

James 5:13-20

Dec. 8, 2020

Week 12

The gift of speech is a marvelous blessing, if it is used to the glory of God. As we have seen, James had a great deal to say about the tongue; and this chapter is no exception.

Prayer is certainly a high and holy privilege. To think that, as God's children, we can come freely and boldly to His throne and share with Him our needs! The mature Christian is prayerful in the troubles of life. In this section, James encourages us to pray by describing four situations in which God answers prayer.

I. Prayer for the _____ (v13)

- What should we do in trying times? _____
- We don't all go through troubles at the same time: "is anyone cheerful?"
- God _____ our lives and gives times of _____ and times of _____.
- The mature believer knows how to _____ while he _____.

II. Prayer for the _____ (vs14-16)

James doesn't give a blanket formula for healing the sick. What are some special characteristics of this case James is describing?

- Person _____ sick because of _____. (15b-16)
- Person _____ his sins. (16)
- Person is _____ by the _____ of _____ (15)

III. Prayer for the _____ (vs17-18)

James used Elijah as an example of a "righteous man" whose prayers released power.

IV. Prayer for the _____ (vs19-20)

While he didn't specifically name prayer here the implication is there.

These verses deal with our ministry to a fellow believer who strays from the truth and gets into sin.

- Such a condition is very _____ because the _____
may be _____ by God.
- It is also dangerous because the offender may _____ others.
- What are we to do when we see a fellow believer wander from the truth?
 - _____ for them
 - Seek to _____ them.

This brings us to the end of our study in James. His emphasis has been spiritual maturity. This is a good time to to examine our own hearts to see how mature we really are. Here are a few questions to assist:

1. Am I becoming more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?
3. Do i find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?
6. Am I able to control my tongue?
7. Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?
8. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?
9. Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in the paying of my bills?
10. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?
11. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?
12. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?