

Small Group Guide 11 James 5 12-18

James 5:12–18 (ESV) ¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. 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.

1. Speak Truth v.12
2. The Comfort of Prayer v.13
3. The Restoration of Prayer v.14-15
4. The Fellowship of Prayer v.16
5. The Power of Prayer v.17-18

Questions for Discussion:

To what extent is prayer your first response to both the ups and the downs of life? Why is this, do you think?

Do you think you are tempted to be too quick, or too slow, to connect adverse circumstances to unrepentant sin? What are the strengths and dangers of such an approach?

James instructs us to confess our sins to one another. Therefore, we must do all that we can to help create the kind of culture in our church that makes this possible, so that it becomes a normal part of church life.

Considering this truth ask yourself these questions:

Are you someone others would find approachable?

Are you known to be trustworthy trustworthy and sensitive?

Would a good friend at church be wise to share a painful and shameful sin with you?

Would you know how to respond, and how to pray for them; or would you excuse or belittle the sin, or condemn the confessor?