

March 7, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 5:13-18

“Keep on Praying & Praising!” Part 1

A. Universally (13) – “Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.”

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being like Jesus), how would you **rate your current prayer life**? Describe your current prayer life [time(s) per day, location(s), content, etc.]. How consistent are you?
2. What does the word **suffering** mean in James 5:13? What synonyms help you better understand what James is saying? What are some specific ways that people typically suffer? What are some specific ways that people suffered this past year?
3. Why do you think James had to command them to **keep praying** while suffering? What might happen to a person who is suffering that would cause them to stop praying? What lies (deceptions) from the world, flesh, or devil might they start believing? If you were talking to a church member in that state of mind, what verses would you use to help them overcome those lies? What biblical and personal illustrations would you share with them about how persistent prayer helped someone who was suffering?
4. Is there a connection between this verse and **James 1:2-8**? If so, what specifically? Why would James have this theme as **bookends** to his epistle? (See also John 15:18-20; 16:33; 1 Pet. 1:6-9)
5. What does the word **cheerful** mean? (See other uses of this word and its other verb forms in Acts 24:10 - adverb; Acts 27:22, 25 – verb – “keep up your courage”). In Acts, were they cheerful before or after their circumstances improved? If it’s not circumstantial, how does a person become cheerful? Why & how are we able to be cheerful even when the suffering has not gone away?
6. What is the connection between **singing praises** and prayer? What is the primary purpose of singing praises? How does it help us when we are going through difficult times? What biblical illustrations can you find of people who chose to praise God even when they were suffering? What practical applications can you take away from their example?
7. Why does James have to **command them to sing praises** when they are cheerful? What are people prone to do when life is good? (See Deut. 6:10-12; 8:1-17; 31:14-22; Prov. 30:7-9)
8. If we are to pray when suffering and sing praises (a form of prayer) when cheerful, **how often** should we pray? **About what** should we pray? **In what emotional state** should we pray? How does the content and tone of the Psalms support your answers to those questions? How does the example of Jesus (and Paul) support your answers to those questions?
9. What **specific steps** will you take this week to bring your prayer life into alignment with the commands in James 5:13?
10. **Memorize James 5:13-18.** Devote several specific times each day to prayer and praise.