

TITLE AND NUMBER: 47. A God-focussed life



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): James 5:13-16

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

LOOKING FURTHER: Nehemiah 2:4-5, Peter 3:15, James 5:16

What does this Bible passage tell us?

What does it mean to live a God-focussed life? To answer that, James asks three questions. Is anyone suffering? (The Greek word used means troubles in general not just illness.) Is anyone cheerful? Is anyone sick?

James mentions troubles, cheerfulness and sickness. We can expect our lives to be full of ups and downs. Believing in Jesus doesn't make us immune from all the normal stresses and strains of life.

Are you facing trouble? Well, tell God all about it. He wants to hear from you. Your prayer can be brief, like an arrow shot towards heaven (Nehemiah 2:4-5).

Are you cheerful? Well, thank God for that. Sing a worship song. He will be delighted to hear your praise. Maybe you'll encourage other Christians or even have a non-Christian ask you why you're so happy (Peter 3:15).

Are you sick? We know that God can and does heal in answer to prayer. But not always. Then we can continue to pray to ask God for His peace, strength and presence in these times.

James gives us a final encouragement to continue to pray.

Reflections:

- We are often more ready to pray about troubles, than praise God for His goodness to us. What could you do to make praise part of your daily routine?
- Developing close prayerful relationships with a brother or sister in Christ (James 5:16) can be a great blessing. Is there someone who you know well and trust, that you could build such a relationship with?
- Have you tried calling Daily Hope? The phone number is on the other side of this sheet.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

