



The Book of James: Chapter 5:13-18

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal the depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹³ Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. ¹⁴ Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.</p> <p>¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops. (James 5:13–18 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? 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. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. (James 5:13–18 ESV)</p>	<p>¹³ Are there any believers in your fellowship suffering great hardship and distress? Encourage them to pray! Are there happy, cheerful ones among you? Encourage them to sing out their praises! ¹⁴ Are there any sick among you? Then ask the elders of the church to come and pray over the sick and anoint them with oil in the name of our Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faiths will heal the sick and the Lord will raise them up, and if they have committed sins they will be forgiven.</p> <p>¹⁶ Confess and acknowledge how you have offended one another and then pray for one another to be instantly healed, for tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer!</p> <p>¹⁷ Elijah was a man with human frailties, just like all of us, but he prayed and received supernatural answers. He actually shut the heavens over the land so there would be no rain for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then he prayed again and the skies opened up over the land so that the rain came again and produced the harvest. (James 5:13-18 PASSION)</p>

- KEY WORDS...

- **Suffering**

- S G2553 *kakopatheo* 3x
- **Mounce...**to suffer evil or afflictions, 2 Tim. 2:9; to be afflicted, troubled, dejected, Jas. 5:13; in NT to show endurance in trials and afflictions, 2 Tim. 4:5.
- **Vines...**“to illtreat” (kakos, “evil,” and echo, “to have”), is used in the passive voice in Heb. 11:37, RV, “evil entreated” (KJV, “tormented”); in 13:3, RV, “are evil entreated” (KJV, “suffer adversity”).

- **Pray**

- S G4336 *proseuchomai* 85x

- **Mounce...**to pray, offer prayer, Mt. 5:44; 6:5, 6 pray.
- **Vines...**“to pray,” is always used of “prayer” to God, and is the most frequent word in this respect, especially in the Synoptists and Acts, once in Romans, 8:26; in Ephesians, 6:18; in Philippians, 1:9; in 1 Timothy, 2:8; in Hebrews, 13:18; in Jude, v. 20. For the injunction in 1 Thess. 5:17, see Cease.

• Praise

- S G5567 *psallo* 5x
- **Mounce...**to move by a touch, to twitch; to touch, strike the strings or chords of an instrument; absol. to play on a stringed instrument; to sing to music; in NT to sing praises, Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Jas. 5:13* ~ sing.
- **Vines...**primarily, “to twitch” or “twang” (as a bowstring, etc.), then, “to play” (a stringed instrument with the fingers), in the Sept., to sing psalms, denotes, in the NT, to sing a hymn, sing “praise”; in Jas. 5:13, RV, “sing praise” (KJV, “sing psalms”). See Melody, Sing.

• Sick

- S G770 *astheneo* 33x
- **Mounce...**to be weak, infirm, deficient in strength; to be inefficient, Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 13:3; to be sick, Mt. 25:36; met. to be weak in faith, to doubt, hesitate, be unsettled, timid, Rom. 14:1; 1 Cor. 8:9, 11, 12; 2 Cor. 11:29; to be deficient in authority, dignity, or power, be contemptible, 2 Cor. 11:21; 13:3, 9; to be afflicted, distressed, needy, Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 12:10; 13:4, 9 sick; weak.
- **Vines...**lit., “to be weak, feeble” (a, negative, sthenos, “strength”), is translated “to be sick,” e.g., in Matt. 10:8, “(the) sick”; 25:36; v. 39 in the best texts (some have B, No. 1); Mark 6:56; Luke 4:40; 7:10 (RV omits the word); 9:2; John 4:46; 5:3, RV (KJV, “impotent folk”); v. 7; 6:2, RV (KJV, “were diseased”); 11:1-3, 6; Acts 9:37; 19:12; Phil. 2:26, 27; 2 Tim. 4:20; Jas. 5:14. See Diseased, B, No. 1, Impotent, and, especially, Weak.

