# James 5:13-20

# Review...

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

# IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER...

- 1<sup>ST</sup> COMMAND TO PRAY... vs. 13
  - o 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!
  - o 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..."
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!
- $4^{th}$  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."

#### • $2^{ND}$ - Command to SING... vs. 13

- o 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!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

## • 3<sup>RD</sup> - COMMAND TO CALL... vs. 14

- o  $1^{st}$  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!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

# • $4^{TH}$ - Command for Pastors... vs. 14-15

- o 1<sup>st</sup> 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!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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..."
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [ $\kappa \acute{\alpha} \mu \nu \omega$ ] 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!

## • 5<sup>TH</sup> - COMMAND TO CONFESS... vs. 16

- o 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!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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]."

#### • $6^{TH}$ - PRAY for each other... vs. 16-18

- o 1<sup>st</sup> Healing...vs. 16
  - Pray for one another that you may [subjunctive] be healed!
  - We are COMMANDED [imperative] to PRAY [εὕχομαι] 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

## • 7<sup>TH</sup> - COMMAND TO KNOW... vs. 19-20

- o 1<sup>st</sup> 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."
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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."