



DIGGING DEEPER

James 5v13-20 – Faith and Prayer

PLEASE READ – James 5v13-20

GETTING STARTED

Why do you think James begins and ends his letter with a call to prayer? (1v5 / 5v13-18)

How does that link in with the big aim of the letter? (See 1v18 / 1v22 / 3v8)

1) THE PRAYING INDIVIDUAL (v13)

What's the point James is making in v13? What exactly should we be praying for?

2) THE PRAYING ELDERS (v14-15)

Given that there's been plenty of debate on these verses – don't spend too long on the specific arguments but given the context of the verses and the example of Elijah, what sort of 'sickness' do you think is in view?

Why do you think the Elders are specifically in view here? What's the purpose of the oil?

What do you make of the promise in v15?

Are you slow or quick to ask for prayer? Why?

3) THE PRAYING FRIENDS (v16)

Remind yourself of some of the sins that James has exposed in this letter...

What do these sins result in?

What should be done with those sins?

How should we go about this?

4) PRAYERFULNESS AND WATCHFULNESS (v19-20)

What is James concerned about here and what needs to be done?

What does that look like in practice?

Meditate on the words of the apostle John below...

3 John v4: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.