

James 5:13-15

A Prescription for the Ill

At the Throne of Grace ...

I. Prayer & Song

- A. Drawing Near to God
- B. Balm for the Soul
- C. According to Your Need

II. Seek the Healer

- A. In Sickness
- B. And Sin
- C. He is Faithful

... your all sufficient Father.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does James say we should do if we are suffering?
2. What does he say we should do if we are cheerful?
3. Why does prayer help us?
4. What praise songs do you like to sing when you are happy?
When sad?
5. We should pray the people would be healed if they are ill, but if they don't get healed can we still trust that God is at work?

The Prayer of Faith

Our verses today direct us immediately to the presence of God. We have access to the Father through the Son and the help of the Holy Spirit to bring us there effectively. James point out the means of approach: prayer and song. No matter what our state of mind or affairs in life may be, those two blessings from the Lord minister to our souls in a profound way. We should not wait to suffer before we pray ... but if we pray regularly we will know to go to the Lord immediately upon facing trials of various sort. If singing praise to the Lord is our regular habit in the bad and good times, when we are especially jubilant in the Lord we will not be able to restrain our tongues from praise in song. Even the elders and the oil are simply instruments to bring us near to God in faith. The "prayer of faith" itself is not the end or for that matter the power, it is only the means to brings us to the Lord who is mighty to save, able to heal, and gracious to forgive sins. And remember: this is only possible because God drew near to us in grace, and most magnificently through the incarnation of His only begotten Son.

*And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

Richard S. Willis