


# The Epistle Of James

## **James 5:15 (NKJV)**

“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a quill pen, poised to write on a piece of parchment. The parchment is part of an open book, with the left page visible and the right page partially obscured by the hand and pen. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the parchment and the feathers of the quill.

“The Prayer of Faith”  
James 5:13-20




# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things! - (5:13-18)*



- ◆ Enduring trials & temptation through faith - 1:1-16
- ◆ Being doers of the word by faith - 1:17-27
- ◆ The sin of favoritism / prejudice - 2:1-13
- ◆ The faith that does not save and the ONLY kind of faith that does - 2:14-26
- ◆ The power of the tongue and our need to control it - 3:1-12
- ◆ Two kinds of wisdom & their fruit - 3:13-4:12
- ◆ Making our plans - 4:13-17
- ◆ Those Who Oppress You Will Be Judged - therefore Be Patient - 5:1-12



A close-up, profile view of a woman's face, looking upwards with her eyes closed and hands clasped in prayer. The background is a dark, textured blue.

# “THE PRAYER OF FAITH”

Prayer Changes  
Things!

James 5:13-18



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things! - (5:13-18)*

## **James 5:13-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things! - (5:13-18)*

## **James 5:13-18 (NKJV)**

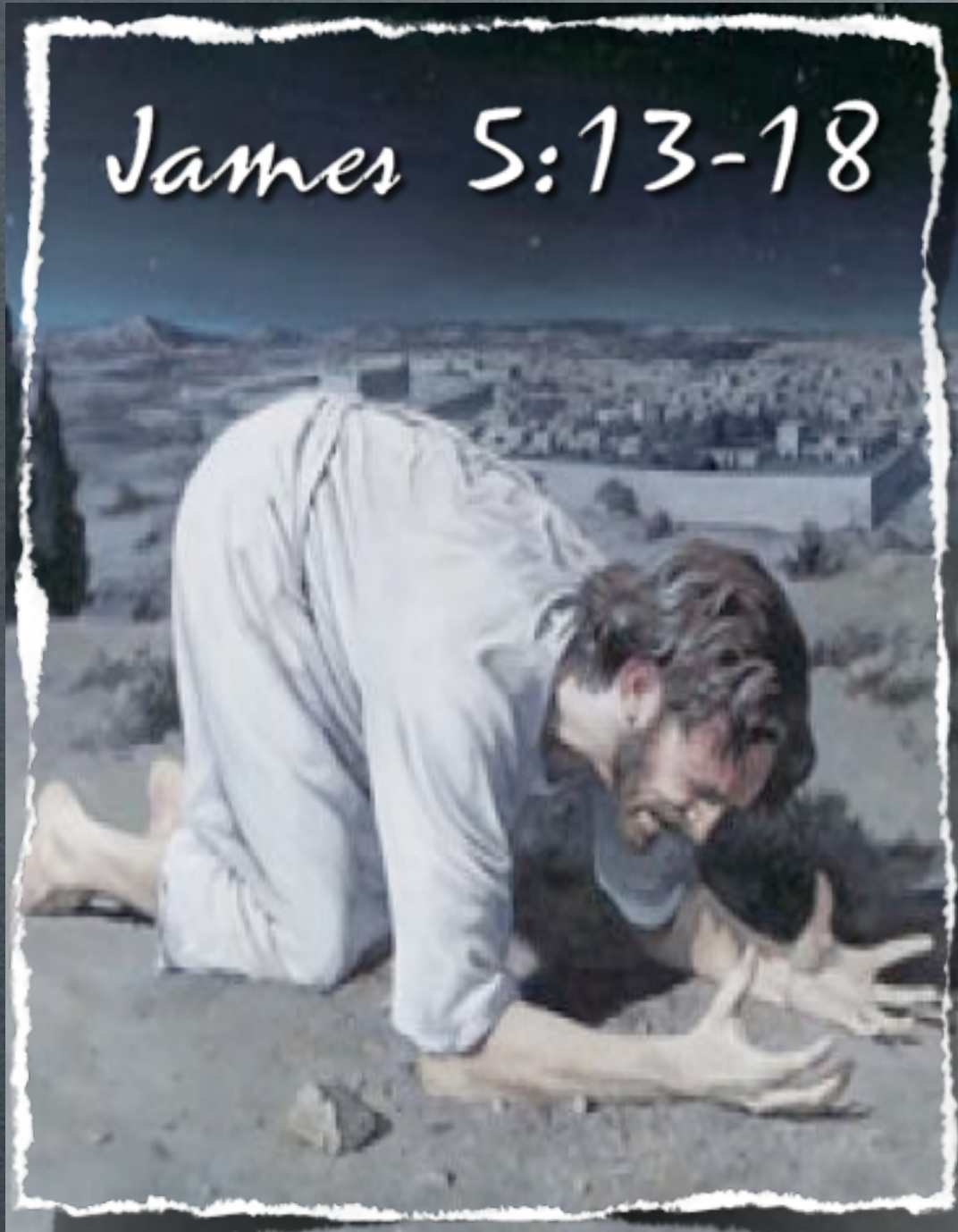
<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.



