

Handout for Lesson 10 – James & Jude

James 5:13-20

The Individual at Prayer: A Basic Principle (v. 13)

1. James has encouraged steadfastness in suffering; he now encourages prayer in suffering and son in joy.
2. Our whole life should be so angled toward God that whatever strikes us, whether joy or sorrow, should be deflected up into His presence.

The Elders at Prayer: A Call Answered (vv. 14-15)

1. Three observations to set the scene.
 - a. James associates the ministry of anointing and prayer with the elders.
 - b. The sick person is to be anointed with oil.
 - c. We must not approach the special things that God does in such a way as to think little or less of His general and providential blessings.
2. A look at the picture in detail.
 - a. The sick person and his request.

- i. How serious is the illness?
 - ii. The sick person and his sin.
- b. The elders and their ministry.
 - i. Two duties of the elders – anoint with oil and pray.
 - α. Anointing with oil.
 - β. Praying over the sick person.

Brothers Joining in Prayer: A Spirit of Reconciliation (v. 16a)

1. From vv. 14-15 we should have learned that prayer is powerful.
2. Two questions are important:
 - a. What is the *confession* that James has in view?
 - b. What is the *healing* that James connects with confession and prayer?

The Prophet at Prayer: An Example of Its Power (vv. 16b-18)

1. The power of prayer is not limited to some kind of “super saint.”
2. Despite having “a nature like ours,” when

Elijah prayed there was a result that only God could bring about.

3. “In prayer he prayed” is the literal translation.

The Fellowship of Concern: The Ministry of Reconciliation (vv. 19-20)

1. James encourages every brother to restore every other brother who wanders from the saving truth into sin and spiritual death.
2. Can a “brother” so sin as to be eternally lost?
3. What are the results when a brother “turns back” a brother who has strayed?
 - a. A soul is saved from death.
 - b. A multitude of sins are covered?
4. With these words James brings his epistle to a close.