

## The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 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. 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. 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. 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. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

James 5:13–18

### What is the "prayer of faith"? (v.15)

- The emphasis is not on *the amount* of faith, but simply on the elders' trust in Christ Himself.
- There is a type of request, made by faith in Jesus, that does lead to healing (cf. 1 Cor 12:9).
- James does not imply that every prayer for healing will inevitably lead to healing (cf. James 1:2-4; 5:7-12).
- Anytime we have a physical illness, the first person we should turn to is God.

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### Trust the Lord in Prayer

1. In every season, we should speak to God.
2. God encourages us to trust him for all our needs, including healing from sickness.
  - There are times when God chooses not to heal (2 Cor 12:7-9; 1 Timothy 5:23, Titus 3:20), not because of a lack of faith, but for His own hidden purposes.

### Trust the Lord in Prayer

1. In every season, we should speak to God.
2. God encourages us to trust him for all our needs, including healing from sickness.
3. Pray because God is listening.