

OK... **HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:**

- Read (James 5:13-20) NLT

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND:

NOW...

- In (James 5:13) I think it's interesting that his “Closing Statements”
 - Circle back around to the spiritual care of our lives.

IDEA #1 – A FULLY DEVELOPED CHRISTIAN: (v.13)

JAMES BEGINS...

- By talking about suffering...
 - That is NOT the result of sin!

(v.13)

- He uses the word *ka-ko-pa-the-o'* = **Suffering**
 - From any type of ill / trouble.

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WHEN THIS OCCURS...

- Believers are to seek God in prayer for...
 - Understanding
 - Strength
 - Relief

BY SEEKING GOD...

- In **prayer**... we allow Him to move the obstacles for us.
 - **AND thru prayer**...
 - God can also give us grace to endure His timing.

BACK IN (2 Cor. 12:8-10) NLT

- Paul had to face a health issue that was intended to keep him humble.
 - And while he asked God to take it away (3x)...
 - God told him... HIS power flows best...
 - When man is without strength!

THAT’S A HARD TRUTH TO SWALLOW!

- That’s a hard concept to lean into!

YET...

- That’s exactly the course James is taking us on.

SO WE CAN ARRIVE...

- At being a fully-developed Christian!

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS...

- God designed us to grow!

FLIP TO (Heb. 5:12-14) NKJV

(v.12) A,B,C’s of Christian truths

(v.13) *milk* = food chewed by another.

MILK IS GOOD IN THE RIGHT SEASON...

- (1 Peter 2:2) NKJV...
 - But at some point we have to leave the bottle behind!

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(v.14) *Use* = Power acquired thru practice.

Senses = Use of our minds for persevering & understanding.

Exercised = Vigorous use (the struggle between knowing & doing).

OK...

- **What am I supposed to put into practice?**

1) When hardship happen, I'm to pray... FIRST.

2) When I'm cheerful, I'm to give expressions of praise & thanks.

LISTEN...

- The whole GOAL of this epistle...
 - Is for US to learn how to live as a mature Christians!

AND I THINK THIS IS...

- A much needed reminder for our lives right now...
 - So we keep our aim focused in the right direction.

IDEA #2 – RESTORING THE SICK: (vv.14-18)

THESE NEXT FEW VERSES...

- Have caused a lot of debate for the English Bible readers...
 - Because the Greek word [**Aas – The – Ne – O'**]...
 - Is translated into English as: *Sick / diseased*.
 - But the idea is... *without strength / weak*.

THIS IS A CASE WHERE...

- Context & language studies help...
 - Ensure an accurate understanding of the passage.

IN (v.14)...

JAMES IS NOT REFERRING...

- To people sick in bed with a disease.

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RATHER...

- He is pointing to those who had become weary...
 - And were now morally & spiritually sick.

THESE ARE THE ONES...

- Who need to call for the elders of the church.
 - The elders will help them get unstuck spiritually!

REMEMBER...

- This is why we had to define what “*sick*” meant...
 - From the original language.

THE NEXT THING WE MUST CAPTURE...

- Is that *anointing*... is the general word [A – Lie – Fo] #218...
 - Which is a general term for *anoint*...
 - Meaning = To rub with oil.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

- The ceremonial word for *anointing* is [Khre’ – o] #5548...
 - This is NOT what is meant here!

THE BEST EXAMPLE...

- Of what is being said comes from (Matt. 6:17) NKJV...
“... when you fast, *anoint your head and wash your face.*”

NOW (v.15) Amplifies “*sick*” with a second clarifying use.

- This word is [Kam – no]...
 - Meaning = Weak, exhausted, fainting, giving up.

POINT BEING:

- The focus is to restore the spiritually defeated person!
 - Again... the restoration is spiritual NOT physical healing.
- AND to underscore that it’s spiritual... the next line (v.16) clarifies...
 - The forgiveness of sin...
 - Then concludes with “*confess*” to one another...

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AGAIN...

- The passage is radically redundant in underscoring...
 - That the healing is of the soul & NOT the body!

- C.p. (Matt 13:15) (Heb. 12:13) (1 Peter 2:24) NKJV

(vv.17-18)

- Elijah remained under heavy troubles for 3 ½ years.
 - And we get an example of passionate heart felt prayer...
 - For overcoming the impossible!

IDEA #3 – RESCUE WORKER: (vv.19-20)

GO AFTER THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING...

- My favorite verse around this topic is (Gal. 6:1) NKJV
 - Setting a broken bone or dislocated limb.

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE LESSONS FROM JAMES...

- Boil down to **three take a ways:**

- 1) A faith that works:
- 2) A faith evidenced by a life of devotion to Jesus:
- 3) A faith concerned for the welfare of others:

~ LET'S PRAY ~