

James

(13) Final Instructions

James 5:13-16

13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. NIV

Above all, my brothers, do not swear...5:12

What does 'above all' indicate about the relative importance of this verse? see 1:26

It would seem to elevate this command to the top of the list! It's very important/consistent.

What does the term 'swear' relate to? Acts 2:30; Heb.6:16

It's not cursing. Rather it's speaking of taking (or giving) an oath.

But, does Scripture forbid taking/giving an honest oath? Ex.22:10-11;

Absolutely not. This prohibition is about taking/giving an oath with intention to deceive.

Site some notable examples of an honest oath: Acts 18:18; Mt.26:63; Rev.10:5-7; Heb.6:13-18

Paul, Jesus, the angel (will swear by God), God Himself, swore by Himself.

What then, was James rebuking to these Jews? Mt.5:33-37; 23:16-22

Jewish teaching that only certain kinds of vows were binding. Nothing but a 'scam' to lie!

What is James admonishing them to do? 5:12b

Become known as an honest person! Your yes/no should be enough. No embellishing!

The power in a righteous prayer...5:13-20

What are the (2) usages of 'sick' (astheneo; made weak) in the NT? Mark 6:56; II Cor.12:10

Physically sick (18 times) and emotional / spiritual (14 times). The context is the key.

What is one tie between our spiritual life and our physical? Ps.32:1-7 Note: **Remember Job!**

When sin is unconfessed, our body 'wastes' away, vitality drained. We are 'astheneo'.

What is the 'weak' brother to do? 5:14a; I Thess.5:14 What is the result? James 5:15

Call (alongside) the Elders to pray over him. Spiritual restoration, forgiveness of sins.

What is obviously an integral part of this process? 5:16 see Heb.12:3

Confess your sins / pray for one another. Healing spiritually and maybe physically.

What point does James now make re righteous prayers? 5:17-18

Righteous praying is powerful! Consider Elijah! We need the prayer support of others!

What seems to be the closing emphasis of James? 5:19-20 see Gal.6:1

Restoring those who stray (wander) from the Truth. Likely believers but includes unsaved

For a believer, what is the death referred to? I Jn.5:16-17; I Cor.11:30-31; Acts 5:1-11

Likely sin that leads to (premature) death (physical). A matter of discipline, still saved.

For an unbeliever, what is the death referred to? Rev.20:11-15

It is the second death, eternal death. What a reason to seek to turn them...

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