

James (Lesson 26)

TEXT: James 5:13-16

INTRO: "James thesis in his letter is that genuine faith produces visible results. Belief without corresponding behavior is a bogus faith. He presented a number of tests, including how you respond to temptation, how you speak to others, and your pursuit of godliness. James closed his letter by saying that how you respond to illness is also a test of your faith;"

Robert Jeffress

I. (vs. 13-14a) Self-examination.

A. We are each obligated to recognize our spiritual and physical condition.

1. "Is any among you afflicted?"

NOTE: In verses 10-11 he had referenced examples of believers suffering affliction.

2. "Is any merry?"

NOTE: Are we joyful and cheerful? See Acts 16:22-25; 27:21-25

3. "Is any sick among you?"

NOTE: **Sick** (*astheneo*) means "to be weak, feeble, to be without strength, powerless"

B. James is instructing us how to respond to our particular circumstance.

1. "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray."
2. "Is any merry? let him sing psalms."
3. "Is any sick among you? 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:"

NOTE: Notice the relationship and correlation between the physical and the spiritual. The emphasis is on the spiritual. James says pray!

II. (vs. 14b) Addressing the problem.

A. Start with the spiritual needs.

1. The *elders* are the spiritual leaders in the church.

B. Address physical needs "in the name of the Lord" according to His will.

NOTE: In Biblical times olive oil was a medicinal agent with healing properties. See Luke 10:33-34.

1. If we are sick we may need to see a doctor.

NOTE: King Hezekiah was treated in 2 Kings 20:7. See Matt. 9:10-12 God doesn't need these things to heal but sometimes He chooses to use them. Biblical examples include water, spit and mud. Even the apostle Paul had a physician Luke with him.

III. (vs. 15-16) The power of prayer.

A. The "prayer of faith".

NOTE: I John 5:14-17; Luke 22:42; James 1:6-8

1. Sometimes God says "no".

NOTE: 2 Cor. 12:7-10

B. Confession of sin.

C. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."