# “THE PRAYER OF FAITH”

Prayer Changes Things!

*James 5:13-18*



- ✦ Does this passage promise physical healing for the Christian?
- ✦ Is this passage dealing with miraculous Divine healing?
- ✦ Is this text applicable today?



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

*Instructions to the Suffering and Cheerful - Vs. 13*

### **James 5:13 (NKJV)**

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

- ◆ **Suffering is one of the major challenges to faith** - James throughout the book has been pointing out the various ways that their faith was being tested.
- ◆ **The word translated suffering has a broad meaning** - The basic idea being - to suffer evil of every type as well as prolonged affliction. The affliction could be outward or within (mental).



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

*Instructions to the Suffering and Cheerful - Vs. 13*

### **James 5:13 (NKJV)**

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

◆ **When we are troubled - "Let him pray,"** - literally - Present middle imperative, "let him keep on praying" (RWP)

### ◆ **For what should we pray?**

- ✳ The removal of the suffering - Luke 22:39-46; 2 Cor. 12:7-10
- ✳ Wisdom & strength to endure the suffering - James 1:5



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

*Instructions to the Suffering and Cheerful - Vs. 13*

### **James 5:13 (NKJV)**

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

◆ **In contrast to suffering, "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms."**

✳ This expression pictures a "cheerful mind or attitude."

◆ **The proper conduct of one who is cheerful -**

✳ Singing praise has the power to make ANY situation better - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Acts 16:24,25



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

### *Instructions to the sick - Vs. 14*

#### **James 5:14 (NKJV)**

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.

◆ **A difficult text -**

◆ **The word sick?**

✳ Is he using it in the general sense, or is he referring to a spiritual condition?

✳ Is he, therefore, inquiring about their physical health or spiritual health?



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*



**Greek Word: ἀσθενέω astheneō**

**English Words used in KJV:**

be weak 12; be sick 10; sick 7;  
weak 3; impotent man 1; be  
diseased 1; be made weak 1 [Total  
Count: 36]

