

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Closing Remarks to the Church**  
**James 5:12-20**

Last time...2 golden rules

1. of the worldly rich (worshippers of Mammon): Whoever has the gold makes the rules – a lie and a deception unto destruction
2. of followers/worshippers of Jesus Christ: Do unto others as you would have done unto you – Christ-likeness unto life

This time...closing remarks to the Church

The Epistle of James...an inspired Word of God written to the entire Church in difficult times and a very contemporary letter to the Church

We are in James 5

v12     swear not:

The Creator God is a relational God

The Church is a people in right relationship with God...

through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith

Relationships and the righteousness of God by faith are built on trust

No trust, no relationship

No trust, no righteousness by faith

Sometimes people doubt what other people say

Often, the person doubted, to “settle” the matter, will say,

“I swear I’m telling the truth.”

The Holy Spirit, reminding us what Jesus said (John 14:26), says,

above all things...before all things, to preserve and protect relationships

and the trust upon which they are built

swear not...do not make an oath, appealing to something or someone as

Simply speak the truth always, stand unwaveringly on the Truth

Eccl 5:2-7

Matt 5:33-37

Be a person of your word...just as the Lord is

He said it, He meant it, He will do it. Period!

2 Cor 1:20     For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him

Amen, unto the glory of God by us

v13 Is any among you afflicted...merry:

Jesus, the True God Who is good to His Word, promised us hardships in this world...AND peace and good cheer  
John 16:33

The world is filled with hardships, for both the just and the unjust  
God uses everything to conform us into the image of His Son (Rom 8:28-29)

Let the person enduring an affliction, a difficult or trying time,

a. pray

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer

b. drawing near unto God (James 4:6-8a),

- the lifter of our head (Ps 3:3)
- our hope (Ps 71:5, Ps 130:5)

c. stand on the Word of God

Ps 140:12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, *and* the right of the poor

Some of us are afflicted/distressed physically (poor health, injury)

Some of us are afflicted/distressed emotionally (within or with another)

Some of us are afflicted/distressed spiritually

(the deteriorating spiritual condition of this nation)

Let each and all of us pray, draw near to God, and stand on the Word

Let the person who is cheerful sing unto the Lord praises and thanksgiving

Ps 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving

Ps 26:7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works

Ps 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing

Let the rest of the Church rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep (Rom 12:15).

In these difficult times, any of you cheerful?

Share it!

Encourage your downcast brother/sister, whose hands are hanging down, to lift his hands again unto the Lord

Help him lift his eyes to Jesus.

May your cheer be contagious!

Some afflictions are contagious, like this pestilence in these days

Praise and thanksgiving are also contagious!

v14-15 Is any sick...call for the elders:

In this germ/virus/pestilence-infested world, if any are physically sick,  
let him summon the elders to pray over him  
(mature believers given the oversight of the flock, 1 Peter 5:1-3)

Notice, the onus is upon the sick to alert the elders, not upon the elders to  
“read the minds” of the sick

If you are ill, call for prayer!

- a. Do not be too proud to ask your brothers and sisters to join you in the  
Throne Room of our Father; it is a blessing to join you!
- b. Feel free to reach out to mature, solid believers to ask for
  - prayer
  - anointing with oil...in the name/authority of Jesus Christ
  - laying on of hands

**Mark 16:17-18**

Praying, anointing, laying on of hands...all manifestations of faith in the Lord  
Who heals us and indwells us by His Spirit

“Heartburn” entry of 11/22/95...25 years ago today  
Dale Dickinson’s prayer in the hospital for Matthew today!

Q: Laying on of hands, touching...in times like this?!  
A believing attorney’s teaching about “touching”

**Hag 2:10-13**

The Levites were holy, set apart by God  
Aaron and sons are the holy of the holy, the set apart of the set apart

Holiness is not transferable but uncleanness is  
The clean does not make the unclean clean  
The unclean makes the clean unclean

Law is about exceptions  
Lawyers work with exceptions to the general rule and with exceptions to  
the exceptions

Example: General rule: murder is a crime  
Exception: Self-defense...killing someone trying to kill you is not murder  
Exception to the exception: a man-made trap that kills an intruder while  
you are gone is murder

Ex 29:36-37

General Rule: dead body is unclean

Exception: a dead body (burnt offering) put on the Altar  
(holy of the holy, Most Holy) makes the unclean clean/holy

Luke 1:30-35

thing/*hagios*: “sacred, pure, most holy”

untouched by the defilement of sin, absolutely clean

Mary, a sinner, was made holy/clean by the presence of the  
“most holy” in her

This is why Jesus was not made unclean when He touched a leper;  
He is the Most Holy and everything/everyone He touched was  
made clean while not making Him unclean

Jude 20-21

most holy/*hagios*

Holy/*hagios* Spirit

We are indwelt by the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit of the “Most Holy”  
We lay hands on the sick...the Most Holy in us makes clean the unclean,  
the clean are not made unclean by the unclean

Q: Will the Lord heal?

