



Perfecting Faith: The Book of James

Faith: Yes or No?

Faith at Work

The book of James closes with three exhortations to faithfulness: In what we say, what we pray and how we love those who have fallen away!

A. Faithful Speech *James 5:12*

- The practice forbidden is the thoughtless use of the Lord's Name or some other name to attest the truthfulness of one's speech.
- Those who know Him should be able to depend on the fact that His “Yes” means “Yes” and His “No” means “No.” So should ours! (*See also Matt 5:33-37*)
- Judgment: From the Gk root ‘hypocrisy’

B. Faithful Praying *James 5:13-18*

James reveals the primary purposes for prayer within the church.

1. Praying For Self *James 5:13*

- When we go through suffering, James says we should first pray for ourselves. If you're not suffering sing psalms.

2. Elders Pray for the Sick *James 5:14-15*

- The prayer of faith is an empowerment of faith by the Holy Spirit. *1 Cor 12:7-9; 1 Cor 14:1*
- Elders represent authority and assurance.

3. Pray for Each Other *James 5:16*

- This would include all forms of prayer for others.

4. Fervent Prayer—Example of Elijah *James 5:16b-18*

- Effectual fervent prayer: “The Greek word ‘energoumene’ signifies energetic supplication, or such a prayer as is suggested to the soul and wrought in it by a Divine energy.” *Adam Clark*
- Effectual fervent prayer is ‘desperate’ prayer
- Elijah was no different than you or I—but he was ‘desperate’ to see the people of God honor God. *1 Kin 17-18; 16:33*

C. Faithful Restoration *James 5:19-20*

Restoration from a dead faith—faith without works!

- Wandering from the truth is wandering from God's Truth—His Word.
- James refers to believers in these verses.
- Two steps of restoration
 1. Take the initiative *Gal 6:1-5*
 2. Let love lead *1 Pet 4:8; 1 John 4:8*

James 5:12-20

Above all things...

:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and *your* "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

Praying Faith

:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

:14 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.

:15 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.

:16 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.

:17 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.

:18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Faith for others...

:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,

:20 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.