

**Verse 16:**

“Therefore...”

“confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be **healed**.”

*‘iaomai’ (Greek) = cure, make whole, to free from errors and sins*

*“being refreshed like a parched land”*

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

**Verses 17-18:**

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,” [1 Kings 17-18]

“and he prayed fervently”

“and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.”

**How are you responding when suffering ...when cheerful... when spiritually weak and weary?**

**How do your responses reveal your understanding of God?**

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**PROVEN—The Letter of James**  
A Faith That's Practical, Prudent, and Patient  
No. 22 | Responding in Prayer  
**James 5:13-18**

**Review**

**Responding to Trials** (1:2-15)

**Responding to the Word** (1:16-27)

Holding faith in Jesus Christ in a way that's consistent with true faith (2:1-26)

Showing true faith in Jesus Christ by demonstrating works (3:1-18; 4:1-12)

By taming the tongue (3:1-12)

By discerning who's wise (3:13-18)

By addressing the source of conflict (4:1-12)

By not boasting in pride—self-determined living (4:13-17)

By not boasting in earthly riches—self-indulgent living (5:1-6)

Being Patient Until the Lord's Return (5:7-12)

**Introduction:**

*What is James talking about in the passage before us (5:13-18)?*

This passage is about PRAYER...God's prescribed response for dealing with any/all circumstances of our lives.

In response to God's Word, we show true faith in Jesus Christ by demonstrating the work of responding in prayer.

*How should we understand this passage?*

- This passage continues James' overall theme to “count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds” (1:2).
- This passage follows very closely the previous passage (5:7-12), instructing what a faithful believer ought to be doing while being patient in the midst of suffering.
- James' goal in this passage is to encourage believers who are weak and weary to not give up the fight, but go to the church, remembering those who have gone before and to utilize the tool of prayer given to us by God.

## Responding in Prayer

No. 22

### ESV James 5:13-18

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

### Verse 13:

"Is anyone among you suffering?"

'*kakopatheo*' (Greek)

"Let him pray."

"Is anyone cheerful?"

'*euthymeo*' (Greek)

"Let him sing praise."

### Verse 14:

"Is anyone among you sick?"

'*astheneo*' (Greek) = *to be weak or without strength*

16x in the Gospels/Acts – all indicate physical sickness

Matt. 8:14; Acts 28:8

17x in the Epistles – 13 of 16 outside of James indicate  
spiritual weakness

Rom. 14:1-2; 2 Cor. 13:9

60 word-family uses in the NT – 36x as weakness other than physical

### Verse 14, con't:

"Let him call for the elders of the church,  
and let them pray over him,"

\*Pastors are spiritual soul-shepherds

"anointing him with oil *in the name of the Lord*."

- A mysterious rite/ritual with special power?

- Medicinal?

- Metaphorical?

√ - Actual with symbolic and pastoral implications?

### Verse 15:

"And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick,"

'*sozo*' (Greek) = *make well; restore to soundness/wholeness*

'*kamno*' (Greek) = *weary, fatigued, worn-out, exhausted, faint-hearted*

"and the Lord will raise him up."