If it is His will

Not everybody gets healed; the Apostle Paul did not

But we believe Rom 8:28 and we pray believing His will be done

And, if the sickness is connected to sin (Mark 2:1-12), the Lord will also  
heal spiritually to make the sick person whole

v16 Confess faults...pray...effectual fervent prayer:

v15 is for the entire Body of Christ

Confess/acknowledge our faults...for there is only One untouched by sin

Rom 3:10, 23

But be careful!

1. This exhortation been mishandled/exploited/corrupted by the Church  
to force people to go into a confessional to confess their sins to a  
(false) priest (placed between the sinner and Jesus) for forgiveness
2. This exhortation is in the context of the Body of Christ ministering to  
herself in accordance with the will of the Head of the Body;  
a “medicine” for relationships, in which trust is key

I remember Pastor Chuck Smith making this point at a Pastor's Conference years ago:

Three pastors had gone on a retreat.

As they were rooming together, they decided, with this verse in James in mind, to confess their faults one to another and to pray for one another that they might be healed.

The first pastor confessed to a problem with alcohol.

He even kept a bottle stashed in his desk at the church.

The second pastor confessed to a problem that he had with women.

He was having an affair.

They turned to the third and they said, what about you brother?

He said, "Well, I have a real problem with gossip and I can't wait to get out of here!"

So be careful who you confess to!

The God Who heals us hears the prayers of faith of a  
righteous/justified/pleasing/believing person

A strong (in faith) prayer has much strength – the strength of God

For example...

v17-18 Elijah:

The prophet Elijah, sent to witness to wicked Ahab and Jezebel and their kingdom:

- subject to like passions as we are
  - emotional, wrestled with his flesh, typical mankind
  - a garden variety sinner just like every descendent of Adam
  - as was Paul (Acts 14:15)
  - righteous because he believed God (Gen 15:6)
- prayed earnestly, in the will of God vs the will of his flesh (Matt 6:10)
  - called down fire from heaven
  - caused it to not rain in Israel for 3½ years (1 Kings 17:1)
  - for rain and it rained (1 Kings 18:1)

Fervent prayer, strong prayer of faith, is effective because it is the will of the Almighty God accomplished by the strength of God, NOT because of any "spiritual superiority" of the one praying

Such power and strength are available to every child of God!

Pray believing!

v19-20 err...convert...hide a multitude of sins:

The Last Word of the Holy Spirit in this letter to the Church

Brethren...the children of God

if any of you err from the truth...sin

Who doesn't at some point?

We are sheep, prone to wander and easily seduced if we take our eyes off

- Jesus (John 14:6)
- the teaching of His Word (John 17:17)

Ps 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not  
wander from thy commandments  
(on par with, "Lord I believe! Help my unbelief!")

Ps 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I  
do not forget thy commandments  
(last word in Ps 119)

1 Peter 2:25

and one convert him...turn him back from Self and the world to following the  
Lord using the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit

2 Tim 3:16-17

Jude 22-23

Let him know...understand

shall save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins

Prov 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls:

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that  
winneth souls *is* wise.

Prov 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Prov 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love

1 Peter 4:8

## **Application/Lessons**

We live in very serious times, very perilous and difficult and troubling times...  
times of testing and refining of the Church

It is time to be on the offensive with the Gospel...which is offensive

- invitation to come out of darkness into the Kingdom of Light...  
by the power of the blood (life) of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who came to  
take away the sins of the world
- warning of certain judgment of God to come...for those who reject the blood of the  
Lamb
- always –
  - speaking the truth in love
  - standing unwaveringly on the Truth
  - beseeching the hearer to be reconciled to God!
    - Trust the Lord Jesus Christ
    - The promises of God in Him are yea and Amen!

It is time to put on the armor of God and keep it on!

The Epistle of James is a very important letter from the Holy Spirit to us...  
individually and corporately

Ch 1:2-8  
Ch 1:12  
Ch 1:16  
Ch 1:19-22

Ch 2:1  
Ch 2:8-9  
Ch 2:17  
Ch 2:24  
Ch 2:26

Ch 3:1  
Ch 3:5-6  
Ch 3:10

Ch 4:4  
Ch 4:6-10

Ch 5:7-8  
Ch 5:16  
Ch 5:19-20

And so equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit, let's march on and finish well our course!

Next week...we return to the Book of Acts, right where we left off