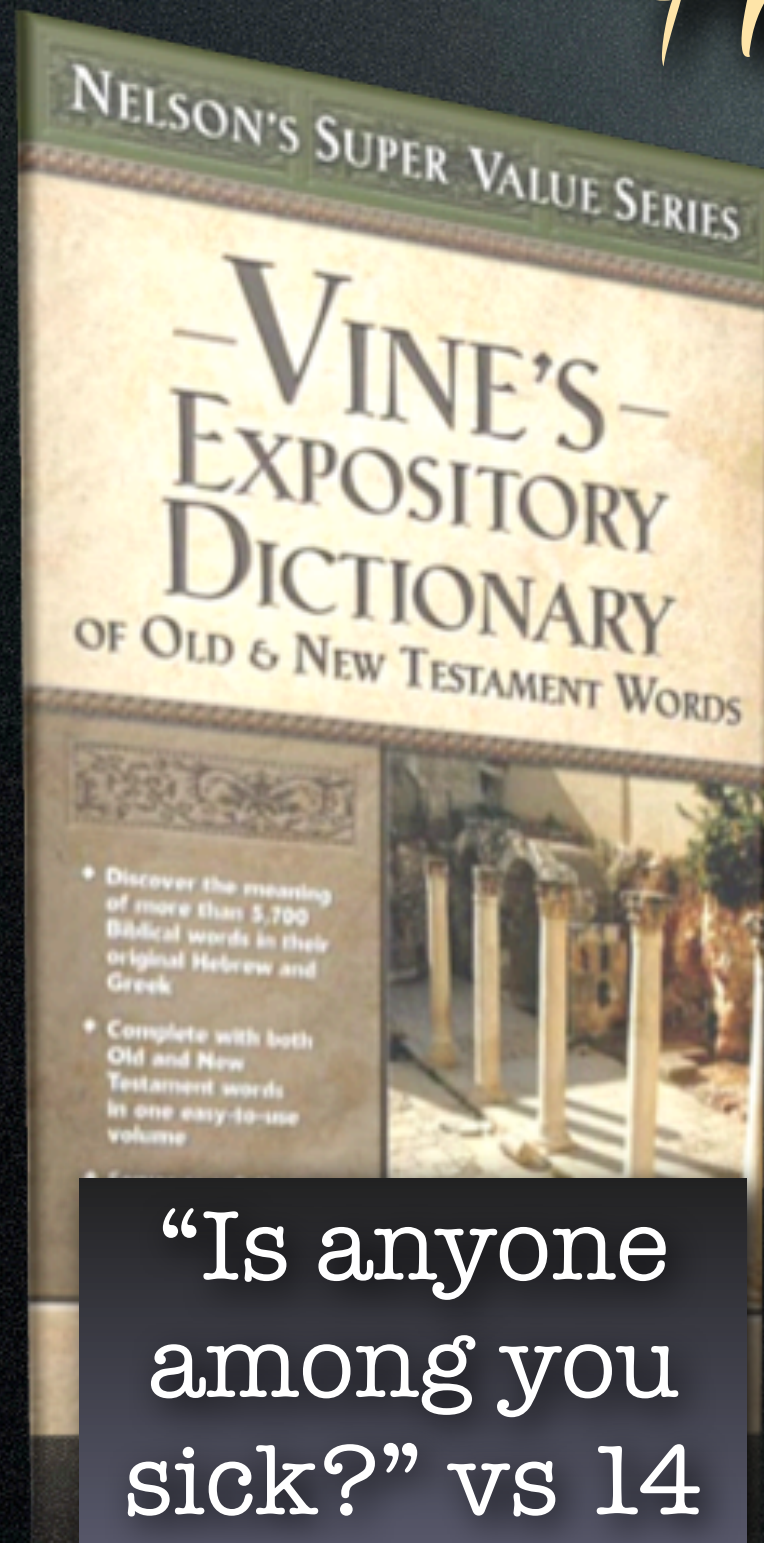
**from <G772> (asthenes);** to be  
feeble (in any sense) :- be diseased,  
impotent folk (man), (be) sick, (be, be  
made) weak.

