

I. Introduction.

II. Are you suffering? Then you must pray. v. 13a

- A. You will suffer. 1:1ff 5:10 Ro. 8:35 2 Ti. 3:12 2:3,9 4:5 Ps. 34:19 30:5 2 Co. 6:4-5
Our Lord Jesus was a man of sorrows. Isa. 53:3-4
- B. What are some poor responses to suffering? 5:9 1:13 Ps. 73:2-3,13ff
- C. Let your suffering turn you to God in prayer. Phil. 4:6ff Ps. 140:1 141:1 18:4-6
1. God invites you to seek His help in the midst of your trouble. Ps. 50:15 91:15 57:1
 2. What can you do when it is hard to pray? Eph. 3:14ff Mt. 6:9-13 Ps. 37 140 141
 3. Jesus prayed most earnestly as His suffering intensified. Mt. 26:36ff Heb. 5:7
 4. How should you pray about your suffering? 1:5 5:8,10 Mt. 26:39 1 Pe. 5:7
 5. What benefits should you expect when you pray? Isa. 54:10 2 Co. 1:3ff
 6. Remember that you have a High Priest who sympathizes with you, intercedes for you, and helps you in your time of need. Heb. 4:14-16

III. Are you cheerful? Then sing praises to God. v. 13b

- A. God also gives you seasons of happiness. 1:17 Ecc. 3:4 7:14 Pr. 18:22 Ps. 19:1ff
1 Tim. 4:4 Mt. 5:45
- B. What are some wrong responses to the joys of life?
1. Unbelievers don't give God thanks or praise. Ro. 1:21 Gen. 4:21
 2. Even for professing Christians, times of blessing can be as dangerous as seasons of hardship. Mark 4:16-19 Pr. 30:8-9 Dt. 6:10-12 Mt. 6:24 19:24
- C. Respond to God's kindness by singing praises to Him. Eph. 5:19 1 Chron. 16:8ff
Mark 14:26 Mt. 26:30 Ps. 40:3 95:1-2 Acts 8:39 16:25 Phil. 4:4ff
1. We always have good reason to praise God, even in hardship. 1 Th. 5:16-18
1 Pet. 2:8-9 Eph. 1:3ff Acts 16:25
 2. Music is a powerful gift from God which we can use to give Him praise. Eph. 5:19
Col. 3:16 Ps. 69:30-31 108:1ff 16:9 Mt. 26:20 Mark 14:26 Rev. 5:9 14:3 15:3

IV. Are you sick? Then call for the elders to pray for you. v. 14-15

- A. What are some wrong responses to sickness? Jer. 17:5-6 Ps. 42:5
- B. When you are sick, call for the elders to pray over you. v. 14
1. The person is very sick (weak). John 11:1ff 4:46-47 Acts 9:37
 2. The sick person takes the initiative to call for the elders of the church.
 3. The sick person is a committed member of a local church community and under the care of its leaders. Acts 2:47 1 Cor. 12:25 Heb. 13:17
 4. The local church is led by a plurality of elders who shepherd (and pray for) the flock. 1 Pe. 5:1ff Acts 14:23 6:4 Mt. 25:43
 5. The sick person may confess any known sin. v. 15b-16 Ps. 139:24 Pr. 20:9
 6. The elders pray over the sick person both for physical and spiritual restoration.
 7. The elders anoint the sick person with oil in the name of the Lord.
 8. The Lord answers the prayer of faith by delivering the sick person, raising him up and forgiving his sins. Mt. 8:15 9:21-22 Luke 8:48

- C. What is the connection between sickness and sin? John 5:14
1. All sickness is the result of sin (the fall) in a general sense. 1 Co. 15:22
 2. Some sickness is the direct result of particular sin. v. 15b Dt. 28:21ff 1 Sam. 5:6 2 Chr. 26:19 Ps. 106:15,29 32:3-4 Ge. 12:17 20:17-18 1 Co. 11:30 5:5 1 Jo. 5:16
 3. Not all illness is the consequence of a particular sin. v. 15b John 9:2-3 Job 1-2
 4. God's works of forgiveness and healing often go together. Ps. 103:3 Mark 2:5,12
- D. What is the significance of the anointing with oil? Mark 6:13
1. This is not the rite of extreme unction which is practiced by Roman Catholics.
 2. The oil itself does not have power. The Lord heals by means of prayer. 5:15
 3. Some suggest that the oil is used for medicinal purposes, but here it is the prayer, not the oil which heals. Luke 10:34 Isa. 1:6
 4. This anointing is probably symbolic, a comforting reminder that the sick person is set apart as the object of the Lord's special care. 1 Jo. 2:20
- E. Is this a blanket promise that all who follow this procedure will be healed? v. 15
1. Some claim that all sickness is done away with by the death of Christ so that those who have faith can always be healed. Isa. 53:5 1 Pe. 2:24 Luke 13:16
 2. There are many cases of unhealed believers. 1 Ti. 5:23 2 Ti. 4:20 Ga. 4:13-15 2 Co. 12:7-10 Phil. 2:26-27 2 Ki. 13:14 He. 9:27 2 Sa. 12:16ff
 3. Sometimes God helps and heals those where faith is weak. Mark 9:21
 4. Faithful prayers are offered in submission to God's will. He is sovereign over sickness and death. 4:15 Mt. 6:10 26:39 1 John 5:14 Ex. 4:11 Ro. 8:28 He. 9:27
 5. Why might God not heal in answer to our prayers? 1:2ff Phil. 1:21-24,29 2 Co. 12:9 John 9:2-3 Job 2:1-6 Heb. 9:27
 6. The most important healing provided by Jesus' atonement is spiritual (forgiveness). 1 Pe. 2:24-25 John 12:40 Acts 28:27 Isa. 53:5 1 Jo. 1:8-2:2
 7. When will we fully enjoy the benefits of the atonement, including perfect health? Phil. 3:20-21 Ro. 8:18ff
- F. Should we continue this practice today?
1. Some claim that this was only for the apostolic era during which healing gifts were given. Mark 6:7-13 2 Co. 12:12 Eph. 2:20 Heb. 2:3-4 1 Co. 12:9
 2. Our elders pray for the sick, anointing them with oil.
- G. God heals using means, including prayer and medical care. 1 Tim. 5:23 Lu. 10:34 Col. 4:14 Mt. 9:12

V. Conclusion. Ps. 103:3 1 Thess. 5:16-18 Mark 2:10

Discussion questions

1. What are some wrong responses to trouble?
2. How should you react to suffering?
3. Give examples of people who have successfully sought God while suffering.
4. What are some wrong responses to happy circumstances?
5. What should you do when happy?
6. Why is it important to sing *praises* to God?
7. How is our joyful singing different from the happy songs of the world?
8. What are some wrong responses to sickness?
9. What should you do when you are sick?
10. What is the connection between sickness and sin?
11. How have some badly misunderstood this passage?
12. In what sense(s) is there healing in Jesus' atonement?