

DAY 3 - Read James 5:14-15

1. James commends the intercession of the elders. Have you ever prayed over another, as James describes here, or have you ever been prayed over by others? In what ways was your prayer answered?
2. Look up the word “anoint” in a Bible dictionary. What purpose do you think the oil serves? See also Luke 10:34 and Exodus 30:22-25 for other references to oil.
3. What is meant by “the prayer offered in faith”? Whose faith is this? Why do people not always get healed?
4. Look up the word “sick” in a Bible dictionary. What forms of sickness might James be referring to?

Within the poem *Morte D'Arthur*, Tennyson wrote:

“Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.”

What does this mean?

DAY 4 – Read James 5: 16-18

1. Verse 16 speaks of confessing our sins to each other. What purpose will this serve? Do you think all sins should be confessed to others? Read Matthew 18:15-18. How does this passage relate to James? Does it help your understanding?
2. James speaks of prayer as a powerful resource. Do you believe there are any limits to prayer? Do you feel that prayer is a privilege? Why do we sometimes use prayer as a last resort? Can you recall a time when you saw the powerful results of such prayer?
3. James recalls a period in the life of Elijah, which is detailed in I Kings 17 and 18. In what ways was Elijah a righteous person? What other example is given regarding a powerful prayer of Elijah's in this passage? What resulted from this? (It will be helpful to read at least 1 Kings 17:1-6, but read both chapters if you have time.)

DAY 5 - Read James 5:19-20

1. Who is James speaking to and about in verse 19?
2. If we believe the idea that once we are saved, we cannot lose salvation, then what is the death spoken of in verse 20?
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:25-26 and 3:16. What guidelines does Paul give us for turning someone from sin?
4. What does the phrase “cover over a multitude of sins” mean in verse 20 (see also I Peter 4:8)? Is this a different idea than being “credited for righteousness” in James 2:23?

DAY 6 – Reread James 5: 13-20

1. Is there a verse in this passage that is particularly meaningful to you? Write it down and memorize it.
2. What does this passage say about what it means to be a disciple or follower of Christ?
3. Look up the words to “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged: Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.*