

WALK THE WALK

A serious look at the letter from James

James

For the church to be relevant in the 21st century, we need to be mature, trustworthy, and faithful.

James 5:7-13-20

*For the church to be mature,
trustworthy, and faithful...*

*...we need to have a perspective
on life that makes prayer a necessity
for any and all situations.*

...prayer as a necessity...

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*...engaging the God of
all compassion and all mercy
with all the 'stuff' of our lives
and all the 'stuff' of the world around us
is the most important event of each day.*

James 5:13-20

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.

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...to suffer evil,

...to endure affliction.

experiencing *painful*
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that *seems* to be a
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To bring our suffering before the Lord, the One who has a purpose for our lives, and whose inclination toward us is compassion and mercy.

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...to keep up your spirit,

...to be of good courage.

A positive disposition and
courageous morale in the
midst of the trials of life.

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To courageously embrace God's compassion and mercy in a way that makes music in a heart of faith-filled joy.

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on in the name of the Lord.

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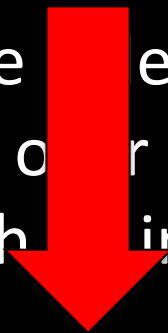
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Physical 'sickness'

...or a...

Spiritual 'sickness'?

...Or...

Both?

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...to be weak;

...to be without strength;

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II Corinthians 12:9-10

The Lord said to Paul, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”* Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.

For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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Romans 14:1-2

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. “One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.”

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I Thessalonians 5:14-15

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil,
but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

14 Is anyone among you _____ sick or weak?

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.

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15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who
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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.

19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,
20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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Do you find yourself in the midst of suffering a hardship that seems like a "set-back" or a "road-block" that you are having a hard time getting through or getting over?

Take whatever it might be to the Lord, who is compassionate and merciful, who understands the struggle that you are going through, and who is reliable to walk you through it.

So.....therefore.....what now?

Are you in a place where you have seen God's compassion and mercy impact the trials in your life?

So.....therefore.....what now?

Are you in a place where you have seen God's compassion and mercy impact the trials in your life?

Take the time to stop and acknowledge the goodness of God by expressing your thankfulness to Him....
....be courageous by living on top of the circumstances of your life.

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Are you having a hard time dealing with the trials in your life and find yourself weak, depressed, discouraged, hopeless, isolated, wilting under the weight?

So.....therefore.....what now?

Are you having a hard time dealing with the trials in your life and find yourself weak, depressed, discouraged, hopeless, isolated, wilting under the weight?

Do not stay in your isolation...

...instead, ask others (Elders) to come along side you and pray for you in the brute realities of your life so you can experience the healing touch of God at a heart level.

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In order for the church to be relevant in the 21st century we need to...

...courageously bring our real lives,
and the real us,

into the presence of the real God,
so that we can deal with our reality through the
hope we find in a resurrected Christ.