

Pray, Pray, Pray

James 5: 13-16

9 June 2019 A.M.

Series: Practical Christianity

James 5: 13-16a

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.

Prayer and Comfort V. 13.

- For the persecuted who are learning patience, add prayer.
 - Context supports referring to those being persecuted over physical sicknesses.
 - The antidote to suffering – pray.
- Those who manage to maintain a cheerful attitude sing praises.

Prayer and Restoration VV. 14 – 15.

- Different meanings of the word sick.
 - 14 times in Scripture it refers to emotional or spiritual weakness.
- James says to call the Pastor.
 - One who is spiritually mature.
- What about the anointing?
 - Could there be a medical function?
- The prayer offered in faith will restore.

Prayer and Fellowship V. 16a

- Confess your sins one to another.
 - Sin is most dangerous to an isolated believer.
 - Sin wants to remain private and secret.
- The purpose is that believers may be healed.
 - By healing James is again referring to God's forgiveness, making repentant believers spiritual whole again.

Conclusion

God can heal by normal means, or by raw supernatural power, but He doesn't have to.

Consider 1 Corinthians 15: 26 which tells us that the ultimate sickness is death.

- There is only two kinds of healing I guarantee.
 - God is always ready to heal the sickness of sin.
 - God heals the sickness of suffering for Christ.