**Strong's Greek & Hebrew  
Dictionary.**



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*



**Strong's Number: <G770>**

**Original Word: ἀσθενέω, astheneō**

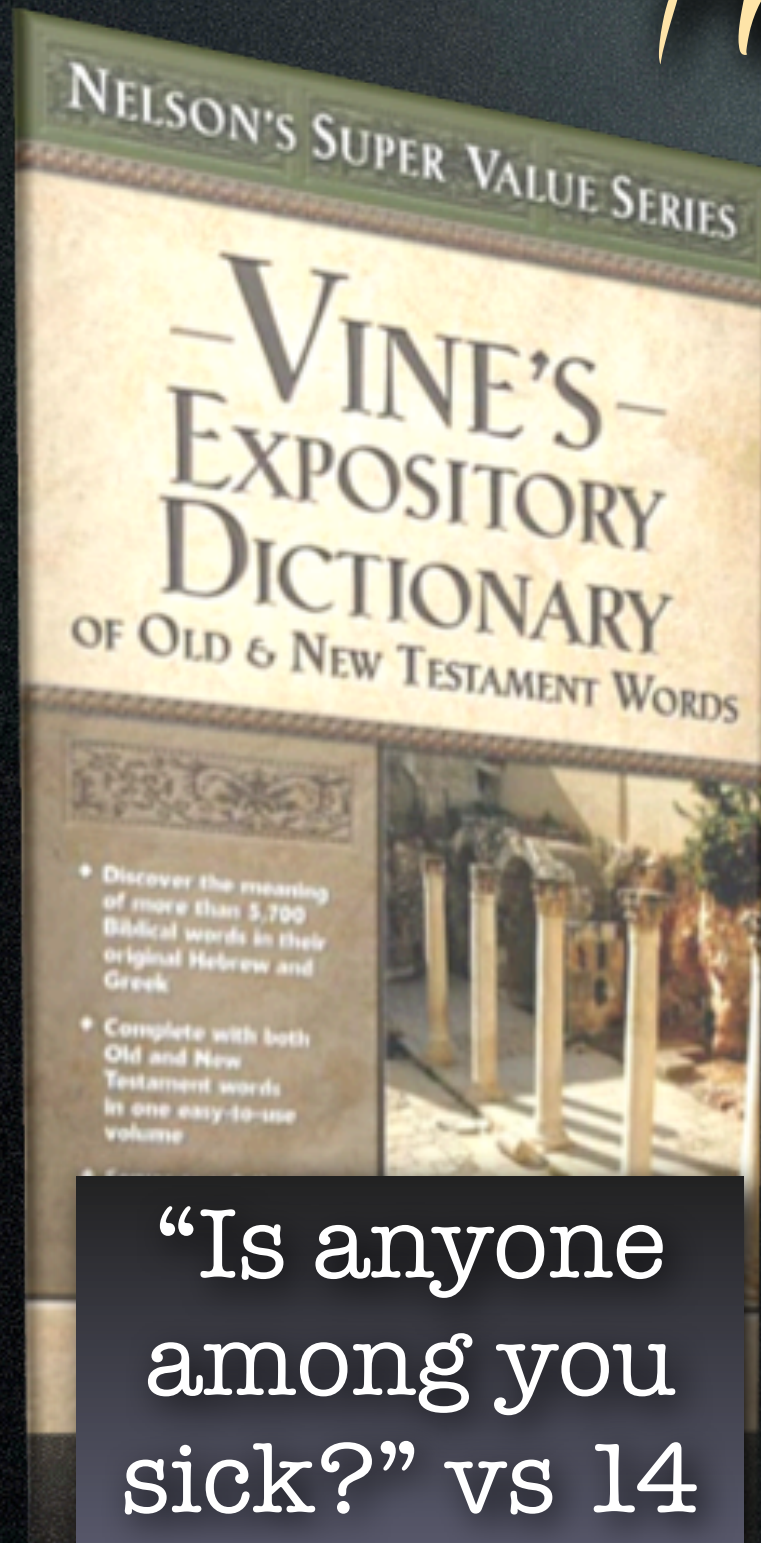
Usage Notes: lit., "to be weak, feeble" (a, negative, sthenos, "strength"), is translated "to be sick," e.g., in Matt. 10:8, "(the) sick;" Matt. 25:36; ver. 39 . . . Mark 6:56; Luke 4:40; Luke 7:10 . . . Luke 9:2; John 4:46; John 5:3, . . . John 5:7; John 6:2, . . . John 11:1-3, 6; Acts 9:37; Acts 19:12; Phil. 2:26, 27; 2 Tim. 4:20; Jas. 5:14. See DISEASED, B, No. 1, IMPOTENT, and, especially, WEAK.

**Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words**



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*



**Strong's Number: <G770>**

**Original Word: ἀσθενέω, astheneō**

Usage Notes: "to lack strength," is used in much the same way as A, No. 1, and translated "being ... weak" in Rom. 4:19, AV (RV, "being weakened"); Rom. 8:3; Rom. 14:1, 2 (in some texts, 1 Cor. 8:9); 2 Cor. 11:21, 29 (twice); 2 Cor. 12:10; 2 Cor. 13:3, 4, 9.

**Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words**



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*



"the prayer of faith will save the sick" vs 15

**Strong's Number: <G2577>**

**Greek Word: κάμνω - kamnō**

Part of Speech: v

**English Words used in KJV:**

be wearied 1; sick 1; faint 1; [Total Count: 3]

