

### Key Truth

**Prayer is the positive response of a mature Christian in the midst of troubled times. Instead of complaining about it, a mature Christian talks to God about it.**

*“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” v. 16*

“Righteous”: doesn’t mean we have to be perfect, but instead the righteousness of Jesus has become ours before God. Because of and through faith in Jesus, our prayers can be both powerful and effective.

### Four Times in which God answers prayer: (Warren Wiersbe)

1. Prayers for the Suffering (v.13)
2. Prayers for the Sick (vv.14-16)
3. Prayers for the Nation (vv.17-18)
4. Prayers for the Spiritually Straying (v.19)

### PRAYERS FOR THE SUFFERING

#### 1. Prayer brings c\_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of affliction. (v.13)

The focus here is on individual b\_\_\_\_\_.

“Trouble”: refers to “suffering in difficult circumstances”

- Same word used by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:9
  - Can refer to cancer, disease, surgery, major illness, or a major struggle in your life right now
- a. Prayer can removed the affliction if it is God’s will.
  - b. Prayer can give us more g\_\_\_\_\_ to endure the time of trouble in our life.  
Ex. Paul’s Thorn: 2 Corinthians 12  
Ex. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Prayer doesn’t always change our affliction, but it does change our perspective of our affliction. Prayer often changes me: my heart, mind, and perspective I’m in.

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

#### 2. Prayer brings spiritual s\_\_\_\_\_ to the spiritually weak. (vv.14-15)

The focus here is prayer involving pastors and church leaders.

- This is not a f\_\_\_\_\_ for praying for healing in a person’s life...that if I do what is says here, I will be guaranteed healing.
- Sometimes, praying for sick people leads to healing and other times it is just not God’s will.

**Two Truths to Remember:**

1. All sickness, suffering, illness, and death is a result of o\_\_\_\_\_ sin.  
“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12
2. Not all sickness, suffering, illness, and death is a result of p\_\_\_\_\_ sin.  
“Who sinned, this man or his parents? John 9  
“Stop sinning before something worse happens! “ John 5:14

“Sick”: used 18 times in the NT to refer to physical sickness

Used 14 times in the NT to refer to emotional or spiritual weakness

- Used that way except 3 times in the NT letters

- The picture here is of a spiritually w\_\_\_\_\_ believer seeking out their pastor to have them intercede on their behalf asking the Lord for renewed strength in their life....that God would restore them to spiritual wholeness again.

**What is the unique situation described here in James 5 that calls for prayers by church leaders?**

1. **The person is sick because of s\_\_\_\_\_ in their life.**  
Greek text literally read: “If he has constantly been sinning”  
-A church member who is sick because he or she is under the discipline of the Lord in their life.
2. **The person confesses his or her sin.**
3. **The person is h\_\_\_\_\_ by the “prayer of faith.”**  
- It is not the anointing with oil that heals, but the prayer of faith that heals.  
- Responsibility is on the sick person to call on the pastors  
“elders”: plural; broad-sense leaders in the church (SS Teacher, deacon, pastors)

*“anoint with oil”*

The practice of anointing with oil is symbolic of obedience by the sick person doing what God has said to do.

**3. It brings r\_\_\_\_\_/fellowship between believers. (v.16a)**

The focus here is on the entire body of Christ.

“Sin is most dangerous to the isolated believer.” Sin seeks to remain private and secret but God wants it exposed and dealt with in the loving fellowship of believers.

- Mutual honest= mutual confession....A\_\_\_\_\_
- An open, sharing, praying relationship keeps believers from bottoming out spiritually and gives strength that gives victory over sin. End result....Greater consistency in walk!
- A call for intercessory prayer from one Christian in the life of another

## **General Principle of Confession of Sin:**

**Don't confess your sin beyond the circle of that sin's influence, or beyond the realm in which the sin was c\_\_\_\_\_.**

- Private sin requires private confession.
- Public sin requires public confession.
- It is wrong for Christians to “hang dirty wash in public”, for such “confessing” might do more harm than the original sin committed.

III. Boy in Trouble...Whiteboard

## **PRAYER FOR THE NATION...**

Elijah Story Background: 1 Kings 17-18

## **Next Week's Study Topic:**

Prayers for the Spiritually Straying (v.19)

Recap and Feedback of the James Study

## **“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”**

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit  
Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer