# James 5:13-20

## Review…

- As we came to the conclusion this Epistle on Christian living…
  - We tied together all the COMMANDS - with two simple conclusions…
  - Either we will be the RICH or we will be the PATIENT!
- FOUR conclusions for the Rich…
  - They will weep – because they were deceived by the wisdom of this world…
  - They put their trust in corrupted riches / motheaten clothes / corroded silver and gold…
  - All of which will be a wittiness against them – heaped up for the last days!
  - They mistreated their workers – whose cries reach the Lord of the armies of heaven...
  - They lived for pleasure and luxury – but they are like a calf being fattened for the slaughter!
- FOUR conclusions for the PATIENT…
  - PATIENT for the return of the Lord…
  - PATIENT like a farmer – because our reward does not come in this life…
  - PATIENT with others – no SIGHING – because we received PATIENCE from God…
  - PATIENT like the prophets – who did NOT receive the PROMISE in this life!
- ABOVE ALL – we are not to SWEAR…
  - Looking at the TWO options – we might be tempted to SWEAR we will be PATIENT…
  - Do NOT swear – just DO it - let our yes be yes / and our no be no!

## Importance of Prayer…

- **1st – Command to PRAY… vs. 13**
  - SEVEN final commands…
    - Up to this point we have received 51 COMMANDS – on HOW to walk in Christ…
    - As we close up the book – we will be given SEVEN final COMMANDS…
    - Teaching us HOW we are to minister to one another in the church!
  - 1st – Bad mood…
    - Is anyone among you suffering - let him pray!
    - SUFFERING – 4x in NT – compound word – evil and emotions – a BAD mood…
    - This is NOT a question [indicative] – someone among us is in a BAD mood…
    - If we are that person – we are commanded to PRAY [imperative]!
    - PRAY [προσεύχομαι] - to come close to God to share with Him our heart!
    - When problems come - our first response is to get into a BAD mood...
    - Only when it becomes unbearable – in desperation – do we PRAY to God...
    - Yet when we PRAY - we find whatever brought on the BAD mood is gone...
    - Our perspective changes - we see our circumstances in a new light...
    - We no longer see our PROBLEM - we see our God who is greater than ANY problem!
    - **Philippians 4:6** - "Do not worry about anything – instead - pray about everything..."
  - 2nd - How to PRAY…
    - There is not a special or required position when it comes to pray...
    - We see examples in the Bible of praying while standing / sitting / lying down!
    - God does not listen to a prayer made on our knees any more than praying standing...
    - But practically speaking I find it best not to pray lying down - tend to fall asleep...
    - Better to walk and pray - or on our knees - it helps keep us attentive!
    - It is not about the position of our body - it is about the position of the heart...

        - We cannot have a bad prayer - if we have the right heart!
    - 3rd - Who to PRAY to…
        - Prayer is directed toward God in heaven - Our Father - **Luke 11:2**
        - When Peter was walking on the water - took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink...
        - **Matthew 14:30** - "He was terrified and he shouted - Save me Lord!'"
        - The shortest prayer in the Bible - crying out to Jesus in a time of need!
        - Presumably we can also direct our prayers to the Holy Spirit [no NT reference]
        - We pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us – **Acts 1:8** – teach us – **John 14:26**
        - We can pray to the Father / to the Son / or to the Spirit - because they are one!
    - 4th - What to PRAY for…
        - It is good to be specific in our prayers - to give God details...
        - Not that God does not know - God sees the end from the beginning – **Isaiah 46:10**
        - But it allows God to DIRECT us on specific issues - allows God to CHANGE us...
        - Prayer is not about changing HIS mind - getting Him to agree to OUR plans...
        - Prayer is about God changing OUR mind - getting us to line up with HIS plans!
        - **Luke 22:42** - "Nevertheless not my will - but Your will - be done."

- **2ND – COMMAND TO SING… VS. 13**
    - 1st – Good Mood…
        - Is anyone cheerful - let him sing psalms!
        - CHEERFUL [indicative] – 3x in NT – being in a GOOD mood…
        - Also NOT a question [indicative] – someone among is in a GOOD mood…
        - If we are in a GOOD mood - we are commanded [imperative] to sing PSALMS…
        - Sing PSALMS [ψάλλω] – to pluck a string – make pleasant noise!
        - When we are in a GOOD mood – we are to WORSHIP!
    - 2nd – How to WORSHIP…
        - **Ephesians 5:17-20** – "The WILL of the Lord is… be filled with the Spirit - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs - singing and MAKING MELODY in your heart to the Lord - giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
        - It is the WILL of the Lord is that we be FILLED with the Spirit…
        - WHEN we are FILLED - we will speak to one another in PSALMS – the WORD…
        - Making melody [ψάλλω] - singing in our hearts to the Lord!
        - The reason we are in a GOOD MOOD – is because of WHO is in us…
        - When we are filled with the SPIRIT - the result is going to be displayed our attitude…
        - And we are going to have a song in our hearts - because of SPIRIT in our hearts!

- **3RD – COMMAND TO CALL… VS. 14**
    - 1st – The sick…
        - Is anyone among you sick [indicative] …
        - There are THREE ways we can experience DIFFICULTIES in life…
        - We can suffer RELATIONALLY – FINANCIALLY – or PHYSICALLY…
        - SICK [ἀσθενέω] – emotionally overwhelmed – financially lacking – physically ill…
        - Interesting word as it encompasses ALL of the ways we can be SUFFERING!
    - 2nd – CALL the Elders…
        - Let him call for the elders of the church!
        - The SICK are commanded [imperative] to are to CALL – for the ELDERS of the church…
        - ELDERS – [πρεσβύτερος] – those who are OLDER – more mature in faith…
        - In context we would say PASTORS – the leaders of the church!

- This is the OPPOSITE of what we have been hearing for the past TWO years…
- We have been told to STAY at home – keep people safe!
- But God COMMANDS us to come to church – so that we can be HEALED…
- I think the reason we often hesitate – is because we are NOT sure if God will heal...
- We might even wonder IF God can heal – especially if it is more than just a cold...
- But Jesus healed the SICK / made the blind SEE / the lame to WALK / even raised the DEAD!
- And God never changes – He healed in the days of Jesus – He still heals today - **Hebrews 13:8**

- **4TH – COMMAND FOR PASTORS… VS. 14-15**
  - 1st – The PRAYER… vs. 14
    - Let [the Elders] pray over him!
    - The PASTORS are commanded [imperative] to PRAY over the SICK…
    - Interesting – is the PRAYER of a pastor more effective than the PRAYER of others…
    - NO – the point is that we are a family and need each other!
    - People are often very shy about coming and asking for PRAYER…
    - They do not want others to KNOW about their struggles…
    - People might JUDGE them – look DOWN on them – think LESS of them…
    - So instead of finding HELP – they SUFFER in silence [and a BAD mood]
    - But we were never meant to face the challenges of life on our own – we are a FAMILY!
  - 2nd – The ANOINTING… vs. 14
    - Anointing [the sick] with oil in the name of the Lord!
    - ANOINTING – [ἀλείφω] as PART of the PRAYER [participle] – OIL is put on the SICK…
    - NOTE – the OIL is placed on them in the NAME of the LORD [κύριος]
    - There is NO power in the OIL – it is a SYMBOL…
    - **I Samuel 16:13 –** "Samuel took the… oil and anointed [David]… and the Spirit of the LORD came upon [him]."
    - The OIL represents the Holy Spirit – He is the one who heals us!
    - No person / pastor has the gift of healing – the Holy Spirit does the work…
    - If God let one person be a healer - people would begin to follow them rather than God…
    - Instead the Holy Spirit gives the GIFT of healing to the person who is being HEALED…
    - How do we know WHO the Holy Spirit wants to HEAL – step out and PRAY!
    - **I Corinthians 12:11** – "The Spirit distributed to each one individually as He wills…"
  - 3rd – The FAITH… vs. 15
    - 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!
      - The words PRAYER and SICK here - are NOT the same as from the previous verses…
      - PRAYER [εὐχή] – 3x in NT – it is translated VOW in the other places…
      - SICK [κάμνω] – 3x in NT – is translated WEARY in the other places…
      - The VOW of faith will SAVE [future] the WEARY – and the Lord will raise them up!
    - HOW they are SAVED…
      - RAISED up - could refer to PHYSICAL healing – such as you are able to get out of bed…
      - But it could also refer to the ETERNAL – THE resurrection – which seems to be the case…
      - As we are told - even if he has committed any SINS they will be forgiven!
      - Because the GREATEST need of EVERYONE is to be HEALED of our SINS!
    - WHO makes the VOW…
      - This could be talking about the VOW of the PASTORS that save the WEARY…
      - Because in FAITH they point people to the LORD – who is able to SAVE!
      - This could also be talking about the VOW the WEARY person is making…
      - In FAITH they come to the PASTORS of the church for PRAYER to be SAVED!