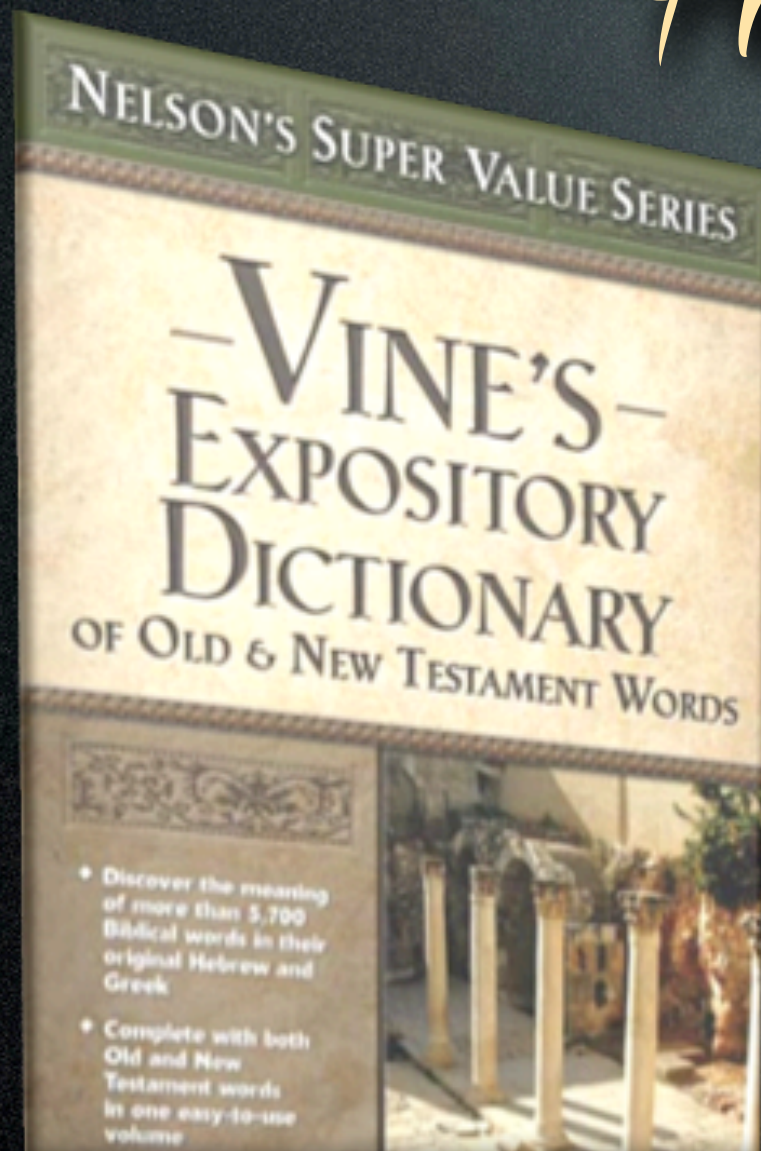
apparently a primary verb;  
properly to toil, i.e. (by implication)  
to tire (figurative faint, sicken) :-  
faint, sick, be wearied.

**Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.**



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*



"the prayer of faith will save the sick" vs 15

**Strong's Number: <G2577>**

**Original Word: κάμνω, kamnō**

Usage Notes: primarily signified "to work;" then, as the effect of continued labor, "to be weary;" it is used in Heb. 12:3, of becoming "weary" (see also No. 1), RV, "wax not weary;" in Jas. 5:15, of sickness; some mss. have it in Rev. 2:3, AV, "hast (not) fainted," RV, "grown weary." See SICK, WEARY.

**Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words**



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

<G770> - ἀσθενέω, astheneōlit., "to be weak, feeble" (a, negative, sthenos, "strength")

**Romans 8:3 (NKJV)** - 3 . . . the law . . . was weak (astheneō) through the flesh

**Romans 14:1-2 (NKJV)** - 1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, . . . 2 . . . he who is weak (astheneō) eats only vegetables.

**1 Cor 8:9 (NKJV)** - 9 . . . a stumbling block to those who are weak. (astheneō)

**2 Cor 13:4 (NKJV)** - 4 . . . He was crucified in weakness, [769] yet He lives by the power of God. we also are weak [770 (astheneō)] in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.



