

INTRODUCTION: WE HAVE NEED OF PRAYER (5:13f; see 1:5; see 4:2,3; 8-10,15; 5:7f; Phil.4:6,7)

I. BIBLE: PRAY! (James 5:13-20; see Lk.6:12; 9:28; 18:1f; Acts 2:42; Phil.4:6,7)

A. PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS: DO THIS! (5:13f; see 1:22f, etc.)

B. GLAD: PRAISE (5:13b; see Ps.5:11; 20:5; 100:2; 107:22; 149:5; contrast Prov.30:9a)

C. SAD: PRAY (5:13a; see 5:1-12; see Ps.6:3; 13:1; 22:1f; 35:17; contrast Prov. 30:9b)

1. *sick: pray* (5:14,15a; see 2Kngs.20:1f; Ps.35:15)

2. *sin: pray* (5:15b,16a; see 19,20; see Ps.32:1f; 51:1f; Neh.1:6; Dan.9:20; Lk.18:13)

D. POINT: PRAY! (5:16b; see 1:5; see 4:2,3; 8-10,15; 5:7f; Phil.4:6,7)

E. EXAMPLE: PRAY (5:17,18; see Lk.4:25; see 1Kngs.18:36f)

II. DOCTRINE: GOD IS GOOD! (see James 5:13-20; see v.11b)

A. OIL: A PLEDGE TO PRAYER (5:14b; see Dt.8:8; 32:13)

1. *medicinal* (Is.1:6; Mk.10:34)

2. *hospitable* (Ps.23:5; Lk.7:46)

3. *wonderful* (Mk.6:5,12,13; see Jms.5:14b&10b; Heb.2:1-4)

4. *point: prayer extracted vs. apostolic elders, oil, Elijah the prophet*

B. CONFESSION: PREPARATION FOR PRAYER (5:16a; see Mt.18:15; Gal.6:1; 2Th.3:15)

C. DISCIPLINE: PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION (5:19,20 /Mt18:12f; Lk17:3; Lev19:17 /Pr10:12; 1Pt4:8)

D. GOD IS GOOD! (Jms.1:5f; see Ex.33:19; 34:6-8; Ps.73:1, 145:8f; Rom.8:28)

1. *pray, because God is good!* (5:13af; Mt.5:45; 7:7f)

2. *praise, because God is good!* (5:13b; 1Chr.16:34; Ps.100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 136:1; 145:8f)

3. *pursue, because God is good!* (5:19,20; see Ex.34:7a; Lev!; 2Sam.12:13; Is.55:7; 1Jn.1:9)

III. PRACTICE: WHAT YOU MUST DO!

A. HOW ARE YOU *DOING*? (5:13f; see 1:22f)

B. PRAY THAT YOU WILL PERSEVERE IN PATIENT ENDURANCE (5:13f,1f; Lk18:1; 11:5f; 3/15serm)

C. BELIEVE, WITH ALL YOUR HEART, THAT GOD IS GOOD! (5:13f; see 1:5-8; 3:17; see Mt.5:45; 7:7; see Ex.33:19; 34:6-8; Ps.73:1, 145:8f; Mt.7:7; Rom.8:28)

D. PRAISE GOD WITH JOYFUL SINGING! (5:13b; see 2Chr.29:30; 30:21; Ps.27:6; 33:1; 71:23; Zech.2:10; etc; see Eph.5:19; Col.3:16)

E. PRAY TO GOD WITH LONGING EXPECTATION! (5:13a,b; Ps.55:19; Dan.9:23; Lk.3:21; 9:29; Rom.8:24-28; Phil.4:6,7)

F. REPENT AND CONFESS YOUR SINS WITH CONFIDENCE! (5:19,20; 15,16; see Lev!; Ps.32:1f; Is.55:7; Ezk.33:11; Lk.17:3; 1Jn.1:9)

G. SEEK THE LOST SHEEP WITH COURAGE, DILIGENCE, HUMILITY, COMPASSION, PRAYER AND EXPECTATION! (5:19,20; Mt.18:12; Lk.11:5-11; 15:1f; Gal.6:1f; see 2Sam.12:1f; Lk.22:32)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

***Suggestions:** Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What is the practical point of this passage?
5. Are you a doer of this? If so, how? If not, why not?
6. James is notable as a very practical letter and many requested teaching and preaching through this letter. How has your behavior changed over the past many months? If not, how & why not?
7. What are your habits of praise? Should they be different and, if so, how?
8. What are your habits of prayer? Should they be different and, if so, how?
9. What are your habits of confession? Should they be different and, if so, how?
10. What do you do when you or someone you love is sick? How does prayer fit into this? How should prayer be more significant in this?
11. Do you seek lost sheep?
 - a. If so, how and to what effect? If not, why not and what will you do in the future?
 - b. What role does and should prayer have in all this?
12. Do you believe, with all your heart and in full confidence, that God is good? Why or why not? How does this situation affect your praise, prayer, confession, fellowship and seeking the lost?
13. Are you praying or fainting? (Lk.18:1f)