- I am ok with either view – and do not really have a preference…
- Either way is speaks of WHO the object of our FAITH is – Jesus who can SAVE!

▪ Not enough FAITH…
- There is one view that is NOT correct – if we have enough FAITH we will be healed!
- We are told Elisha became sick and was going to die - **II Kings 13:14**
- Interesting that a man who could heal the SICK / and raise the DEAD…
- Was himself now SICK – and could NOT keep himself from DYING!
- There are those who say – if you are SICK it is because we lack FAITH…
- Yet Elisha had LOTS of FAITH – but could NOT heal himself!
- From cancer to the common cold - God can heal those who are SICK…
- But whether or not we get SICK / or whether or not God HEALS us…
- Is NOT based on our FAITH – it is about the purpose and plan of God!

- **5TH – COMMAND TO CONFESS… VS. 16**
  - 1st – CONFESS…
    - Confess your trespasses…
    - CONFESS [ἐξομολογέω] – to freely talk about our FAILURES…
    - We are COMMANDED [imperative] to not HIDE what we have done WRONG!
    - Many times people who are SICK – pretend like they are NOT…
    - They avoid the DOCTOR – hoping somehow they will miraculously get BETTER…
    - But because they did not CONFESS – often their SICKNESS gets WORSE!
    - We show up on a SUNDAY – with our BEST outfits – and PLASTIC smiles…
    - Because we want everyone to THINK we are doing GOOD…
    - But the ONLY person we are fooling is ourselves – we are all FAILURES…
    - In order for us to get BETTER – we need to CONFESS our PROBLEMS!
  - 2nd – ONE another…
    - To one another!
    - We do not just CONFESS our FAILURES to God for salvation – **I John 1:9**
    - We CONFESS our FAILURES to ONE another for restoration!
    - Because when we sin – it does not just effect our lives – it impacts those around us!
    - When I was a kid – I went to the house of a friend and borrowed a game without asking…
    - When he found out I was FULL of excuses – THOUSAND reasons why what I did was OK…
    - But he rebuked me – just say you are SORRY so I can FORGIVE you!
    - We will ALWAYS have reasons why we should not CONFESS…
    - We are RIGHT – the other person is WRONG / NOT a big deal – they are just OVERREACTING…
    - But until we are willing to CONFESS - there cannot be restoration of the relationship!
    - **Matthew 5:23-24** – "If you [come to worship] and… remember that your brother has something against you… first be reconciled to your brother - and then come and [worship]."

- **6TH – PRAY FOR EACH OTHER… VS. 16-18**
  - 1st – Healing…vs. 16
    - Pray for one another - that you may [subjunctive] be healed!
    - We are COMMANDED [imperative] to PRAY [εὔχομαι] for each other to be HEALED!
    - HEALED [ἰάομαι] – to be free from SIN – to be made WHOLE…
    - In CONTEXT the HEALING we are talking about is our RELATIONSHIPS!
    - When there is no HEALING of fractured RELATIONSHIPS in the church – it causes DIVISION…
    - And DIVISION keeps the church from being effective for Jesus - keeps us from shining...
    - Rather than seeing the love of Jesus in us - the world sees us FIGHTING each other...

- Satan loves to cause DIVISION within the church - then we will not be able to FIGHT him…
- We are too exhausted from FIGHTING ourselves - no energy left to FIGHT for a lost world!
- **Luke 11:17** - "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls."

o 2nd – Effective PRAYER… vs. 16
- The effective - fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much!
- EFFECTIVE fervent – [ἐνεργέω] – where we get ENERGY…
- PRAYER [δέησις] – 19x in NT – carries the idea of making an URGENT plea to God…
- If someone makes and ENERGETIC and URGENT plea to God – it is POWERFUL!
- What is the urgent PRAYER – to RESTORE a brother who has SINNED!
- If we knew someone who made a MISTAKE - and EVERYONE at church knew about it...
- That person is already HURTING - BROKEN over their sin - ASHAMED of what they did...
- And if when they show up - everyone STARES / WHISPERS behind their back...
- They feel abandoned / discouraged – and will NOT come back to church!
- Satan would love to keep a sinner from being restored by the GRACE of God...
- If he can keep someone CONDEMNED - beating themselves up - he will...
- Do not let satan ROB the church – take a child of God Jesus died to SAVE!
- If we know someone who has FAILED – pray FERVENTLY for them – reach out to them!
- Instead of WHISPERING – we are to walk over and give them a hug!
- Show them they are welcomed back into the family of God!
- **II Corinthians 2:11** - "Lest Satan should take advantage of us - for we are not ignorant of his devices."

