

# **Family Health**

**3-8-26**

James 5:13 (ESV)

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

**Prayer of Faith would be an appropriate title, but this section focuses on healthy living through prayer. God is instructing the church, “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.” Suffering means to suffer external hardship. NIV accurately uses the word trouble meaning external misfortunes, like Job suffered. The response to such evil is not counterattack or resignation but to go to the Lord in prayer.**

Psalm 91:14–15 (ESV)

God says, “Because he holds fast to ME in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows MY name. When he calls to ME, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.”

**Prayer includes singing praise to God when we are cheerful.**

Philippians 4:4 (ESV) NO/OH

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

**Now God moves from the external to the internal.**

James 5:14 (ESV)

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.

**Here we see the family relationship of the church body with each other and the Elders. Anyone within the church body who is sick is encouraged to call on the Elders to pray over them and anoint them with oil. It is interesting that the elders are called, and not people with a specific gift of healing as in 1Corinthians. Healing gifts are not even a requirement for selection of Elders.**

**However, we see here that God is recognizing that the “office” of Elder carries with it “positional authority” given by God to carry out the work of God. Thus:**

1 Timothy 4:14 (ESV)

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of Elders laid their hands on you.

**With this “positional” power of healing, elders are directed to anoint the sick person with oil in the Name of the Lord when they pray over them.**

**Anointing with oil is an outward and physically perceptible sign of the spiritual power of prayer, as well as a sign of the authority of the one praying. Notice the authority of Jesus' disciples. Mark 6:13 (ESV)**

And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

**The Bible reveals that “anointing with oil” has a symbolic, but a very real declaration of faith. In Exodus 40:14-15 (NASB) Moses anointed with oil those who would serve him as priest. The reason for the anointing is clearly stated, ... “their anointing will qualify them for the office” ...**

**Note: anointing with oil was to show that they were qualified. Also, in 2Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV), ... “God anointed us, and set his seal of ownership on us. ...” Note: anointing with oil was to show that God had ownership over them.**

**Important, when Elders anoint the sick with oil, as part of their prayer, they are claiming before God that the sick person is owned by God and is qualified for healing. Like communion, when we take the wine and the bread, we acknowledge that we participate in Jesus' death.**

**By anointing with oil, the elders are declaring God's power to heal. Thus:**

James 5:15 (ESV)

And the prayer of faith will save (make whole) the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

The picture is of the Elders praying 'over' the 'sick man' in his bed and the Lord intervening to *raise him up* from that bed. The Elders prayer of faith is hearing God and then acting on what they heard. **To Pray In Faith: We hear God then we pray what God told us. Then God will do what HE told us. The Elders' faith is critical.** Nothing is said about the faith of the sick person. Not only are the Elders asked to pray, but as leaders of the church, they are also required to minister to the person requesting prayer giving counsel as needed. **As Elders their ministry is to the whole person.** Sin may be the underlying reason for the illness. Pastors have witnessed healing take place when a person confesses being resentful, carrying a grudge, holding onto crippling unforgiveness. **Dealing with "sin" may be the door to healing.**

**In context of healing, the primary purpose for these prayers is for the whole health of the individual and church family. This is very clear in the next verse. Therefore:**

James 5:16a (ESV)

**Therefore**, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

**There is not any judgement here. God is concerned about church family health.**

Proverbs 3:7–8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD AND turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones.

**Remember where it begins.**

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.