

Keep Your Father on Speed Dial

James 5:13-18

A. Prescription For Life's Variety (5:13-15)

1. When Troubled, You Should _____ (v13a)

- The diagnosis – *“Is anyone among you suffering?”*
- The prescription – *“Let him pray.”*

2. When Cheerful, You Should _____ (v13b)

- The diagnosis – *“Is anyone cheerful?”*
- The prescription – *“Let him sing psalms.”*

**Could both cheerfulness and sorrow ever strike us at the same time?*

3. When Sick, You Should _____ The Elders to Pray (v14-15)

- The diagnosis – *“Is anyone among you sick?”*
- The prescription – *“Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him...”*

**Is “anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord” something we should do literally?*

- The word translated “anoint” is a _____ word meaning *to rub (aleiphō)* rather than the ceremonial word (*chriō*).
- Rubbing with oil would have been _____ to the culture James wrote within, as medicine and/or to show honor.
- There is nothing mystical in the application of _____.

**How can we properly handle “the prayer of faith will save the sick”?*

- It's NOT a promise that God heals everyone IF we pray hard enough; no man has the _____ to force the healing hand of God. (1 Jn. 5:14, Jam. 4:3)
- When _____ decides it is best, He heals; when God decides it is best to defer healing until the next life, He waits. (Is. 25:8, 1 Cor. 15:54-55, Rev. 21:4)

**Does sin cause sickness?*

- Sometimes.
 - Carrying guilt or stress causes physiological _____. (Ps. 32:3-5, Phil. 4:6-7);
 - God sometimes _____ His children physically. (1 Cor 11:29-30, Acts 5:1-11, 1 John 5:16-17)
- Not always. (John 9:1-3, Phil. 2:27, 2 Tim. 4:20, 1 Tim. 5:23, 2 Cor. 12:7-9)

B. Instruction For Life With One Another (5:16a)

1. _____ when you've wronged one another.

**Principle of Confession: Confession of sin should be to those _____ against, but the circle of confession need be no wider.*

2. _____ God to help one another.

** "that you may be healed" may refer to physical healing from illness as God responds to our prayers for the sick, or to spiritual healing among those who pray for one another.*

C. Encouragement To Keep Praying (5:16b-18)

1. The _____: Prayer works.

**Whose prayers are answered? "...prayer of a righteous man..."*

- Only the *positionally* righteous can expect to have answered prayer; God listens as a Father only to His children.
 - The need of the unrighteous:
Become a child of God through _____ in Christ.
- Only the *practically* righteous will experience a nearness with God through prayer; carnality hinders the effectiveness of prayer.
 - The need of the carnal believer:
Walk with the Lord in _____ to draw near to Him.

**What kind of prayer are the children of God called to? "The effective, fervent prayer..."*

2. The _____: God answered Elijah's prayers.

**The significance of this example is that Elijah was just like us _____ people, "with a nature like ours", and God was delighted to answer this man's prayers; He delights to answer our prayers, too.*