o 3rd - Example of Elijah… vs. 17-18
- First PRAYER…
  - 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!
  - We are given an Old Testament example to illustrate FERVENT prayer…
  - ELIJAH - was a man with a NATURE like ours…
  - NATURE like ours [ὁμοιοπαθής] – to have SIMILAR struggles…
  - He lived in an EVIL nation – under the rule of an EVIL King - Ahab…
  - Ahab and his wife Jezebel KILLED most of the prophets of God…
  - In judgement of their SIN – Elijah prayer EARNESTLY…
  - EARNESTLY – noun for PRAYED – he PRAYED a PRAYER [just once]
  - And there was NO rain in Israel for THREE and a half years – **I Kings 17:1**
  - Seeking RESTORATION does NOT mean we PRAY that God overlooks SIN…
  - It means just the opposite – we PRAY that God will bring CONSEQUENCES…
  - It is hard to see someone destroy their lives with poor choices...
  - There are people who do not WANT to stop SINNING - they like their SIN...
  - All we can do is WAIT - till their CONSEQUENCES have BROKEN them…
  - If someone wants SIN – there is NOTHING we can do to help them - but PRAY!
- Second PRAYER…
  - [ELISHA] prayed again - and the heaven gave rain - and the earth produced its fruit!
  - After THREE and a half years Elijah faced off against the false prophets of Baal – **I Kings 18**
  - He told them to meet at Mount Carmel for a duel – a test to who was the real God…
  - The prophets of Baal spent most of the day trying to call down fire on their altar – nothing!
  - Elijah then told the people to pour FOUR large jars of water over the altar – THREE times…
  - Then he PRAYED - and immediately FIRE from the Lord fell down from heaven…
  - It consumed the sacrifice – the wood – the stones – and all the water!

- When the people saw it they fell on their faces – the LORD He is God!
- They captured the prophets of Baal – and put them all to death - **Deuteronomy 18:20**
- THEN Elijah PRAYED again for it to rain – but it took SEVEN times – before the RAIN came!

- Why did it ONLY take ONE prayer for ELISHA to STOP the rain…
- But it took SEVEN prayers for the rain to come again…
- Perhaps because ELISHA did not want the people to be FORGIVEN!
- Because it is EASIER to pray for CONSEQUENCES than for RESTORATION…
- When people HURT us – it is HARD to pray for God to forgive them…
- But when we PRAY – even if it is half hearted at first – it begins to change us…
- We stop seeing people in the light of what they DID…
- And we start to see them in the light of what God wants to DO…
- FERVENT prayer changes us – so we see people the way God does!

- **7TH – COMMAND TO KNOW… VS. 19-20**
  - 1st – Wandering from TRUTH…
    - Brethren - if anyone among you wanders from the truth - and someone turns him back…
    - WANDER [πλανάω] – to be led away from the TRUTH / Jesus…
    - And instead puts their eyes on the PLANET / WORLD…
    - Our desire should be to see them TURN back to Jesus – REPENT…
    - How do we HELP them TURN – we give them ACCOUNTABILITY!
    - Being willing to ask them the hard questions...
    - If they struggle with LUST - have you looked at those pictures...
    - If they struggle with DRINKING - have you been tempted to pick up the bottle...
    - NOT so that we can CONDEMN them - but to HELP them avoid SIN!
    - **Galatians 6:1** – "If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness."
  - 2nd – Save a SOUL…
    - 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!
    - If we HELP someone to REPENT – come back to Jesus…
    - KNOW [imperative] – we are to understand - we have saved a soul from DEATH!
    - Spiritual DEATH – because SIN will cause us to walk away from Heaven!
    - **Hebrews 3:13** – "Exhort one another daily - while it is called Today - lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."
    - It is hard to CONFRONT people about SIN – especially those who we care about...
    - We might think it is better NOT to CONFRONT someone who is SINNING...
    - But the truth is leaving someone in their SIN - is risking their ETERNITY...
    - Therefore - we are called to HELP them in spite of how we fear it might HURT them...
    - Not that we can make them REPENT – it is their CHOICE - but we can WARN them…
    - Our motive needs to be LOVE - we want to see them clean / forgiven - **Ephesians 4:15**
    - We want them to TURN – see them restored to their relationship to Jesus!
    - And if we do NOT warn them – God will hold us ACCOUNTABLE!
    - **Ezekiel 33:8** – "If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to warn them about changing their ways, then they will die in their sins, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths."