

April 11, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 5:13-18

“Keep on Praying & Praising!” Part 3

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

- B. Specifically (14-18)**
 - 1. Diagnosis (14a) – spiritually weak**

 - 2. Prescription (14b) – call for the elders to pray & anoint with oil**

 - 3. Prognosis (15-18)**
 - a. Instruction (15) – prayer of faith will restore the person who is spiritually weary; the Lord will excite them again and forgive their sins**

 - b. Exhortation (16) – come clean through confession and be spiritually restored to a place of walking with God in obedience**

 - c. Illustration (17-18) – prayer of Elijah**

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. If people interpret James 5:14-18 to refer to physical sickness (i.e., cancer), what potential problems might occur? Pastor Paul believes it refers to spiritual weakness that can lead to physical weakness (possibly from divine chastisement – see Heb. 12). How might the terms James uses and the context of the book of James support that interpretation?
2. Read **1 Kings 16:25-18:46**. What was specifically happening in Israel that precipitated the lack of precipitation? Was the primary problem physical or spiritual? Why did God take away the rain and the dew for 3 ½ years? What did it reveal about the Canaanite god Baal? What did this do physically to the people? What did it do spiritually to the people? What did the people need to do before Elijah prayed for the rain to start again? (see 18:36-37)
3. If the point of James 5 is **physical healing** through prayer by the elders, then how does the story of Elijah praying to stop rain and then start rain illustrate that? If the point of James 5 is **spiritual healing** after repentance and confession, then how does the story of Elijah illustrate that?
4. 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?
5. If a person is spiritually weak, what might keep them from doing what James says? What thoughts, attitudes, or emotions might keep them from humbly going to the elders to be restored? What personal illustrations and/or passages of Scripture would you use to help a person overcome those specific things and be restored to a vital walk with the Lord?
6. **How are you doing spiritually?** Are you running full speed ahead? Walking slowly? At a standstill? Going backward? Flat on your back? Are you weary from losing some battles and feeling like God can't use you? If you are spiritually weak, why don't you call on the elders today?
7. **Memorize James 5:13-18**. Ask the Lord to make every member of our church sensitive to sin, and quick to confess and repent.