



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

James (Part-9) (Chapter 5:13-20)

Health & Restoration

Communion with God (13): What must we do in times of joy and sorrow?

Healing (14-15): What type of sickness is referred to here (spiritual or physical)? What must the sick do? What is the role of oil in healing? What are some reasons for physical sickness in our life? Does Bible guarantee healing in all cases? What is role of confession in healing? Why must we exercise caution while confessing to one another in public?

Effective Prayers (16-18): Who is a righteous man? Why are some prayers not answered? How can we make our prayers effective? Are you facing any unanswered prayers in your life, and do you know the reason?

Ministry of Restoration (19-20): Why must we restore drifting believers? How must we do it? What could go wrong when we admonish others?

Personal Reflection: We want to heal others & admonish... but are we ourselves in need of healing & restoration?

James 5

Judgement against the Rich (1-6)✓

Exhortation to the Oppressed (7-11)✓

Swearing (12) ✓

Prayer, confession, Healing (13-18)

Restoring believers (19-20)

From last week

Unjust rich will be judged soon. God is Just and expects us to be Just (1-6)

Oppressed (7-11): be Patient, don't complain, strengthen yourself

Speak the Truth, **do not swear** in daily conversations (12)

Do not love money and compromise your spiritual life

Judge standeth at the door ... **Be ready to meet your God**

Praying, Confession and Healing (13-16)

Be in touch with God, at all times

¹³ Is any among you afflicted?
let him pray. Is any merry? let
him sing psalms.

If afflicted **PRAY** (instead of complaining, getting bitter, depressed and anxious)

If happy ... **PRAISE**

Prayer Bridge: Prayer is our bridge between Problem & Peace

Do not be **anxious** about anything, but in every situation, by **prayer** and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God⁷ And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 4:6-7, NIV**)

If Sick ...

¹⁴Is any sick among you? 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: ¹⁵And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. ¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Call elders to pray

Oil - symbol of Holy Spirit,
Oil also has healing properties (Luke 10:34)

Prayer of faith brings (physical) healing, and
sins are forgiven (spiritual healing)

Our part:

To confess and exercise faith in prayer

God's part:

To heal, if it is in God's will (not all are healed)

Are you sick?

Can be due to physical and/or spiritual problems;

but not all sickness is due to sin.

John 9:2 “And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Blindness diagnosis —

Physical sickness ✓

but is it also due to sin, spiritual sickness?

John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

John 11:4 Lazarus ... sickness not unto death, but to glorify God

Some reasons for our sickness



Curse of Adam's sin and old age (Romans 5:12)

Due to personal sins (I Corinthians 11:30, Psalms 32:3, 38:3; Deuteronomy 28)

Satanic attack (Luke 13:16)

For our spiritual growth and For His glory (Job, Lazarus)

Fruit of Disobedience:

Sickness & destruction (Deuteronomy 28)

Disobedience 15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Disobedience & Sickness 27 The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. 28 The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: 29 And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save *thee*.

Disobedience & Destruction 58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; 60 Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. 61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which *is* not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

Bible does not guarantee Healing

Spiritual healing is guaranteed (Isaiah 53:5, I Peter 2:24 ... With his stripes, we are healed)

Physical healing

God may choose not to heal, despite our earnest prayers

(Paul's thorn in the flesh, II Corinthians 12:7-10)

healing is guaranteed in heaven (Revelation 21:4)

Private Confession

Confess to one another (not the priest!)

Our confession must be sincere, direct, remorseful, with an intent to not repeat

Be reconciled before offering gift, even if you are not in the wrong):

Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Mathew 5:23-24)

- Private confession can heal & restore relationships
- When was the last time you confessed to someone privately to confess, clarify, and reconcile?

Public confession

Exercise discretion before
speaking in public

Public confession is not
always the wise thing to do

Details not always necessary
in public confession

Prayers of a righteous man

The effectual
fervent prayer of a
righteous man
availeth much (16)

Who is a righteous man?

The righteous man

Our righteousness comes from God through Christ

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: **Romans 3:10**

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

II Corinthians 5:21

Righteousness of Christ does not give us the freedom to live unrighteous lives. We must pursue righteousness

“Job was perfect and up right, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil” (**Job 1:1**)

... righteousness of saints (**Revelation 19:8**)

Prayers of a righteous man

The effectual
fervent prayer of a
righteous man
availeth much (16)

the desire of the righteous shall be granted
(Proverbs 10:24)

Example of Elijah (17, 18)



Experienced miracles in response to his
earnest, spirit lead prayers



We can enjoy similar
miracles also

Some reasons for unanswered prayers

- Praying with unconfessed sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Praying for wrong things (James 4:3)
- Seeking answers before the fulness of time (Galatians 4:4)
- Praying without faith (James 1:6)

Importance of faith

Mathew 17:16,19-21

16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Mathew 21:22 Whatsoever ye ask in prayer, **believing**, you will receive.

Keys to effective prayer & Blessing

Pray in Faith (James 1:6, 5:15 Hebrews 11:6)

Be fervent (serious, intense, passionate) (16)
(such as Daniel, Moses, Hannah)

Be righteous (16) (imputed righteousness of
Christ + our righteous living) (Job 1:1)

Blessing: avails much!

Prescription for Healing

Physical Sickness

Prayer

+ faith

+ oil (medicine)

* Repeat until healed or God's will revealed

Spiritual Sickness

Confession

* Only one true confession needed

Ministry of restoration

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins (19, 20)

Restore other believers, in love, using the wisdom of scriptures

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to **admonish one another** (Romans 15:14)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and **admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (Galatians 6:1)

correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction (II Timothy 4:2, NIV)

Change yourself, Change others

Personal Reflection on Sickness & Restoration

Do we pray with the same fervency for our ‘spiritual sickness’ as we pray for our ‘physical sickness’?

Do we need to be “restored” to God and/or Others?



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