



Effective Fervent Prayer (James 5:13-20)

Suffering and Prayer

“Is anyone among you **suffering**? Let him **pray**. Is anyone **cheerful**? Let him **sing psalms**. 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 sick**, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has **committed sins, he will be forgiven**. **Confess your trespasses to one another**, and **pray for one another**, that you may be healed. The **effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much**. **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours**, and he **prayed earnestly** that it **would not rain; and it did not rain** on the land for three years and six months. And he **prayed again, and the heaven gave rain**, and the earth produced its fruit.” James 5:13-18 NKJV

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☑ “Is anyone among you **suffering**? Let him **pray**. Is anyone **cheerful**? Let him **sing psalms**.” James 5:13 NKJV

☑ Suffering?

- ☑ Suffering is a part of living. Why? Because creation continues in chaos. The further we get from Adam's sin, the more creation suffers. It's not that the blood of Y'shua did not accomplish what it was supposed to accomplish; it's simply that His blood was NOT supposed to fix the pointless disorder. That is for us to do!
- ☑ *"For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us**. For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God**. For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in **hope**; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God**. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together **until now**." Romans 8:18-22 NKJV*
- ☑ It is not the purpose of this study explain all the deep prophetic concepts here (you can study those ideas extensively in any number of teachings on the [KEM website](#) by just searching for Romans 8:18-22.)

- ☑ For today's purpose, I just want you to digest a few pieces of solid food.
- ☑ #1 Suffering is inevitable in a broken universe.
- ☑ #2 Creation is broken because of what man did.
- ☑ #3 Because man did it, he has to fix it.
- ☑ #4 When mankind finally becomes what God intends (because of the shed blood of Christ) then creation will be restored.
- ☑ #5 The final transformation of mankind (the glory revealed in us) is called "the revealing of the sons of God."
- ☑ **Pray:** for now, the approach to the suffering of mankind is called prayer.
- ☑ **Cheerful?**
 - ☑ Life is not entirely about suffering. There are many, many things to celebrate and for which to give thanks. The scriptures teach that "The joy of the Lord is our strength."
 - ☑ "And ***Nehemiah***, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "***This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.***" For all the people wept, ***when they heard the words of the Law.*** Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and

*send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared;
for this day is holy to our Lord. **Do not sorrow, for the
joy of the Lord is your strength.**”* Nehemiah 8:9-10
NKJV

- ☑ The Word (law) of God was restored to the people after Babylonian exile (70 Years).
- ☑ The reading of God’s word takes place in public for the first time since the fall of Judah.
- ☑ God’s Word is a continual source of joy.
- ☑ **Sing Psalms:** David was the quintessential worshiper as He gave thanks to God in both times of suffering and times of victory!
- ☑ **Empathy**
 - ☑ Connect with people at their point of need. Be sensitive to what is happening in their lives. A life of faith is an others-focused life.
 - ☑ *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”* Romans 12:15 NKJV
- ☑ **Empathy means connection, not hypocrisy or flattery.**
 - ☑ Paul mastered becoming all things to all people. It simply meant he knew how to connect with people, to enter their worlds and ensure them that he understood their needs, pains, desires, outlook and worldview. He did not

become their sin and dysfunction; but he did powerfully connect with them on a heart level, so they believed he understood their sin and dysfunction!

☑ ***“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”***

I Corinthians 9:19-22 NKJV

☑ *“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 sick**, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed **sins, he will be forgiven**.” James 5:14-15 NKJV*

☑ **Sick?**

☑ **Call the elders to pray:** Elders are the mature leaders who have born out a testimony of faith over time. They don't

blow in the wind; are not carried away by every whim and desire; and not deceived by every brand of doctrine. They are steadfast and dependable—tried and true.

When what is needed is a miracle, who better to ask?

- ☑ **Anoint with Oil:** This should be of no surprise as James consistently connects to his Judaism. The primary purpose of anointing with the holy anointing oil was to sanctify, to set the anointed person or object apart as “holy.” (See the making and use of anointing oil in Exodus 30:22-33)
- ☑ *“You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy.”* Exodus 30:29 NKJV
- ☑ Originally, the oil was used exclusively for the priests and the Tabernacle articles, but its use was later extended to include kings.
- ☑ *“Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his [Saul’s] head, and kissed him and said: “Is it not because **the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?**”* I Samuel 10:1 NKJV
- ☑ **The Name of the Lord:** This is a key point, so you do not think for a moment that anything miraculous can happen under your own authority. His Name means His

authority. Everything good comes from our Father in heaven and we access that goodness through His son!

☑ **As James already taught:** *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down **from the Father** of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* James 1:17 NKJV

☑ *“And **whatever you ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name**, I will do it.”* John 14:13-14 NKJV

☑ If you do not have faith in the name, then you have no authority to tap, and therefore you have no power!

☑ *“And this is His commandment: that we should **believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ** and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”* I John 3:23 NKJV

☑ **The Prayer of Faith**

☑ **Without faith...** *“But **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**”* Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

☑ **Save the sick?**

☑ This was the assignment! But, what truly is sickness?

