

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## James 5

### James 5

James five is a tremendous passage of God's word that instructs on godly living, patiently waiting for God to keep his promises because He is faithful and will do what He says in every situation. Our timing is not God's timing, and He knows best.

Vv. 13-20 over the years has become a controversial passage to some in the evangelical world and that is entirely related to preconceived ideas about God and His revelation to us about Divine healing. When I was saved, I came to Jesus while visiting a Southern Baptist Church. The First Baptist Church that I attended during the early to mid-seventies would never have anointed someone with oil and prayed for them. I knew nothing of the Bible, I was a heathen until I came to Jesus and did not go to church except for the occasional visit usually to see a girl, not to worship. Just telling you the truth like it or not. I wasn't seeking after God. Praise Him forever, He was seeking me! But as I attended, I realized that many things I read in the Bible were not practiced and or taught in a Biblical sense and I was told that was for another day and not for our day. I went to a very well-known Bible school in the southwestern United States that also taught that anointing with oil and praying for the sick together was no longer to be practiced as that was for "Charismatic churches." So, I dutifully did as I was told. However, as I grew and began to read the Bible in light of a different and I believe more consistent hermeneutic (method of discovery) I came to

believe that there were times when those who were sick and infirm needed the Elders of the local assembly, the Church, to come to them, pray over them and anoint them with oil and pray over them. I knew the oil was not what healed, but God said to do it and pray over them. Confession of sin on the part of those being anointed was part of the plan as well. I realized that praying and anointing those who were sick was as natural to the child of God as breathing. It is an act of obedience.

***Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*** (James 5:13-16)

The questions are simple and straightforward. If you are going through hard times, Pray. Are you happy, sing praises. If you are sick, call for the elders of the assembly and let them anoint you with oil and let them pray for you. Confess your sins and trust God to heal you as they pray for you.

You can't take the first two seriously if you are not going to take the part about what to do if you are sick.

### **Prayer and Action Steps**

***Lord, please let me learn to trust you and obey you even when it makes me feel uncomfortable. If you are going to follow Jesus, obey Him, and walk with Him in this world, you must become comfortable with being uncomfortable!***

***Amen***