

A Call for Prayer

James 5:13-15

Introduction: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Pray without ceasing!)

A. The Response to Hardship – Pray! 5:13a

1. The Scenario: suffering?
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:3, 9; 4:5 = difficult ministry experiences
 - b. James 5:13 = emotional, not physical stress
 - c. “Is anyone among you going through a hard time?”
2. The Antidote: he must pray.
3. Observation: When you are under stress, it is always helpful to pray!

B. The Response to Optimism – Praise! 5:13b

1. The Scenario: cheerful?
2. The Joyful Response: sing praises!
3. Observation: Singing praises is a prayer of thanksgiving!

C. The Response to Sickness – Call for Prayer! 5:14-15

1. The Scenario: sick? 5:14
2. The Antidote: call for the elders of the church 5:14
 - a. They are to pray over him
 - b. Anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;
3. Some thoughts on James 5:14...
 - a. Calling for prayer is the sick person’s responsibility.
 - b. Likely a private setting
 - c. Oil may symbolize the Holy Spirit

- d. Oil may be medicinal
4. The Effectiveness 5:15
 - a. The assumption – believing prayer
 - b. The result
 - 1) Restoration: The prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick,
 - 2) The source of restoration: and the Lord will raise him up,
 - 3) The inclusion – forgiveness: and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.
5. Some thoughts on James 5:15...
 - a. The prayer of faith is effective.
 - b. The source of healing = Lord,
 - 1) not elders
 - 2) not oil
 - 3) not prayer
 - c. Some illness is caused by sin
 - 1) E.g., guilty conscience
 - 2) E.g., chronic worrying
 - d. Not all illness is caused by sin
 - 1) E.g., Job
 - 2) E.g., Blind man in John 9
6. Some thoughts on James 5:13-15
 - a. Whether we are depressed, happy, or ill, prayer is always appropriate.
 - b. It is never inappropriate to pray!
 - c. Sometimes we need to ask for help in praying!
 - d. Pray without ceasing!

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A. The Response to Hardship – Pray! 5:13a

1. The Scenario: _____?
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:3, 9; 4:5 = difficult _____ experiences
 - b. James 5:13 = _____, not physical stress
 - c. “Is anyone among you going through a _____?”
2. The Antidote: he must _____.
3. Observation: When you are under _____, it is always helpful to _____!

B. The Response to Optimism – Praise! 5:13b

1. The Scenario: _____?
2. The Joyful Response: sing _____!
3. Observation: Singing praises is a prayer of _____!

C. The Response to Sickness – Call for Prayer! 5:14-15

1. The Scenario: _____? 5:14
2. The Antidote: call for the _____ of the church 5:14
 - a. They are to _____ over him
 - b. Anointing him with _____ in the name of the Lord;
3. Some thoughts on James 5:14...
 - a. Calling for prayer is the sick person’s _____.
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 - a. The assumption – _____ prayer
 - b. The result
 - 1) _____: The prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick,
 - 2) The _____ of restoration: and the Lord will raise him up,
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 5. Some thoughts on James 5:15...
 - a. The prayer of faith is _____.
 - b. The source of healing = _____,
 - 1) not _____
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 - 1) E.g., guilty _____
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 - 1) E.g., _____
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 6. Some thoughts on James 5:13-15
 - a. Whether we are depressed, happy, or ill, _____ is always appropriate.
 - b. It is never _____ to pray!
 - c. Sometimes we need to ask for _____ in praying!
 - d. Pray without _____!