



Rice Memorial MBC

Pastor Jimmy L. Harper, Sr., President of State Convention
Apostle Walter Camp, 1st Vice President
Dr. Sidney L. Miller, 2nd Vice President
Minister Danny Current, Dean of Christian Education
Pastor Michael Hansberry, Southern District Moderator

Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2nd Presiding
802 W. 15th, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-416-5894
www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org

We Pray for One Another

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **January 25, 2015**

James 5:13-18

Introduction: When Christians gather to pray, their thoughts and prayers usually turn toward those who are sick and suffering. This is certainly appropriate and has biblical warrant (authority).

However, our prayers (*not all*) for the sick often ignore two important facts. First, while **physical needs** are real and significant, **spiritual needs** are in fact, far more significant. Jesus Himself made this clear in Matthew 16:26.

Matthew 16:26, For what is a man profited, if he shall **gain** the whole world, and **lose** his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

The other thing we (*not all*) easily overlook in our prayers is the connection between the physical and the spiritual. While we must be careful in dealing with this issue, it is clear from the book of James that some illness is related to sin and must be dealt with as a sin issue.

James gives us important instruction about praying for one another and illustrates the power of **fervent, faithful** prayer.

(Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series)

James 5:13, Is any among you **afflicted (undergo hardship, suffer trouble)?** let him **pray**.

Thought 1. James says, if you're suffering trouble, address it by talking to our Father and the Lord Jesus about it; and HEARING what they have to say. That's prayer! But, we must understand that the secret to praying effectively is REVERENCE for our Father! This is what produces humility, submission to, and FAITH in him. If reverence is not first, the prayer is not be a prayer of faith (believing/trusting, resting and obeying what we hear from God)!

So, "MUCH prayer, MUCH power", is not true. But, much REVERENCE is much power! And nor is it the family that "prays together, stays together", but instead, "the family that reverences God together, stays together!" Reverence makes us to look to him and obey him!

Proverbs 14:2, He that walketh in his uprightness (conformity to rectitude and justice in social dealings) **FEARETH (reverence)** the Lord: but he that is **perverse (to turn aside)** in his ways despiseth him.

Proverbs 14:26, In the **fear (reverence)** of the Lord is strong confidence (assurance [utmost certainty, FAITH]): and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Proverbs 28:14, Happy is the **man (person)** that **feareth (stand in AWE** [reverential fear]) ALWAYS...

Thought 2. Next, we need to know how to and what to ASK for in prayer. If we don't

know, then we should ask to receive wisdom and knowledge of the things for us, contained in our new Covenant, this is his WILL. The Holy Spirit will get the truth to us, directly or indirectly, working through people that can help us. The question is how great is our DESIRE to know what's been provided? When we know his will, we don't pray, "If it be thy will." But until, or if, he hasn't revealed his will for what we'll BUY, where we'll GO, then, we do say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. (James 4:13-16) Here is more.

Matthew 6:7-8, But when ye pray, use not vain REPETITIONS, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be **heard** for their **MUCH speaking**. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ASK him.

Thought 3. So, it's the quality of words said in prayer, not the quantity of words!

John 15:7, If ye abide in me, and my **WORDS** abide in **you**, ye shall **ask** what ye **will**, and it shall be **done** unto you.

1 John 5:14-15, And this is the **confidence** that we have IN him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we **know** that he **hear** us, whatsoever we ASK, we **KNOW** that we **have** the petitions that we desired of him.

Mark 11:24, Therefore I (*Jesus*) say unto you, What things soever ye **desire**, WHEN ye PRAY, **BELIEVE** (*when you pray*) that ye **receive** them, and ye SHALL have them.

James 5:13 *...Is any merry? let him sing PSALMS (make melody, sing psalms (a sacred song or hymn; a song composed on a divine subject and in praise of God)).*

NOTE: Let him sing psalms. That is, if any one is happy; if he is in health, and is prospered; if he has his friends around him, and there is nothing to produce anxiety; if he has the free exercise of conscience and enjoys religion, it is proper to express that in notes of praise. Compare Ephesians 5:19-20. On the meaning of the word here rendered "sing psalms," See Barnes "Ephesians 5:9", where it is rendered **making melody**. It does not mean to sing psalms in contradistinction from singing hymns, but the reference is to **any songs** of **praise**. Praise is appropriate to such a state of mind. The heart naturally gives utterance to its emotions in songs of **thanksgiving**.

(Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

Proverbs 17:22, A **merry heart** doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Ephesians 5:15-20, See then that ye walk **circumspectly (diligently [not carelessly])**, not as fools, but as **wise**, **Redeeming (improve opportunity)** the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the WILL of the Lord IS. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in **psalms** and **hymns** and **spiritual (supernatural)** songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Thought 1. You did notice Paul said by the Spirit to sing "supernatural songs?" Since "praying with the spirit, or in the Holy Ghost" is to do so in "tongues" (a language specially, one naturally unacquired, meaning it's supernaturally acquired), then to "SING supernatural songs" is to sing in "tongues." This is our language as a child to our Father from our "spirit" as the Holy Ghost gives us articulation. As in speaking in tongues, this is not our natural "native tongue."

Jude 1:20-21, But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves** on your most holy faith, **praying** in the **Holy Ghost**, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

1 Corinthians 14:15, What is it then? **I will pray** with the spirit, and **I will pray** with the understanding also:

I will SING with the **SPIRIT**, and **I will sing** with the **understanding** also.

Thought 2. And notice too, the way he made this statement. He was making clear that we have the ability to choose HOW we're going to pray, or SING, and do so at OUR choosing, because God lets us control these actions. On the other hand, only God controls when he speaks through us "in tongues" to his people. And when he does, it needs to be interpreted to edify the people.

James 5:14, *Is any sick among you? let him CALL for the **ELDERS** of the church...*

Elders defined 4245. presbuteros pronounced pres-boo'-ter-os comparative of presbus (elderly); older; as noun, a senior; or Christian "presbyter."

Presbyter, in the primitive Christian church, an elder; a person somewhat advanced in AGE, who had authority in the church, and whose duty was to feed the flock over which the Holy Spirit had made him overseer.

Thought 1. For the sick to CALL for the elders, they are showing that they have faith. When we think about it, if he didn't believe that he would get well, why CALL for them? So, the person that's sick is required to have faith in order to be healed! If that was not the case, Jesus could have healed everybody that he saw that had a need in their life!

Mark 6:4-6, But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country ...among his own **kin**, and in his own **house**. And he could **there** do **NO mighty work**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and **healed** them. And he marvelled because of their **unbelief**.

Matthew 9:27-30, And when Jesus departed thence, **TWO blind** men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have **mercy** on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, **BELIEVE** YE that I am **able** to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to **your faith** be it unto you. And their eyes were opened...

Luke 5:17-20 ...on a certain day, as he was teaching... ...and the **power** of the Lord was present to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a **palsy (paralyzed or enfeebled)**: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, **THEY** went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw **THEIR faith**, he said unto him, Man, thy **sins** are **forgiven** thee.

Thought 2. Verse 20 tells us that the MAN and his friends had faith. It took faith for him to call for them and let them take him on top of that roof! And the Lord said to me, the word "their" included the man. So, his faith got him healed.

Luke 7:50, And he said to the woman, **THY FAITH** hath saved thee; go in peace.

James 5:14-15 ...and let them pray over him, **anointing** him with **oil** in the **name (authority)** of the Lord... And the **prayer** of **faith** SHALL save (heal) the sick...

Thought 1. Even if verse 15 was not written, from the scriptures at which we've looked, it's obvious that the prayer of faith, and the man's faith; and NOT the oil is what makes it possible for God to heal him. His kingdom is set up where it's our faith by which we LIVE! Meaning, we passed from death unto life, and receive everything from Father by our faith!

Habakkuk 2:4 ...the JUST shall **live (keep alive, nourish up, recover)** by **HIS faith**.

Thought 2. Some Christians anoint with oil, NOT with faith in our Father, but in the oil. I've seen some Christians that will NOT even pray for the sick unless they have oil! That action, in and of itself, is telling everyone that they're not looking at God like they should. In truth, the oil is only one of many points of contact ordained by God for a person to release their faith IN him, knowing that his hand (spiritual POWER) is upon them.

1 Samuel 16:13, Then Samuel took the horn of **oil**, and **anointed** him (*David*) in the midst of his brethren ...the **Spirit** of the **Lord** came upon David from that day forward.

Thought 3. So, in essence, in a lot of cases today, anointing with oil is being misused in much the same way as was the brass serpent that God told Moses to make. It's just OIL.

2 Kings 18:1-4 ...**Hezekiah** the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign... ..And he did that which was **right** in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did. ...and **brake** in pieces the **brassen serpent** that **Moses** had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense TO IT ...he called it **Nehushtan (something made of copper)**.

James 5:15...and the Lord shall **raise him up**, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Thought 1. You did notice that the scriptures said "the Lord SHALL raise him up"? So, if an elder prays for the sick and they do not recover; why were they not healed? Well, either the elder they called didn't have faith, or the person doing the calling missed it somewhere. Wisdom says God's will is to heal because it's in our Covenant (solemn binding agreement), just like it was in the old Covenant! It's always God's will! And he's faithful to keep his word. In fact, nothing is too hard for him! So, we shouldn't blame him like Job did! Getting healed is like being saved. Everyone is saved when they believe (trust their spiritual well-being to Jesus). And this trust must be continued 'til we leave our body or is changed.

