

**James 5 “A Community of Faith”**  
**James 5:13-20**  
**November 17, 2024**

James 5:13-20

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 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 one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. 19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Real faith is lived out with one another.

Ephesians 2:19

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.

Two dimensions of this communal faith are praying for and pursuing one another.

James 5:14-15

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 one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:16

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Before prayer is a petition, it is a stance.

James is showing us that both sickness and sin isolate.

Prayer is faith.

James 5:19-20

19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Our faith means we pursue those caught up in sin.

“Would you grow in grace? Then, help others. Would you shake off your own despondency? Then, help others. This work quickens the pulse, it clears the vision, it steals the soul to holy courage; it confirms a thousand blessings on your own souls, to help others on the road to Heaven. Shut up your heart’s floods, and they will become stagnant, noisome, putrid, foul; let them flow, and they shall be fresh and sweet, and shall well up continually. Live for others, and you will live a hundred lives in one.”  
Charles Spurgeon (Pictures from Pilgrim’s Progress, 41)

Who is not here because they are sick?

Who is not here because they are caught up in sin?

### **Life Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Practicing faith in Christ means being in Christ with others who are in Christ. How has Christian community been a blessing to you? When has it been challenging?
- How can confession make a community closer? Have you ever confessed sin to someone else? What happened?
- Discuss the quote, “If you are not a burden, you are not a brother.” How does this statement adjust your ideas about the church community? Do you need to take a step towards being a “burden?”
- Who is not participating in the faith community because they are sick? How can you pray? How can your life group help?
- Who is not involved in the church right now because of sin? What steps might you take to pursue them? How can your life group support you in the work?
- What has been an important take away for you from the book of James?
- How has your faith become more daily and practical ?