

**James 5:13-18**  
**Caleb Bissett / Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Passage Summary**

James exhorts his readers to respond to life, whether in trouble or in better times, with the prayer of faith and confession of sin.

**Action Steps**

1. Pray to God.
2. Praise God.
3. Believe in the power of prayer.
4. Confess your sins to one another.
5. Pray for one another.

**Scripture Meditation**

James 5:16

*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.*

**Message Takeaway**

1. How did you hear God speaking to you?
2. In what ways were you strengthened?
3. Where do you need help?
4. What can you apply today?

**Going Deeper in Application**

1. How does prayer make a difference in your life?
2. In what ways would you like to grow as a person with a healthy and powerful prayer life?
3. How are you engaging with others in prayer in your Christian community?

**Further Study (Read James 5:13-18)**

1. What instructions does James give in verses 13-14 and what are the results of following these instructions?
2. What kind of suffering is James referring to in verse 13?
3. Why does James suggest calling the elders?
4. What is the relationship between praying over the sick and anointing them with oil?
5. What is a “prayer of faith”?
6. What is the relationship between “the prayer of faith” and “the Lord will raise him up”? Why does James connect healing with forgiveness?
7. In verse 16, James connects sickness and sin. Can each and every sickness be traced back to a particular sin? (Read John 9:2-3). Can sickness sometimes be traced back to a particular sin? (Read John 5:14 and 1 Cor. 11:29-30) Given that, what is the relationship between mutual confession and mutual prayer in verse 16?
8. What do you think James means by “healed”?
9. How does the illustration about Elijah in verses 17-18 underline James’ main point? What specifically is James trying to communicate when he says that Elijah was “a man with a nature like ours”, and then goes on to point out the powerful effects of his prayer? What is he aiming to tell us about prayers and the God who hears them?
10. Why would James complete his letter with an appeal to pray?