# "The Prayer of Faith"

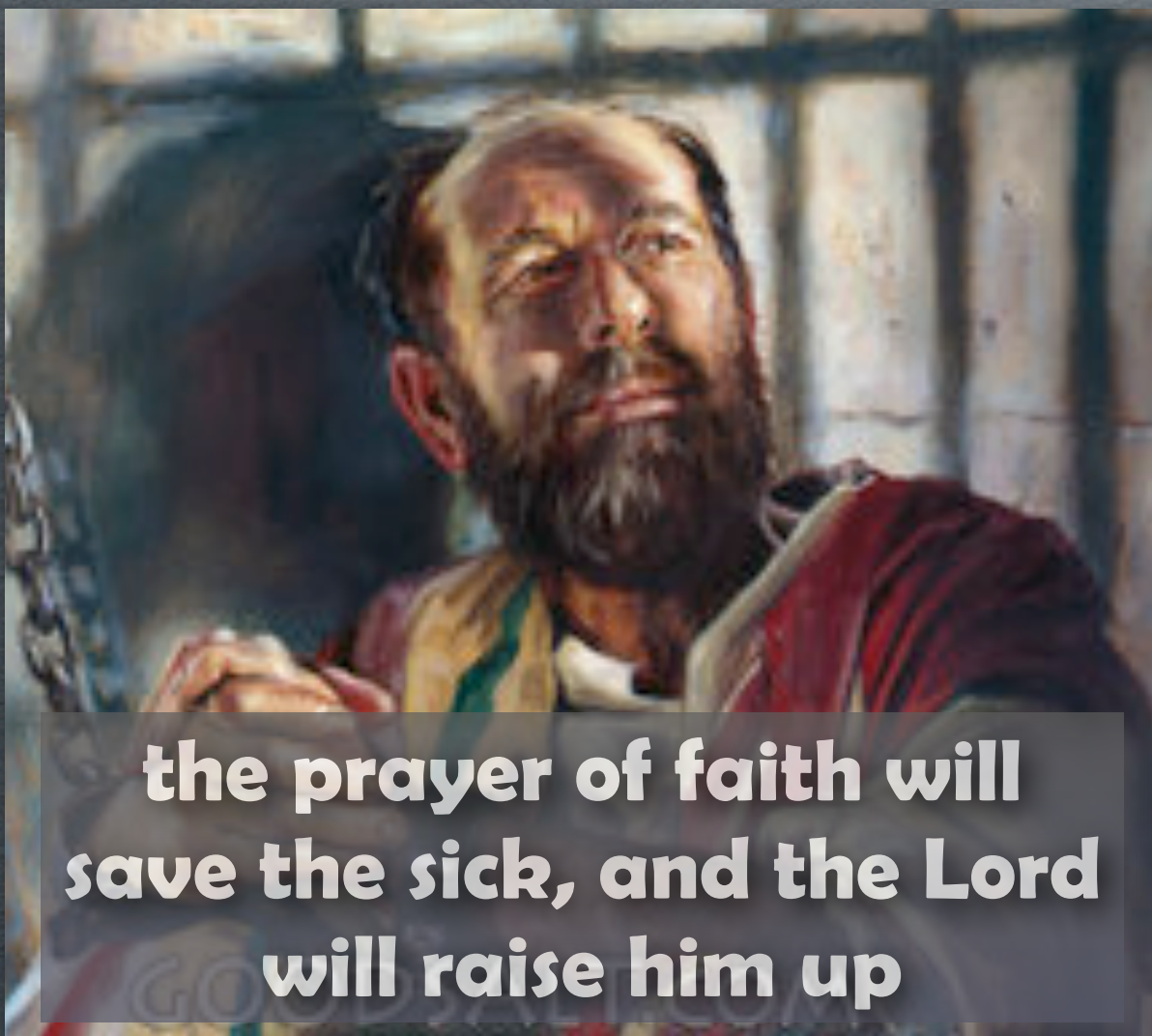
## *Prayer Changes Things!*

<G770> - ἀσθενέω, astheneōlit., "to be weak, feeble" (a, negative, sthenos, "strength")

**2 Corinthians 12:10**

**(NKJV)**

Therefore I take pleasure  
in infirmities, in  
reproaches, in needs, in  
persecutions, in  
distresses, for Christ's  
sake. For when I am weak,  
(astheneō) then I am  
strong.



**the prayer of faith will  
save the sick, and the Lord  
will raise him up**



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*

*Is anyone among you sick? - Vs. 14*

## **James 5:14 (NKJV)**

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.