Matthew 17:14-21, And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is **lunatic** (person affected by insanity [unsound in mind], supposed to be influenced or produced by the moon), and sore vexed: for oft times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy **disciples**, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O **faithless** and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the **devil** (**dæmonic** (pertaining to a DEMON) **being**); and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, **Why could not we cast him out?** And Jesus said unto them, Because of your **unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit **this kind** goeth not out but by **prayer** and **fasting**.

Thought 2. This tells us the kind of faith that's necessary for some of the works of God is only attained and maintained by a lifestyle of prayer and fasting.

Mark 16:17-20 ...these **signs** SHALL follow them that **believe**; In my **name (authority)** shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues ...they shall **lay hands** on the **sick** ...they SHALL **recover**. ...after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven... sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth... **preached** every where, the Lord **working** WITH them, And **confirming (to stabilize)** [to establish [to fulfill; to make good]] the **word** with **signs** following.

Thought 3. Today, even though some "believe" certain things have "passed away", these signs still follow those who "believe." If it wasn't true, I know of Christians who would have gone home to be with Jesus. In my case, I was 12 years old with a

disease, to this day, was and, is not known to the doctors. But, after hearing from the doctors I could die at any time, my mother, who had faith in God, went home prayed and asked God to heal me, came back to the hospital and called my name. When she did so, I awoke out the coma I was in. Next, she asked me if I knew her? I responded, you sound like my Mama. She removed her mask so I could see her face and from there, God raised me up, true to his word! And while in the hospital, upon hearing from her how it was I was still alive, I believed on Jesus, and was born again.

James 5:16, Confess your faults one to another... **pray** one for another, that ye may be **healed**. The **effectual fervent (efficient [intelligent])** prayer of a **righteous** man availeth much.

NOTE: ...when sick people send for ministers to pray over them they should then **confess** their faults to them. Indeed, where any are conscious that their sickness is a vindictive **punishment** of some particular **sin**, and they cannot look for the **removal** of their sickness without particular applications to God for the pardon of such a sin, there it may be proper to acknowledge and tell his case, that those who pray over him may **know how** to **plead rightly** for him.

(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible classic.studylight.org/com/mhc*)

Thought 1. So living right and praying wisely, can do much! And if we wrong someone, we're to confess our fault to them. A private fault against a person is not to be confessed to the congregation. But, if we wrong the congregation, then we confess the fault to them.

James 5:17-18, **Elias** was a man subject to like **passions** (feelings) as we are, and he **prayed (worship) earnestly (an oratory [oral communication])** that it might not rain: and it **rained not** on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he **prayed** again, and the **heaven** gave **rain**, and the **earth** brought forth her **fruit**.

Thought 1. Verse 17 is NOT saying that Elijah asked in prayer that it not rain. From the definitions, we see, in worshipful prayer, God spoke to him; and he heard him say, according to the Covenant, tell Ahab about his sins, and the JUDGMENT of NO rain for 3½ years.

Deuteronomy 28:15, 24 ...it shall come to pass, if thou wilt NOT **hearken** unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to **do** all his **commandments** and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these **curse**s shall come upon thee, and **overtake** thee... ...The **Lord** shall make the **rain** of thy land powder and dust...

1 Kings 16:30, 33, And **Ahab** the son of Omri did **evil** in the **sight** of the Lord above all that were before him. ...and **Ahab** did **more** to provoke the Lord God of Israel to **anger** than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

1 Kings 17:1, And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, **before** whom **I stand (serve)**, there shall not be **dew** nor **rain** these years, but according to my word. (*From God*)

1 Kings 18:1 ...the **WORD** of the Lord **came** to **Elijah** in the **third** year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will SEND rain upon the earth. (*This is prayer*)

1 Kings 18:42-46 ...Elijah went up to the top of Carmel ...he cast himself down upon the earth ...put his **face** between his **knees** ...said to his **servant**, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up ...looked ...said, There is nothing. ...he said, Go again **seven** times. ...it came to pass at the **seventh time**, that he said, **Behold**, there ariseth a little **cloud** out of the **sea**, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto **Ahab**, Prepare thy chariot ...get thee down that the **rain** stop thee not. And it came to pass... that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. ...Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the **hand (power)** of the Lord was on Elijah ...he girded up his loins, and **RAN** before [*ahead of*] Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.