



James

The Epistle of Straw?



Recap

James 5:7-12

- ▶ Last week, James spoke to Christians who are suffering, urging them to be patient for the coming of the Lord.
- ▶ We wondered at the lives of James' original audience, especially whether there might have been a specific conflict between rich and poor Christians involving anger, slander, and uprisings on one side, and fraud, partiality, and profiteering on the other.
- ▶ “But above all.... do not swear... so that you may not fall under condemnation.” (*James 5:12*)



Prayer & James' Conclusion

Our topic today



In every circumstance, what?

James 5:13-20

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.



In every circumstance, what?

James 5:13-20

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” *(Philippians 4:6)*



Three Questions

James 5:13-20

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.



Healed of what?



What's the force of the "therefore?"



Who is "one another?"



So you should be praying, too.

James 5:13-20

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.



Why comment on Elijah's "nature?"



James' Conclusion

James 5:13-20

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.



“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” (*1 Peter 4:8*)



Summary

James 5:13-20

- In suffering, in good cheer, or in sickness: Turn to God.
- Prayer is powerful. (So turn to him!)
- Pray for one another.
- Confess your sins to one another.
- Reach out to your fellow Christians who go astray. (Turn them to him.) It's worth it.



Other Scripture

Galatians 6:1-3

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.



Discussion Questions

For journaling, calling a friend, discussing with family, and prayer



When I am angry with someone,
do I get mad?
Or do I get on my knees?

Discussion Question



Who am I praying for right now?
Who should I be praying for?

Discussion Question



Which of James' warnings hit me the hardest?

Discussion Question



How do I want to change?

Discussion Question



Pastor Ebert!

Next Week...



Thinking Biblically About Contemporary Issues

The Next 2 Weeks...

Week 1: How can a Christian respond biblically to global crises, like COVID 19?

Week 2: How can a Christian respond biblically within the conversation about race in America?

Bible study continues Tuesdays at 2PM (June 30th & July 7th)



All Scripture References come from...

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles,
a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.