## **The Context**

- ✳ Need for FAITH in trials – 1:2-6
- ✳ Blessed is the man that endures temptation – 1:13
- ✳ Prosecuted by the rich – 2:6,7
- ✳ Submission, repentance, humility - the Lord will lift us up – 4:7-9
- ✳ Poor Christians being defrauded – 5:4
- ✳ The need for patience through suffering – 5:7-12



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Is anyone among you sick? - Vs. 14 -  
The prayer of faith will save the sick" vs 15

### **Condition (13)**

IF Afflicted – Pray  
IF Merry – Sing  
Psalms

### **Possible Result of Affliction (14)**

A Weakened  
Condition

### **Possible Result of Weakness**

**(15)**

May commit Sin

**Call the elders, let them  
pray, anointing with oil,  
in the name of Jesus**

WILL SAVE  
WILL RAISE UP  
IF SIN – WILL BE  
FORGIVEN



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Is anyone among you sick? - Vs. 14 -  
The prayer of faith will save the sick" vs 15



**the prayer of faith will  
save the sick, and the  
Lord will raise him up**

- ◆ Did Paul not pray that his thorn in the flesh be healed by faith – Why didn't he call for the elders? (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
- ◆ Why did Paul leave Trophimus in Miletus sick? (2 Tim. 4:20)
- ◆ Why did Paul tell Timothy: "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities." (1 Tim 5:23)
- ◆ If this passage is promising physical healing – what would it take for a Christian to die of sickness?



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Call the elders, let them pray,  
... anointing with oil, in the name of Jesus (14)

The word "anoint" is aleipsantes  
("rub with oil") not chriō  
("ceremonially anoint"). The  
former is the "mundane" word  
and the latter is "the sacred and  
religious word"

(Richard Chenevix Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament*, ninth ed. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1950, pp. 136-7).





# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Call the elders, let them pray,  
... anointing with oil, in the name of Jesus (14)

"... James is not suggesting a ceremonial or ritual anointing as a means of divine healing; Instead, he is referring to the common practice of using oil as a means of bestowing honor, refreshment, and grooming"

(Daniel R. Hayden, "Calling the Elders to Pray,"  
Bibliotheca Sacra 138. July-September 1981:264).





# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*

Call the elders, let them pray,  
... anointing with oil, in the name of Jesus (14)

**Luke 10:34**



**Luke 10:34 (NKJV)**

So he went to him and  
bandaged his wounds,  
pouring on oil and wine;  
and he set him on his own  
animal, brought him to an  
inn, and took care of him



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Call the elders, let them pray,  
... anointing with oil, in the name of Jesus (14)



- ◆ The woman “poured” (aleiphō) perfume on Jesus’ feet (Luke 7:38).
- ◆ A host “put oil” (aleiphō) on the head of his guest (Luke 7:46).
- ◆ A person who is fasting should not be sad and ungroomed, but should “put oil” (aleiphō) on his head, and wash his face (Matt. 6:17).



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Call the elders, let them pray,  
... anointing with oil, in the name of Jesus (14)



Thus James' point is that the  
"weak" (asthenei) and  
"weary" (kamnonta) would  
be refreshed, encouraged,  
and uplifted by the elders  
who rubbed oil on the  
despondents' heads and  
prayed for them.



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

Call the elders, let them pray,  
... anointing with oil, in the name of Jesus (14)



- ◆ The need for qualified elders! – 1 Tim 3:1-7
- ◆ The need for elders to feed the flock – Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2
- ◆ The need for elders to watch over the souls of those whom they are overseers – Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:2
- ◆ The need for Christians to call the elders when they are weak – Ja 5:14



# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*

*The Power of Prayer (Verse 16)*

## **James 5:16 (NKJV)**

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- ✳ Confess your sins, or trespasses - 1 John 1:9,10
- ✳ Confess to one another - Prov 28:13; Mat 18:15
- ✳ That you may be healed - Heb 12:12,13
- ✳ "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" - thus the need to call for the elders - Gal 6:1;



