

Intro:

XVII. The Power of Righteous Praying

A. Prayer and Comfort - vs 13

1. Practical care for those suffering

a. **kakopatheo** - to undergo hardship:--be afflicted, endure afflictions (hardness), suffer trouble.

b. refers to enduring evil treatment by people, not physical illness - 2 Ti 2:9; 4:5

c. the antidote - Let him pray

i. Who are they praying

- the Father of mercies and God of all comfort - 2 Co 1:3

- casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you - 1Pe 5:7

ii. Present Tense indicating continual pleading

2. Practical encouragement for the cheerful

a. **euthumeo** - to cheer up, be cheerful; more cheerfully:--be of good cheer (merry).

i. describes those who are well in spirit or a joyful attitude

ii. Not describing the physical aspect

b. Let him sing psalms.

i. **psallo** - to twitch or twang, to play on a stringed instrument (celebrate the divine worship with music and accompanying odes):--make melody, sing (psalms).

ii. Verb form of the noun - Psalm - Eph 5:19; Col 3:16

iii. Praise is a one aspect of prayer

3. The suffering and the happy are both to pray

a. the sufferer is to plead to God

b. The joyful is to praise the Lord

B. Prayer and Restoration - vs 14-15

1. sick

a. **astheneo** - to be feeble (in any sense):--be diseased, impotent folk (man), (be) sick, (be, be made) weak.

i. used 35 times in NT

ii. Translated 18 times as sick - Mt 10:8; 25:36, 39; Mk 6:56; Lk 4:40; Jo 4:46

iii. 14 times used for emotional or spiritual weakness - Ac 20:35; Ro 4:19; 8:3

iv. In the epistles all but 3 refer to other than physical illness

v. James does have a tendency to follow Matthew

vi. Using weak here instead of sick would make sense in the context of suffering believers spoken of in 5:7-11

b. Suffering can bring one to the point of giving up, not able to help themselves

2. Let him call for the elders of the church

a. **proskaleomai** - to call toward oneself, i.e. summon, invite:--call (for, to, unto).

b. let them pray over him

i. A primary ministry of Elders

ii. Acts 6:4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

c. anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord

i. **aleipho** - oil (with perfume):--anoint.

- ii. Not used in NT of ceremonial anointing
  - to rub as in medical treatment
  - treatment for injuries received from persecution - Lu 10:34 - the good Samaritan
  - the rubbing would stimulate blood flow increasing the bodies ability to recover or heal
- iii. The Elders were to stimulate, encourage, strengthen, and refresh the suffering brother
- iv. in the name of the Lord - true biblical encouragement is consistent with who God is

### 3. The result

- a. the prayer of faith will save the sick,
  - i. *sozo* - to save, deliver or protect:--heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be **(make) whole**.
  - ii. *kamno* - to toil, to tire:--faint, sick, be **wearied** - Heb 12:3
- b. the Lord will raise him up.
  - i. *egeiro* - to waken, rouse (from sleep, from sitting or lying, from disease, from death; from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence):--awake, lift (up), raise (again, up), rear up, (a-)rise (again, up), stand, take up.
  - ii. God uses the ministry of the elders to restore this person to viability and service again

### 4. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- a. sin also brings spiritual defeat
- b. if the spiritual weakness comes do to sin, confession is God's answer - 1 Jo 1:9; Ps 32:5; Pr 28:13

### C. Prayer and Fellowship - vs 16a

- 1. Confess your trespasses to one another, pray for one another,
  - a. instead of waiting until sin drags one into spiritual defeat
  - b. confess
    - i. *exomologeō* - to acknowledge or agree fully:--confess, profess, promise.
    - ii. Present active indicative - confessing continually
    - iii. To expose and deal with, with the help of a loving fellowship
- 2. that you may be healed.
  - a. *iaomai* - to cure:--heal, make whole.
  - b. again, not necessarily physical, also refers to spiritual restoration

### D. Prayer and Power - vs 16b-18

- 1. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
  - a. effective, fervent - *energeo* - to be active, efficient:--do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in). - Pr 15:8; 28:9
  - b. avails much - lit. - is very strong
- 2. The illustration of Elijah
  - a. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
    - i. hungered - 1 Kgs 17:11
    - ii. feared - 1 Kgs 19:3
    - iii. Suffered from depression - 1 Kgs 19:3, 9-14 - lends credence to the healing in view in this passage
  - b. and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;
    - i. and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
    - ii. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit - again, a spiritual blessing on a land devastated by sin