• Raise up

- S G1453 *egeiro* 144x
- **Mounce...**to excite, arouse, awaken, Mt. 8:25; mid. to awake, Mt. 2:13, 20, 21; met. mid. to rouse one’s self to a better course of conduct, Rom. 13:11; Eph. 5:14; to raise from the dead, Jn. 12:1; and mid. to rise from the dead, Mt. 27:52; Jn. 5:21; met. to raise as it were from the dead, 2 Cor. 4:14; to raise up, cause to rise up from a prone posture, Acts 3:7; and mid. to rise up, Mt. 17:7; to restore to health, Jas. 5:15; met. et seq. e’ph/, to excite to war; mid. to rise up against, Mt. 24:7; to raise up again, rebuild, Jn. 2:19, 20; to raise up from a lower place, to draw up or out of a ditch, Mt. 12:10; from Hebrew, to raise up, to cause to arise or exist, Acts 13:22, 23; mid. to arise, exist, appear, Mt. 3:9; 11:11 raise; rise up; waken.
- **Vines...**for the various meanings of which see Arise, No. 3, is used (a) of “raising” the dead, active and passive voices, e.g. of the resurrection of Christ, Matt. 16:21; 17:23; 20:19, RV; 26:32, RV, “(after) I am raised up” (KJV, “... risen again”); Luke 9:22; 20:37; John 2:19; Acts 3:15; 4:10 [not 5:30, see (c) below]; 10:40 [not 13:23 in the best texts, see (c) below]; 13:30, 37; Rom. 4:24, 25; 6:4, 9; 7:4; 8:11 (twice); 8:34, RV; 10:9; 1 Cor. 6:14 (1st part); 15:13, 14, RV; 15:15 (twice), 16, 17; 15:20, RV; 2 Cor. 4:14; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Pet. 1:21; in 2 Tim. 2:8, RV, “risen”; (b) of the resurrection of human beings, Matt. 10:8; 11:5; Matt. 27:52. RV (KJV, “arose”); Mark 12:26, RV; Luke 7:22; John 5:21; 12:1, 9, 17; Acts 26:8; 1 Cor. 15:29 and 32, RV; 15:35, 42, 43 (twice), 44, 52; 2 Cor. 1:9; 4:14; Heb. 11:19; (c) of “raising” up a person to occupy a place in the midst of a people, said of Christ, Acts 5:30; in 13:23, KJV only (the best texts have ago, to bring, RV, “hath ... brought”); of David, Acts 13:22 (for v. 33 see No. 2); (d) metaphorically, of a horn of salvation, Luke 1:69; (e) of children, from stones, by creative power, Luke 3:8; (f) of the Temple, as the Jews thought, John 2:20, RV, “wilt Thou raise (it) Up”

(KJV, “rear”); (g) of “lifting” up a person, from physical infirmity, Mark 1:31, RV, “raised ... up” (KJV, “lifted”); so 9:27; Acts 3:7; 10:26, RV (KJV, “took”); Jas. 5:15, “shall raise ... up”; (h) metaphorically, of “raising” up affliction, Phil. 1:17, RV (in the best texts; the KJV, v. 16, following those which have epiphoro, has “to add”). See Awake, No. 1.

• **Power**

- S G2480 *ischuo* 28x
- **Mounce...**to be strong, be well, be in good health, Mt. 9:12; to have power, be able, Mt. 8:28; 26:40; to have power or efficiency, avail, be valid, Gal. 5:6; Heb. 9:17; to be of service, be serviceable, Mt. 5:13; meton. to prevail, Acts 19:16; Rev. 12:8 (be) able; overpower; prevail; (be) strong.
- **Vines...**“ability force, strength,” is nowhere translated “power” in the RV (KJV in 2 Thess. 1:9). See Ability, No. 2.

- **THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS...**

The right way to pray is to stretch out our hands and ask of One who we know has the heart of a Father. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, he trembles as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end. ~ R.A. Torrey

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? ~ Corrie Ten Boom

Intensity is a law of prayer. God is found by those who seek Him with all their heart. Wrestling prayer prevails. The fervent effectual prayer of the righteous is of great force. ~ Samuel Chadwick

Our prayers lay the track down on which God’s power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails. ~ Watchman Nee

Both sin and sickness came into the world through the fall of the human race. Therefore, we must look for the healing of both in the savior of the human race. God is as willing to heal believers as He is to forgive unbelievers. Know this, if He was merciful enough to forgive you when you were unconverted, He is merciful enough to heal you now that you are in His family! ~ T.L. Osborn

- **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- If we are supposed to pray when we are going through hardships, and if some of God’s best work in our lives is accomplished when we are most uncomfortable, how should we pray for each other and ourselves when we are suffering hardships?
- If it’s true that God many times heals through us, what is the connection James is making between asking the elders to pray, anointing with oil and praying in the name of Jesus? Is this really a “formula” for praying for the sick?
- How can you know that you are “praying in faith?” Is it all about the fruit of the prayer or is there something deeper going on?
- Is James actually encouraging believers to confess their sins to the elders to be forgiven? Compare James 5:15 to 1 John 1:9.
- Is there a connection in verse 16 between “confessing our sins” to each other and “the prayer of the righteous person?” In other words, does the humility it takes to confess our sins and pray for one another actually help us move towards righteousness? If yes, how?
- What does it mean that, “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,” and how does that encourage you to pray?