

Series: "Marks Of Maturity"
"Prayer"
James 5:13-20
Study-13

James had the nickname **"Old Camel Knees."**
He spent much time in prayer.

James started his letter with the first mark of those who are going through trials, and James had told them what to do! **James 1:5; James 4:2-3**

James now mentions what they are to do in their suffering.
He says **seven times "Pray"**. **James 5:13,14,15,16,17,18**

Book of James presents - (13 Marks Of Maturity) Mark #13 Prayer

Thought Of Our Passage: "Prayer Is God's Solution To Life's Pain, Suffering, Relationships, Our Nation, And For Persons Straying."

Five Circumstances Which We Are To Pray:

- 1. Verse 13 Prayer For The Suffering:**
- 2. Verses 14-15 Prayer For The Sick:**
- 3. Verse 16 Prayer For Relationships:**
- 4. Verses 17-18 Prayer For Our Nation:**
- 5. Verses 19-20 Prayer For The Straying:**

1. Verse 13 Prayer For The Suffering:

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering?

Context - James has been speaking to suffering believers

James 5:1-6 James spoke about the **"Wealthy"** who were taking advantage of the poor. They were causing suffering. God hears their prayers.

James 5:7-12

James speaks to the suffering Christians about being **"Patient until He returns."**

Is anyone among you suffering? - James has been speaking about suffering.
This takes us back to **James 5:12**

Notice that this phrase **"Is anyone"** is used **three times** by James.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.

Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

14 Is anyone among you sick?

Word **"suffering"** or **"Affliction"** any kind of trouble: bodily or mental, personal or domestic, spiritual, trials - *"to suffer misfortune, a hard experience."*

Then he must pray.

"We should keep on praying" This is what God wants us to do is pray.

1 Peter 5:7 "Believers need to be prayer addicts; We should suffer from chronic prayer"

1. God can remove the affliction – (He May Choose To Deliverer Us)
2. God will give us the grace to empower us through the affliction -

James 1:5; Matthew 14:11-12

Is anyone cheerful? *"to be in good spirits, a happy mood"*

God balances our lives with hours of suffering and days of singing.

He is to sing praises.

(Praise and various forms of it is used **550 times**) James places praising God on the same measure of seriousness as praying. In our darkest hour, God is there.

Job 35:10

Paul and Silas were illegally beaten and imprisoned by the authorities, yet were praying/singing in prison. **Acts 16:25**

sing praises, or *"sing a psalm"* means - *"to pull or to twitch."*

It was used for *"pulling a string on an instrument, twitching a string on a harp."*

2. Verses 14-15 Prayer For The Sick:

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick?

The word **sick** - *"to be without strength"* it depicts the debilitating effect of sickness, incapacitating one for work.

There are three things that James says need to be done:

Step #1 - Then he must call for the elders of the church

The sick person is to take the initiative and call the elders of the church.

Elders - spiritual leaders of the church. Notice that it says **Elders**, which is plural.

Step #2 - and they are to pray over him,

The elders are called upon to pray over the person who is sick.

(To seek the will of God.) Ask God to heal.

Step #3 - anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

anointing - Oil medicinal term. It could be translated *"massaging."*

The purpose in old testament as it was used for healing.

The oil was used by the priests. *"Sign of being set apart."*

The oil was *"a symbol of the Holy Spirit."*

**This passage does not condemn the use of medicine for healing.
Matthew 9:12**

name of the Lord; *"according to His will"*

James 5:15 and the prayer offered in faith

This is offered when we know the will of God. It is offered by the elders.
1 Corinthians 12:9 spiritual gift of faith

will restore the one who is sick,

Notice that it is not the anointing with oil but the prayer!

and the Lord will raise him up,

"to enable to stand again" **Mark 2:9, 12**

Romans 8:26; Hebrews 11

Some were delivered by faith and others became martyrs.

and if he has committed sins,

Literally - *"If he has been constantly sinning."* (It speaks of persistence.)

they will be forgiven him. 1 Corinthians 11:30

God uses sickness as a way of chastening. May need to be repented of.

Psalms 32 David was sick, depressed, because of sin. **Proverbs 28:13**

3. Verse 16 Prayer For Relationships:

James 5:16 Therefore, (May need to confess our sin) **confess your sins to one another,**

Confession is always made to God. 1 Timothy 2:5

Only Jesus can forgive my sins. 1 John 1:9

We don't have to go to a priest or a pastor to be forgiven, only GOD.

We need to confess to those who have been affected by the sin.

"Private sin requires private confession;

Public sin requires public confession."

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

(Power of a holy life)

4. Verses 17-18 Prayer For Our Nation:

James 5:17 This takes place in **1 Kings 17-18** Wicked king Ahab and his wife **Elijah was raised up by God to minister to the nation of Israel.**

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,

He was a person that was just like you and I. He had to fight the flesh.

and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;

To humble the nation. To bring them to their knees.

Elijah not only believed in prayer but **earnestly** he was persistent.

James 5:18 Then he prayed again,

He held onto God's promise He would send rain **1 Kings 18:1**

Elijah continued praying on the mountain until his servant reported "a cloud the size of a mans hand was in sight."

and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

5. Verses 19-20 Prayer For The Straying:

James 5:19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth,

The word **strays (err)** means "to wander," it suggests a gradual moving away from the will of God, a deliberate going astray of one's own will or being"

The O.T. term is "**Backsliding.**"

truth - This is the Word of God. **John 17:17**

(Doctrinal Truth – may have fallen into false doctrine or Ethical Truth – not living right)

and one turns him back,

(Repentance) We need to pray for them

Notice that he does not say the elders or pastor.

"and one" is you and I **Galatians 6:1**

James 5:20 save his soul from death,

The life apart from God that leads to emptiness

and will cover (Forgiveness) a multitude of sins.

Go meekly, humbly and prayerfully

Application:

1. Prayer Is To Be Continuous:

"Believers Need To Be Prayer Addicts. We Should Suffer From Chronic Prayer"

2. Prayer Is Designed For Every Part Of Life: Not Just For Emergencies, But To Praise And Give Thanks Throughout The Day.

3. Prayer Is Not A Substitute For Responsibility: Example: Don't Pray To Be Healthy When You Are Not Taking Steps To Be Healthy.

4. Prayer Is Not For The Perfect But For The Imperfect: God Hears Our Prayers Like He Heard Elijah, Who Had The Same Nature As Ours.