



Closing the Gap: A Humble and Healthy Church

James 5:13-20 – September 28, 2025

James 5:13–20

[13] Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. [14] Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. [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. [17] Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. [18] Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

[19] My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, [20] let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (ESV)

Psalm 18:6

In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. (ESV)

Psalm 13:6

"I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (ESV)

Psalm 103:2–3

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, [3] who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, (ESV)

Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah (ESV)

Introduction: The beauty of the seasons!

Minnesota, life, sports, farming, James 5.

1. Jesus walks His Church through seasons of life to produce a humble and healthy Church. (13-15)

Suffering – pray. (Psalm 18:6)

Cheerful – sing praise. (Psalm 13:6)

Sick – call for the elders. (Psalm 103:3)

2. A humble and healthy church stays in a continual season of confession of sins and prayer for one another. (16)

Psalm 32:5

3. Jesus grants powerful, fervent prayer to His church to restore to life wayward souls. (17-20)

Elijah in 1 Kings 17-18

Ordinary people righteous because of Jesus.

Seeking and knowing the heart of God produces fervent prayer.

Pray for drought or rain?

--- Revelation Demands Response ---

4. A Humble and Healthy Church

Pray.

Sing.

Elders up front to pray.

Confess sin to one another.

Pray for one another.

Application questions on the back →

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For the following application questions, review your notes from the front.

SUNDAY after church...

Think through the morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give. 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received. 3) List songs that touched your heart.

MONDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** What are some of the different seasons of life that the Lord has brought you through and how has He used them to produce fruit in your life?

TUESDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Think of a season of suffering that the Lord has brought you through. What was your response? Did you pray? Why might we not pray? How does prayer help in these seasons?

WEDNESDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Think of a season of cheerfulness that the Lord has brought you through. What was your response? Did you sing? Why might we not sing? How does singing praise help our hearts and the hearts around us?

THURSDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Think of a season of sickness that the Lord has brought you through. What was your response? Did you call the elders to come pray? Why might we be reluctant to call the elders? How does it help?

FRIDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** When was the last time you confessed your sin to another person? Did they pray for you? How did this help? Why would we be reluctant to confess our sin to one another? Do it this week.

SATURDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS & BUILD:** Why does James use the story of Elijah to illustrate his point in James 5:13-20? How do we tune our hearts to Christ so that we know how to pray for people? When we pray, is the glory of God our primary goal? Is the health of the heart of a person our primary concern when praying for people? Today, do we pray for drought or rain?

Our purpose is *to know...follow...and love Christ!*

