

**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**  
**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**  
**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted September 2, 2021**

**T I T L E: Praying and Praising in the Context of Suffering and Healing**

**T E X T: James 5:13-18**

Life, as well as one's health, has a spiritual dimension to it. Denying this truth is an act of stupidity. Neglecting this truth is an act of foolishness.

Matthew 4:4 ---- But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

**I. PETITIONARY PRAYING AND PRAISING IN THE CONTEXT OF SUFFERING**

V. 13

"...he must pray..."

**A. Prayer is to be a priority especially in the context of suffering emphasizing the fact that prayer should never be considered a last resort or a waste of time recognizing the biblical truth that the fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much.**

**Suffering is a general term with broad application**—physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual. It can include disease or discouragement, doubt or anxiety, financial hardships, or relationship conflicts. In short, it includes anything that causes trouble or affliction. The response? "He must pray."

**B. Prayer as a priority is never to be a secondary response to suffering and/or difficulty with the idea in mind that there is a time to pray and a time to do as if to say, "Now is the time to do we can pray later." (To do so is to discount the importance of praying.)**

**C. Prayer as a priority is reflected in a consistent or constant spiritual discipline i.e. exercised with regularity meaning that one's prayer life hardly changes as a result one's life situation.**

There are reasons to praise the Lord as well as petition the Lord.

## II. PRAYING FOR HEALING FOR THE PHYSICALLY ILL

**A. Preliminary considerations relative to praying for healing of the physically ill:**

1. Sometimes there is a direct relationship between personal sins and sickness.
2. Sometimes there is no relationship between personal sins and sickness.
3. It is not God's will that everyone be healed in this life.

**B. Biblical prescription for health and healing:**

1. Recognize the need for intercessory prayers initiated by a call to the church elders.
2. Recognize that healing regardless of its nature or means is technically from the Lord.
3. Consider the possibility that one's sickness may have a spiritual dimension about it requiring confession of sin.

**C. Biblical Promises to the Sick and Suffering (Spiritual Nature Illness)**

1. Restoration — The context of James's message suggests making amends with those whom you have wronged and forgiving those who have wronged you.

2. Raising up — The context of James's message suggests making amends with those whom you have wronged and forgiving those who have wronged you.
3. Forgiveness — The context of James's message suggests making amends with those whom you have wronged and forgiving those who have wronged you.

Conclusion: On April 17, 2000, my son Nathan was in a near-fatal car accident. Investigators believe he lost control of the family convertible while trying to avoid a deer. Forty-five minutes later, Kevin Lindow, a young man with emergency medical skills, found Nathan at the scene of the crash and stabilized his neck while his mother called for help. When they arrived at the hospital, Nathan was suffering from a broken leg, spinal-cord damage, and numerous lacerations to his body. Doctors began treating him and found he was having trouble breathing due to a collapsed lung. To stabilize him, they decided to drug-induce a coma.

Nathan spent four days in that coma, and doctors at Marshfield Clinic estimated his odds for survival at 1-in-100. Then when they removed the drugs, he didn't come out of the coma. That night I prayed and read the Bible to Nathan, repeating the words Jesus said to Lazarus: "Come forth." I told him, "You've got to fight. You've got to wake up." And the next morning he did, acknowledging me later that afternoon. We were beside ourselves with joy.

But the spinal-cord damage was of major concern. Nathan had a fracture in the C-4 vertebra in his neck, the same part of the spinal cord that actor Christopher Reeve injured several years ago. The doctors gave Nathan a protective neck collar to help prevent against further separation of the vertebrae. He was in immediate danger of full or partial paralysis.

Nathan has the practice of reading his Bible and praying before going to bed at night. For two weeks, he prayed earnestly for healing. One night as he was lying still, falling asleep in bed, he noticed a popping sound in his neck. The next morning, physicians performed three sets of X rays to see if the vertebrae were continuing to separate. Instead, the X rays showed that the vertebrae had fused back together, stunning the nurses and doctors. There was no medical explanation.

Just three months after the accident, doctors cleared Nathan to resume his participation in athletics, including football, wrestling, and track and field.

James' advice to Christians in the midst of suffering and in the need of healing is "He Must Pray."