

Becoming Mature in Christ

Let Us Pray

James 5:13-20

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Introduction:

- Final sermon in our series, Becoming Mature in Christ.
 - **James 4:17**
 - **James 1:5** – How James started his letter.
 - He ends with a “call to prayer” for all people.
 - James breaks this into three specific groups:
 - The Individual:
 - The Elders:
 - Everyone for each other:
 - **Jeremiah 29:11-13**
 - Think about this:
 - We are commanded to sing:
 - We are commanded to share the Gospel:
 - But we are called to pray:
 - Many people need help in their prayer life.
 - **Matthew 6:6**
 - If we are convinced that prayer works, we will learn to pray more, we will desire it more.
 - **James 5:13-20**
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1. The Suffering:

- a. **James 5:13**
- b. Greek - **Kakopatheo** (*Kah-Co-Patho*) ... English – **Trouble** ... “*To Suffer Misfortune.*”
- c. James is saying, when times are bad ... when things are happening that we just don’t understand, we should pray.
- d. When we pray, we should ask that God’s Will be done, no matter what that means.
- e. Consider Paul – He had a “thorn in the flesh” that he asked the Lord to remove.
- f. **1st Corinthians 12:7-10**
- g. So, for the glory of God, the suffering was not removed.
- h. Jesus prayed three times that if the atonement could be done any other way, let it be so, but not His Will, but the Father’s be done.
- i. **Matthew 26:39**
- j. For 430 years, the Israelites prayed for the Lord to rescue them from Egypt.
- k. **Exodus 3:7-8**

- l. We are to always be in prayer for those suffering.
- m. C.S. Lewis - "*Why do the righteous suffer? Why not? They're the only ones who can take it.*"
- n. **Ephesians 6:18**
- o. **James 5:13**
- p. Greek - **Euthymeo** (*Youth-E-Mel*) ... English – **Happy** ... "*To be encouraged ... to take courage ... to become encouraged.*"
- q. **2nd Corinthians 4:7-9**

2. The Sick:

- a. **James 5:14**
- b. We do not like it when someone is not doing well, and we ask everyone to be in prayer.
 - 1. Some recover and we praise God for that.
 - 2. Sometimes, the Lord calls them home. Their mission here is complete.
- c. When we think of the sick and dying, we are reminded of the words of Solomon, which is simple wisdom, but still hard to grasp.
- d. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**
- e. Even though sin and death were NOT God's plan, He still promises to be with us.
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 31:6**
 - 2. **Hebrews 13:5**
- f. For many, God is good, if things are good. But if things start to go south, they start to ask – "Where is God?"
- g. We should be praying about many things, not just physical issues.

2. The Lost:

- a. **James 5:19-20**
- b. We should pray for the lost, because their eternity is at stake. This affects every single one of us, because we all know someone who has not responded to the Terms of Pardon.
- c. We tend to believe that if we are a good person, trying to do good, and if there is a Heaven, we will make it.
- d. **Isaiah 64:6**
- e. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- f. **James 2:7**
- g. **James 4:17**
- h. Mothers, Fathers, and Children – Keep Praying.
- i. Do you ever wonder how many people are praying for you?
- j. **2nd Corinthians 5:17-21**