

March 28, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 5:13-18

“Keep on Praying & Praising!” Part 2

A. Universally (13)

- 1. Trouble (13a)**
- 2. Triumph (13b)**

B. Specifically (14-18)

- 1. Diagnosis (14a)**

- 2. Prescription (14b)**

- 3. Prognosis (15-18)**

- a. Instruction (15)**

- b. Exhortation (16)**

- c. Illustration (17-18)**

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. What main lessons did you learn from Sean Ransom's sermon last Sunday (2 Cor. 7:8-11)? How specifically did you apply them this week?
2. What does **repentance** mean? What might our loving Heavenly Father do in our lives if we continue in sin without repentance? (see Ps. 31:10; 32:3-4; 38:3; 1 Cor. 11:30; 1 Jn. 5:16) If a professing believer in Jesus is living in unrepentant sin and there is no discipline from the Lord, what might that reveal about their faith?
3. What **interpretations** have you heard for James 5:13-20? If the passage is specifically about physical healing, then what is the promise being made? What happens when that "**promise**" isn't fulfilled every time elders pray for a sick member of the church?
4. Does the word "**sick**" in v. 14 always refer to physical illness? How is it translated in Acts 20:35; Rom. 4:19; 8:3; 14:1-2; 1 Cor. 8:11-12; 2 Cor. 11:21, 29; 12:10; 13:3-4, 9? How about the other form of the Greek word in Mt. 26:41; Mk. 14:38; 1 Cor. 1:25, 27; 4:10; 8:7, 9-10; 9:22; 11:30; Gal. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 7:18?
5. Why does James use a different Greek word in verse 15 for "**sick**"?
6. Why call for the **elders** to pray? If it's a physical illness, do the elders have more powerful prayers than others in the church? What other problem might make it very important that the elders be the ones asked to come and pray?
7. Why **anoint with oil**? What does this mean / symbolize? Why doesn't James use the other Greek word that specifically refers to ceremonial anointing?
8. If the person is physically sick, why does James use the word "**restore**" (save) in verse 15? How is the same word used in v. 20?
9. Why does James say, "*If he has committed sins...*"? Is sickness or weakness always caused by personal sin? Are there any biblical examples of sickness / weakness that were not caused by personal sin?
10. If the point of James 5 is physical healing through prayer by the elders, then why does James use the **illustration of Elijah** praying to stop rain and start rain? What alternative understanding of James 5 is a better match for this illustration?
11. What does James 5:13-20 tell us about the importance of **active participation in the church** (and/or church membership)? What does it tell us about the importance of a **plurality of godly elders**? What does it tell us about the **priority of elders / pastors**? (See Acts 6:1-4) Who should **initiate** this process of the elders praying? What does it tell us about the importance of **transparency / honesty** in the church?
12. **Memorize James 5:13-18.** Ask the Lord to make every member of our church sensitive to sin, and quick to confess and repent.