

Learning To Think Like God

A study of the book of James

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Prayers Offered in Faith Are Powerful and Effective

James 5:13-20

Three Conditions That Occur in Everyone's Life

1. **Trouble:** bereavement, disappointment, persecutions, loss of this world's goods...

• **1 Peter 4:12-16**

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

• **What to do when trouble comes: Pray! For what should we pray?**

- What we want? YES!
- Relief from the trouble? YES!
- Clarity? YES!
- To trust God through it all

• **What should we expect from God?**

- An Answer...Yes! (2 Cor. 1:15-22)
- Grace (2 Cor. 12:7-10; Hebrews 4:14-16)

2. **Happy:** cheerful, gladness in the soul, cheerful, merry...

• **Ecclesiastes 7:14**

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.

- **What to do when you are happy: Sing Songs of Praise!**
 - In every joy that crowns my days, In every pain I bear, My heart shall find delight in praise, Or seek relief in prayer. (Mrs. Williams)

- 3. **Sickness:** loss of or decline in physical health.
 - **What to do when you are sick:**
 - **Call for the elders of the church:**
 - To pray over you
 - To anoint you with oil
 - IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!
 - **by His authority*
 - **in line with His will*
 - **according to His word*
 - **Three promises that accompany a prayer offered in faith:**
 - **WILL** make the sick person well (15)
 - The Lord **WILL** raise him up (15)
 - If he has sinned, he **WILL** be forgiven (15)
 - If one of these is true, then all of them must be true!
 - If not, which one is not true?
 - **The now of God is not right now of man!**
 - **What Makes Prayer Powerful and Effective? (15-18)**
 - We are forgiven! (15)
 - We confess our struggles to one-another. (16)
 - **Note:** *We do not confess our sins because we need to be forgiven; we confess them because we are forgiven.*
 - We pray for one another. (16)
 - We are human just like Elijah was! (17)
 - *We have been made perfect because Christ lives in us.*
 - We must pray earnestly.(17-18)
 - *Sincerely, genuinely, honestly, truthfully, from the bottom of our heart.*
 - We must expect result! (17-18)
 - *His prayers caused God to stop the rain for three and half years.*
 - *His prayers caused God to send rain on the land and crops to grow.*

The Conclusion (19-20):

- My brothers (God's children), if one of you...
 - Should wander from the truth

- In thinking...our thoughts lead our behavior.
- In failing to think...wander, drift, walk w/o direction.
- In thinking error is truth...based on human wisdom.
- Some should bring him back (to truth)
- Our thinking must be the word & will of God!
- Our thinking is in line with the way we live our lives.
- What is truth?
 - John 17:17 *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*
- What truth does:
 - Saves souls from death
 - Covers a multitude of sins
 - Exposes error
 - Set us free (John 8:31-32)
 - *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*
- The Lord's Prayer For This Group:
 - ***My dear Father, please teach them to think your thoughts so that you can live your life in them and through them.***