

## Sermon Devotionals for James 5:13-20

1. To set the context briefly, who did James address in the beginning of this chapter? What were they doing and to whom? In verses 7-12, who is James talking to? What is happening to these folks and what does James exhort them to do? Remember this is a time of intense persecutions—they are Jewish believers so they are getting it from the Gentile authorities and their own families and synagogues. What sort of condition would they be in—mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually—as the situation continues with no relief in sight? Are you experiencing ongoing and seemingly endless stress from broken relationships, financial difficulty, chronic illness that is robbing you of hope? James has the answer in v.13-20.
2. Read through v.13-20. Mark the words *pray/prayer/praise* the same way. Mark the word *sick*. What is the main topic of v.13-20? The words translated 'sick' in this passage do not refer to 'disease': *astheneō* and *kamnō* are defined as weakness, weary, to be tired from toil. How does knowing the definitions of these words help in understanding of this passage? Do you or someone you know keep experiencing depression, anxiety? Where do you go to gain relief?
3. The words used for *sick* in this passage are used elsewhere. Look up Acts 20:35, Romans 5:6, 1Cor.8:9, 2Cor.11:21, 2Cor.12:10. Note what sorts of weaknesses are being referred to.
4. James 5:14 says the spiritually weak are to call for the elders. Who are they? Look up the following and highlight the responsibilities, duties of these : Acts 6:4, 1Tim 5:17, Titus 1:5. What do you learn?
5. What is the promise in v.15? Mark *restore, raise*; meaning to arouse, awaken. When one is spiritually weak –distrustful, doubting—what does v.16 direct us to do?
6. Looking at this passage-what are we to do when we are spiritually weak and weary? Tough it out alone? How are we, in the church family, respond when a weakened, hurting member comes to us? How does knowing the instruction in James 5 change what/how you will respond in future? Be specific. Be ready and prepared. It's part of our ministry to each other.

Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God. We know not what prayer can do. C.H.Spurgeon