**Is Anyone Among You Sick**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**James 5:13-20**

**Sunday Morning**

**February 9, 2025**

**James 5:13-20**

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Saints, we gain a right perspective on our health when we consider its Source

Instead of looking in books and magazines for the latest advice, we should study what the Bible tells us about good health. God says a believer’s body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

That means our bodies do not belong to us because we have been purchased with the blood of Christ.

We now serve as His representatives on earth, and that’s why our conduct, character, and conversation should be a reflection of Christ in the world.

Knowing this should motivate us to maintain good health so the Lord can use us as He desires.

However, since we can’t always avoid sickness, we need to understand exactly what the Bible tells us to do when we’re in need of healing.

Saints, we must understand basic biblical teaching on the subject of healing. The Lord gives us a pattern to follow in James 5:13-20

First century believers didn’t have the pharmacies, hospitals, and doctors we so readily rely upon.

Although God has blessed us with these tremendous resources, we are just as dependent upon Him for healing as they were and should follow the same pattern set before us in Scripture.

When we are ill, we should ask ourselves:

**1.** **Is sickness a result of sin?**

**Romans 5:12**

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--"

Sometimes it’s due to personal sin, but not always.

**2. Is it the Lord’s will to heal everyone?**

**Psalm 103:1-3**

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...

**3. What role do physicians play?**

God calls many of them to help. For instance, Paul often relied upon Luke, the beloved physician.

**Colossians 4:14**

"Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you"

**4. How should we respond when the lord doesn’t heal us?**

Saints, knowing He promises to work all things for our good, we can trust Him to accomplish His purpose, even through illness!

**Romans 8:28**

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose"

**5. Can unbelievers expect God to answer their prayers for healing?**

Saints, since they don’t have a relationship with Him, He isn’t obligated to answer their prayers. However, God does extend mercy and give healing in order to draw people to the Savior.

**Romans 10:11-12**

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

**6. Can sickness in the life of a believer be profitable?**

Saints, the psalmist testifies:

**Psalm 119:71**

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Although no one enjoys affliction, the Lord uses it for His ultimate purpose—to shape us into the image of His Son.

**Romans 8:29**

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren"

Saints, healing should involve other people. The church is more than an organization. It’s the family of God, and we are told repeatedly in the Scriptures to love and care for one another.

Saints, the course of action outlined in James gives every member of the body of Christ the steps to follow when facing sickness:

**7. Whoever wants to receive prayer for healing must be willing to ask for it**

Saints, when a believer is struggling, he or she should seek out the elders of the church who are tasked with guarding and leading the flock.

**Acts 20:28**

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood"

**8. The elders should pray, anointing him or her with oil**

Saints, prayer is the most essential element of healing. Oil was used for medical purposes in the first century and has no power of its own. However, for us, it symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Psalm 133:1-2**

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

**9. It should all be done in the Name of the Lord Jesus**

**Colossians 3:17**

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"

Saints, these actions, when they are performed in obedience to the will of God, indicate that the elders trust the Holy Spirit to work in the person’s body.

The person who is praying must meet certain criteria.

God’s involvement is essential for healing, and this is why intercessors must be people of Godly Character.

Nothing in their lives should prevent the Lord from hearing and answering their prayers. They possess:

**10. Hearts of Faith**

This means their prayers are based on the Word of God and in confidence that the Lord will do what He’s said.

**1 Peter 1:6-7**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

**11. Pure Hearts**

Saints, since sin is a barrier to the Lord’s blessings and hinders His work in a believer’s life, it must be dealt with before effective intercession can occur.

The elders’ hearts must be pure, and the person who is sick should confess his or her sins because there is sometimes a link between the two.

**Matthew 5:8**

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God"

**12. Righteous lifestyles**

Saints, each and every believer who is firmly committed to Jesus and seeks to walk obediently in His will can be a healing agent God can use to intercede for those who are in need.

**Why don’t Christians always follow this pattern?**

Despite the guidelines in the book of James, many Christians fail to apply them because of misunderstandings and excuses.

For example:

**13. They think this pattern only applied to the First Century Church**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**14. They don’t believe it works today**

**Hebrews 13:8-9**

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. 9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

**15. They’re too embarrassed to admit that they need help**

**Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

**16. They’re too Proud to ask for help**

**Proverbs 16:18-19**

18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

**17. They’re afraid to pray for others because their prayers might not be answered.**

**James 1:5-8**

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**18. They’re too embarrassed to confess their sins to someone else**

**James 5:15**

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

**19. They’re consumed with their own needs and believe they don’t have time to sympathize with or pray for others**

**Is Anyone Among You Sick**

**Romans 15:1-4**

1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

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**20. They have sin in their lives and doubt that God can heal**

**1 John 1:7-10**

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

**21. They don’t feel worthy to be used by the Lord**

**Philippians 4:13**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

**In Closing:**

Are you allowing the Lord to use you as an agent of healing in the family of God?

Many people are going through difficulties and need someone to listen and pray for them.

You don’t have to be a pastor or elder to be used by the Lord.

If you’ll allow His Spirit to give you sensitivity to the hurting people around you and seek to become a person with a heart of faith and purity who has a righteous lifestyle, your effective prayers will accomplish much.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**