

**JAMES SERIES #26:
Divine Healing (Part 3)
James 5:14-16
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Sunday, July 28, 2019**

1. INTRODUCTION:

2. TEXT: James 5:14-16, (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.

3. To understand what James is talking about, we had to first study why we get sick

a. There are 4 reasons that sicknesses come upon us

I. THE CAUSES OF SICKNESS (4)

A. SATAN'S INTERVENTION IN OUR LIVES

1. Job 2:7, "So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."

B. SOVEREIGN'S INTENDED LESSON

1. 2 Corinthians 12:7, "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure."

2. 2 Cor. 12:9, God's response to Paul's petition for healing, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

3. 2 Cor. 12:9, When God told Paul that He was not going to heal him, Paul's response was, "... most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities [than to be healed], that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

C. STYLE OF INDIVIDUAL LIVING

D. SIN IN OUR LIVES

1. 1 Corinthians 11:30, "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep."

II. THE CURE FOR SICKNESS

A. THE PATIENT'S ILLNESS (v. 14a, "sick")

1. The Greek word translated as SICK:
 - a) Comes from the Greek word *astheneo* from which we get our word ANESTHESIA
 - b) Lit. means, "without strength"
2. James' description of the patient further illustrates his incapacitation
 - a) V. 14, the patient must call the elders to come to him, he is unable to go to them
 - b) V. 14, the elders must PRAY OVER HIM
 - c) V. 15 where it says that THE LORD WILL RAISE HIM UP
 - (1) The Greek word translated as RAISE HIM UP means, "To rise from sleep, implying also the idea of rising up from the posture of sleep, i.e., from lying down"¹

B. THE PROBLEM IDENTIFIED

1. From the context, it can be determined that this person is sick because of sin in his life
2. PROOFS:
 - a) Vv. 15b-16, "...And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."
 - b) The verb "Committed sin" in v. 15 is a Periphrastic Perfect Tense, which refers to "continued sinning in the past."²
 - c) The word SINS in v. 15 is plural
 - d) V. 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.")
 - (1) V16, in the Greek begins, "Therefore....", thus tying it to v. 15

¹ Spiros Zodhaites, ed., *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, #1453, ἐγείρω.

² Richard C. H. Lenski, *Interpretation of Hebrews and James*, p. 664.

(2) V. 15b, "...And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

3. **PERSONAL QUESTION: "How do I know whether this sickness is from God, or because of sin in my life?"**

C. THE PRESCRIBED INSTRUCTIONS (5 STEPS)

1. **STEP #1: V. 14, "...LET HIM CALL FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH"**

a) **LET denotes an opportunity**

b) **ELDERS**

2. **STEP #2: V. 14, "LET THEM ANOINT HIM WITH OIL"**

a) **This aspect of James's formula is the most difficult to interpret**

b) **Only other place in the NT where anointing with oil and healing are linked together is Mark 6:13, "And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them."**

c) **#1: SACRED AND CEREMONIAL USAGE OF OIL**

(1) **Passages on anointing in the Bible**

(a) **In the OT, when a man was crowned king, he was anointed with oil, 1 Samuel 10:1, "Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: 'Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?'"**

(b) **In the OT, when a man was set aside for the priesthood—oil was poured over him, Exodus 29:4-7 (4) "And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water. (5) Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. (6) You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. (7) And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.**

(c) **The same sort of anointing is also referred to in the NT, Acts 10:38, " ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

- (d) The only other place in Scripture where anointing with oil is mentioned in reference to the sick is Mark 6:13, “And they [the disciples] cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.”
- (2) The Greek word *chrio* describes this kind of anointing with oil
- (3) But, in v. 14, the Greek word translated as ANOINTING is not *chrio*, it is *aleipho*
 - (a) *Chiro* refers to the SACRED USE of oil
 - (b) *Aleipho* refers to the COMMON USE of oil
- (4) There are several places in the NT where the Greek word *aleipho* is used to describe the application of oil
 - (a) In Luke 7:38, it is said that Mary ANOINTED the feet of Jesus, “and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed [*aleipho*] them with the fragrant oil.”
 - (b) In Mark 16:1, it is said that the women who came to the tomb ANOINTED the body of Jesus for burial, “Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and ANOINT [*aleipho*] Him.”
 - (c) These ladies did not come to anoint Jesus to some office
- (5) To distinguish the Greek word *aleipho* from *chrio* in our English translations, it might have been better to translate *chrio* as TO ANOINT and *aleipho* as TO RUB
- (6) Oil was used medicinally in James’ day
 - (a) The good Samaritan used it this way when he helped the wounded man, Luke 10:34, “So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

(b) Acts 12:23 says that before he died, Herod was eaten by worms Acts 12:23, “Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.”

(i) Josephus’s account of Herod’s last days

(c) Isaiah 1:6 , “From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.”

d) So, what is James saying should be done with the oil?

(1) The phrase ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL is an Aorist Participle and can denote that the OILING was either simultaneous to or prior to the praying³

3. STEP #3: V. 14, LET THEM [ELDERS] PRAY OVER HIM

a) Prayer is the primary thing in James’ prescription for healing

(1) PRAY in v. 14 is a verb (primary), while RUBBING HIM WITH OIL is a participle (secondary)

4. CALLING UPON THE NAME OF JESUS (v. 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.”)

a) In the rites of healing and exorcism in the early church, the name of Christ was invoked

(1) Lk. 10:17, “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

(2) Acts 3:6, “Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

(3) Acts 4:

(a) V. 7, “And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?”

(b) V. 10, Peter responds, “let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus

³ A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in NT*, VI, on James 5:14.

Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.”

5. **CONFESSION** (v. 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.”)
 - a) **V. 16 continues the discourse of v. 15**
 - (1) **V. 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.”**
 - (2) **v. 16, Therefore, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, *that you may be healed...*”**

D. RESULTS of following the formula:

1. **v. 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.”**
 - a) **This is the same word that is used in Mk. 5:23 of Jairus’ daughter, “and begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be HEALED, and she will live.”**
 - b) **Lit., “to be made whole”**

CONCLUSION

1. DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD CAN LEAD TO SICKNESS IN YOUR LIFE

- a. **Psm 32:3-4, (3) When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. (4) For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**

2. SIN AFFECTS THE WHOLE CHURCH

- a. **Joshua 7, story of Achan**
 - i. **Josh. 7:1, “But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan... took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.”**
 - ii. **Josh. 6:17-19, (17) “Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. (18) “And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed**

things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. (19) "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

iii. 7:11, "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff."

iv. Results of Achan's sin

1. Israel was helpless in war (7:12, "Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.")

2. 36 men died in the battle for Ai, (7:5, "And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men....")

3. THERE IS HEALING (PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY) WHEN SIN IS DEALT WITH

a. Prov. 28:13, "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

4. THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

a. 5X in vv. 13-16 James mentions prayer