

Patient Endurance and the Necessity of Prayer
James 5:13-20

I. Introduction

- A. What has led me to this point that I would call for such a service?
 - 1. God exposing worldliness in my own life and in my home.
 - 2. Being overwhelmed by the dangers of worldliness to our faith and perseverance.
 - a. ILLUS: Romania
 - 3. I have been brought to ask myself the following question: “Am I prepared to do whatever I must do to position myself in a place where God would use me and bless me for His glory and for His kingdom?”
 - a. I invite you to ask the same question of yourselves!
- B. My desire: To see God work in such a way that can only be explained by His power!

II. Proposition

- A. In the previous message we spoke about patient endurance until the return of Christ by placing our hope in God and persevering in holiness.
- B. We continue our concern for understanding how to endure patiently through prayer.
 - 1. James reminds us that there is a variety of prayers:
 - a. Prayer for self – James 5:13
 - b. Prayer of the elders – James 5:14
 - c. Prayer for one another – James 5:16
 - 2. James also reminds us that we are to pray in a variety of circumstances:
 - a. Suffering – James 5:13
 - b. Joy – James 5:13
 - c. Sickness – James 5:14
- C. If we are to endure patiently, then we are to pray for ourselves, have people pray for us, including our leaders, and pray for one another that we may persevere in until the return of Christ.

III. Exposition

- A. **If you are suffering, then you ought to pray for grace (5:13a-b).**
 - 1. Command: If you are suffering, then you ought to pray (5:13a-b).
 - 2. Prayer for those suffering – congregation in groups.
- B. **If you are happy, then you ought to praise God His blessings (5:13c-d).**
 - 1. Command: If anyone is happy, then praise.
 - a. See James 1:18 – every good and perfect gift comes from Him.
 - 2. Praise for joy - Testimonies of God’s grace
- C. **If you are sick, then you ought to ask the elders to pray for you (5:14-18).**
 - 1. Command: If anyone is sick, then let him call for the elders (5:14-18).
 - a. Explain passage.
 - 2. Let the elders pray over him (5:14c)
 - a. Anointing him with oil – see Mark 6:7-13
 - b. In the name of the Lord
 - 3. Expected results of prayers of faith: healing and forgiveness.

- a. And the prayer of faith will deliver the sick one (5:15a).
- b. And the Lord will raise him up (5:15:b)
- c. And if he has been committing sins, they will be forgiven him (5:15c-d).
 - 1). It is assumed that confession has taken place (see 5:16).

4. Therefore,

- a. Confess your sins to one another (5:16a).
- b. And pray on behalf of one another (5:16b).
- c. So that you may be healed (5:16c).

5. Confession in the assembly – various ways to confess.

- a. Secret confession – When you have sinned against God
 - 1). Worldliness, covetousness, materialism, lust, pride
- b. Private confession – When you have sinned against someone
 - 1). Gossip, slander,
- c. Public confession – when you have sinned in a manner that affects the congregation.
 - 1). I already mentioned my worldliness
 - 2). Reminder that the elders have repented of taking on debt and that in the future we will allow God to lead us with out taking on debt.

6. The prayer of a righteous one has great power, being effective (15:16d).

- a. ILLUS: Elijah was a man with a nature like ours (5:17a).
 - 1). He prayed that it would not rain and it did not rain for three years and six months (5:17b-c).
 - 2). He prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth produced fruit (5:18).
- b. The Bible reminds us that our sin hinders our prayer life.
 - 1). James 1:5-

7. Prayers for the sick – with elders in prayer room after the service.

D. If you turn someone back from wandering from the truth, know that you will save his soul from condemnation (5:19-20).

- 1. If anyone of you wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, then know (imp) that the one having turned back a sinner from wandering will save his soul from death (5:19-20).
- 2. And he will cover a multitude of sins.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Christianity is a corporate affair; it is sharing in a common life! We must patiently endure together!
 - 1. Hebrews 10:24-25
 - 2. Ephesians 4
- B. Let us say our church covenant together.

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