# "The Prayer of Faith"

## *Prayer Changes Things!*

*An Example of the Power of Prayer (Verse 17,18)*

### **James 5:17,18 (NKJV)**

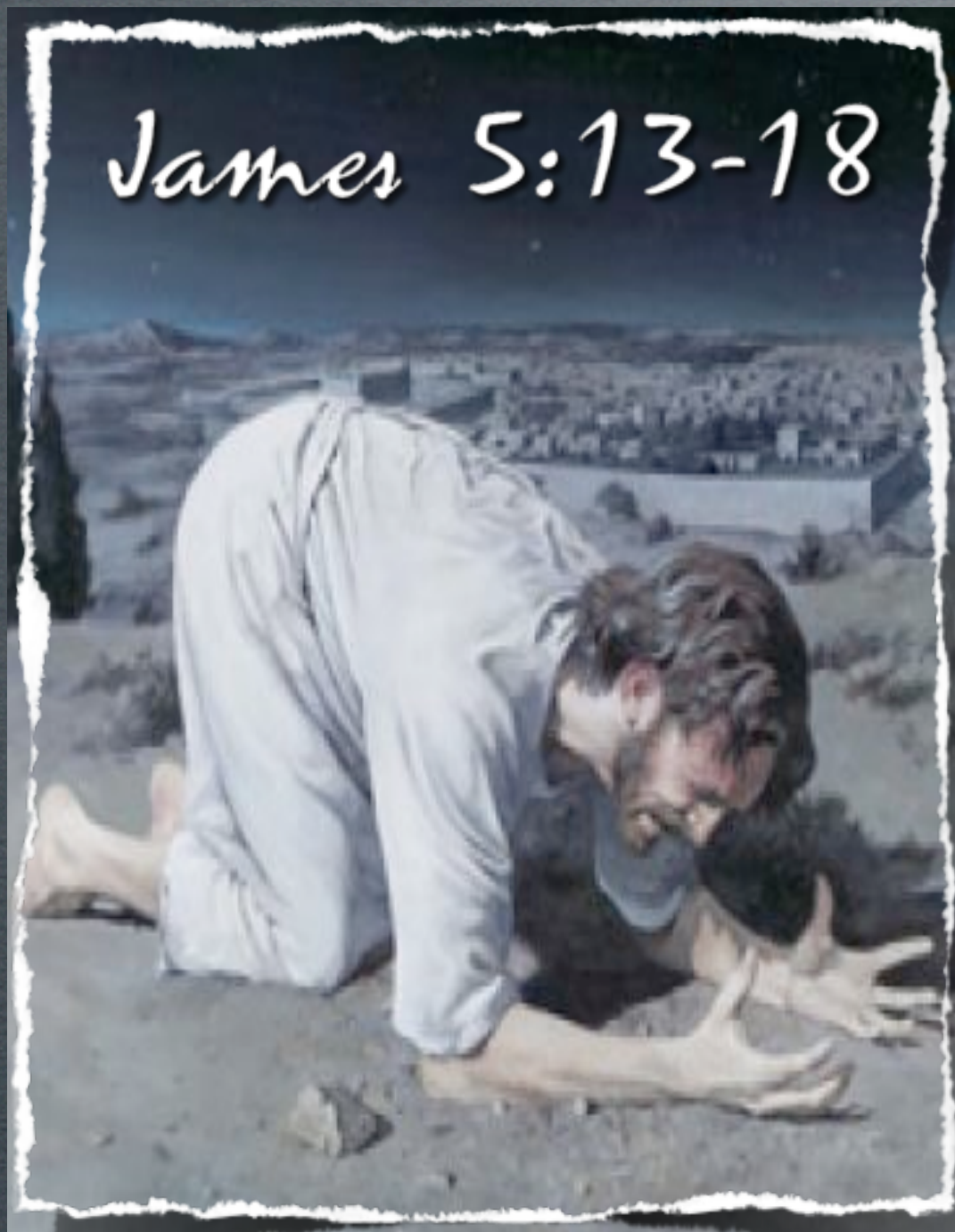
<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.  
<sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- ✳️ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours
- ✳️ He is an example of both affliction, and fervent prayer - (1 Ki. 17:1; 1 Ki 18:41-45)
- ✳️ This DID NOT END THE suffering of Elijah



# “THE PRAYER OF FAITH”

## Prayer Changes Things!



James 5:13-18

- ✦ **The text promises God's aide and deliverance in times of suffering - (WILL save - WILL lift up - & WILL forgive sin)**
- ✦ **Are we seeking what God provides through faith & prayer?**
- ✦ **If our faith is weak - are we willing to call for someone whose faith is strong?**
- ✦ **If we have sinned - are we willing to confess our sin that we may be forgiven?**







# "The Prayer of Faith"

*Prayer Changes Things!*

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