

## James 10

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James 5:13-20

In this last hurrah, James stresses three things.....

### 1. PRAYER AND PRAISE (13)

He begins by condensing all of life into two categories – good and bad. John Stott writes: “Here then, in two words, are all life’s experiences, and each of them in turn can so easily be the occasion of spiritual upset. Trouble can give rise to rebellion and the abandonment of spiritual practices. Equally, times of ease and affluence beget complacency. James is fully aware of all this.

In suffering times, you should pray. As we have seen throughout James, prayer shows our dependency and praise is to acknowledge the source of the gladness of our joy.

James gives us a specific application in verse 14. When you are sick, you should call the elders. The word James uses for sick is literally “Weak.” It appears that this person is too weak to get out of bed and requests that the elders come to pray over him. A few observations:

-What is happening appears to be happening in private

-The sick call the elders as a group who pray for healing, not for a miracle

=They anoint Him with oil. This has a symbolic (Holy Spirit) and medicinal connotation

-vs 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.”

-Start by saying we should pray for healing

-God uses secondary means for healing (Doctors and Nurses and medicine)

=There is a spiritual category here as he speaks of sins. Which is more important, spiritual healing or spiritual healing?

The “prayer in faith” brings into view the relationship between God’s sovereignty and our prayers. We realize that God either answers our prayers or else He answers the prayers we would have made if we had known everything He does

Drop down to verse 16 for a moment. “The power of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” James will go on to show us what he means with Elijah. Is there any doubt that James wants us to pray? If you owned a piece of land and knew that there was oil beneath the surface, don’t you think you would drill?

Is there any doubt that James wants us to pray? How is your prayer life?

## 2. CONFESSION

James really deals with confession under the heading of prayer and praise, but it makes good logic to pull it out. (Verse 16). James has talked at length about loving other people.. Here are three main categories of confession “types”

1. The offender confesses to the one offended, whether to a human or to God
2. We confess secret sins to God, since sins such as anger envy, or lust offended Him, even if they had never led to action. It is highly unlikely that we will accomplish anything constructive by telling someone “I envy you.”
3. We confess private sins privately to the one or the few we offended. We confess public sins (which offend many) publically

It is important to remember that when you confess, you should not expect your relationship to be automatically restored to the prior intimacy.

## 4. RECLAMATION: WANDERING FROM THE TRUTH (Verse 19)

Verses 19, 20 are two powerful verses. Within every fellowship there are those whose profession is not real and whose attachment to Christ is not yet a saving faith. Notice the four key words.

19 – Straying from the TRUTH

20 – SINNER

20 – ERROR

20 – WAY

People who err do so slowly. At times, it is almost imperceptible. If we care for them, we will go after them.