☑ *“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them **power over unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and to **heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.**” Matthew 10:1 NKJV*

☑ *“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and **gave them power over unclean spirits.**” Mark 6:7 NKJV*

☑ *“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and **authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.** He sent them to **preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.**” Luke 9:1-2 NKJV*

☑ *“And **heal the sick** there, and say to them, ‘**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**’” Luke 10:9 NKJV*

☑ **Sickness is Sin**

☑ **Rise up—your sins are forgiven:** here we can clearly see that it is sin that is the disease that must be healed! And therefore the remedy is REPENTANCE and FORGIVENESS!

☑ *“And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He*

preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ***“Son, your sins are forgiven you.”*** And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? ***Who can forgive sins but God alone?***” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? ***Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?*** But that you may know that the Son of Man ***has power on earth to forgive sins***”—He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”” Mark 2:1-12 NKJV

- ☑ **The Power to Forgive Sins:** When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we have, through His authority, the power to forgive sins, and therefore pray the **prayer of faith will save the sick!**
- ☑ *“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**”* John 20:22-23 NKJV
- ☑ Repent, T’shuvah in Hebrew: Turn back toward Yahweh.
- ☑ *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”**”* Matthew 3:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ Turn towards God—He is right there to look at (as he pointed toward Y’shua!)
- ☑ *“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”**”*
Matthew 4:17 NKJV
- ☑ Turn towards God—I am right there to look at (as He pointed toward Himself!)
- ☑ ***“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*** James 5:16 NKJV

☑ **Confess to One Another**

- ☑ This is the act of repentance!

☑ **Pray for One Another**

- ☑ This is the commission that we all have the power to forgive sins and therefore heal the sick. ***“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”***

☑ **Effective, Fervent Prayer of a Righteous Man**

- ☑ **Stipulation:** Effective prayer comes from righteous lips!

- ☑ **Righteousness:** a man who seeks God first in all things, lives by faith; worships and thanks God for everything; and is dedicated to radical obedience to God!

☑ **Avails Much**

- ☑ This type of prayer will produce what God desires! It must be according to His will and in His authority!

- ☑ **His Will:** *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we **ask anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**”* 1 John 5:14-15 NKJV

- ☑ **His Name:** *“And **whatever you ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name**, I will do it.”* John 14:13-14 NKJV

☑ ***“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would **not rain**; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he **prayed again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.” James 5:17-18 NKJV***

☑ **Elijah was just a man...**

☑ The inference here is simple. Elijah was not special; everything he did, he did by the hand of God! And so can you!

☑ *“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand.”*

☑ *“The word of the Lord came to Elijah.”*

☑ *“Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah.”*

☑ **Elijah’s Ernest Prayer (Read I Kings 17-18)**

☑ **Don’t Rain!** *“And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, **“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand,** there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at **my word.**” {7} And it happened **after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.**” I Kings 17:1, 7 NKJV*

☑ **Rain!** *“And it came to pass after many days that **the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying,** “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and **I will send rain on the***

earth.” So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria. {41}. Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; **for there is the sound of abundance of rain.**” {45} Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, **and there was a heavy rain.** So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. **Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah;** and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.” I Kings 18:1-2, 41, 45-46 NKJV

Turn

“Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and someone **turns him back**, let him know that **he who turns a sinner** from the error of his way will **save a soul from death** and **cover a multitude of sins.**” James 5:19-20 NKJV

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☑ “Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and someone **turns him back**, let him know that **he who turns a sinner** from **the error of his way** will **save a soul** from death and **cover a multitude of sins.**” James 5:19-20 NKJV

☑ **Wandering from the Truth**

- ☑ These final words of James should make so much more sense now! What does it mean to “*wander from the truth?*” What is truth? Y’shua is Truth; Y’shua is the Word of God; the Word of God is truth.
- ☑ **Y’shua is the Word:** “*In the beginning **was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. {14} And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,** and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-4, 14 NKJV*
- ☑ **The Word is Truth:** “***The entirety of Your word is truth,** And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” Psalms 119:160 NKJV*
- ☑ **Y’shua is the Truth:** “*Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6 NKJV*
- ☑ Conclusion: wandering away from truth is wandering away from God’s Word, wandering from Y’shua. The three letter word that defines this is SIN. And sin equals

sickness for which prayer, repentance and forgiveness is needed.

☑ **Turning a Sinner**

☑ Turning him back (from the errors of his way) means you lead someone into true repentance (T'shuvah)! Repent, the Kingdom is right here! Turn toward Yahweh!

☑ Outcome: Save a soul by erasing their sins. Repentance brings forgiveness and forgiveness means...

☑ “As far as the ***east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.***” Psalms 103:12
NKJV

☑ **Notice this!** You can travel east infinitely and you will never be heading west. That is how God views our past sins, the ones we have repented of and He has already forgiven. This is very different than traveling north. Those sins come back to haunt us because you can only travel so far north before you are again traveling south.

☑ Be an East-West Christian, not a North-South Christian!

NEXT TEACHING

The Elder's Task (Titus 1:1-16)