

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

(James 5:13-15)

I. THE JUDGMENT COMING UPON THE OPPRESSIVE RICH (5:1-6)

II. THE APPEAL TO BE PATIENT IN SUFFERING (5:7-12)

III. THE APPEAL TO PRAY AND RELY ON GOD BY FAITH (5:13-18)

A. God's Prescription for Whatever Ails You (5:13-15)

1. Like so many other NT writers, James concluded his letter to Christians with an encouragement to _____; _____ is undoubtedly the topic of this paragraph, being mentioned in every verse.

2. When you are suffering in difficult circumstances you are exhorted to pray; the Lord may or _____ remove the trial, but prayer can certainly bring the _____ and _____ needed to endure it. (v. 13a)

3. When things are going well, we are prone to _____ that contentment ultimately only comes from God, and this should solicit a response of _____ in _____. (v. 13b)

4. James instructed that in times of _____, whether _____ or _____, Christians should ask (or "call for") their church "elders" to visit them, to "pray" for them, and to minister to them. (v. 14a)

* Who takes the initiative in v. 14, the sick believer or the elders of the church?

5. According to v. 14, what was to accompany the prayers of the elders was an _____ with _____ “*in the name of the Lord.*” (v. 14b)
6. The “anointing with oil” was typically used in two different ways in the ancient world...
- a. Ceremonial/ritual purpose, Greek *chrío* “_____” (Acts 4:27; 10:38; Heb. 1:9)
 - a. Medicinal/therapeutic purpose, Greek *aleiphein* “_____” (Matt. 6:17; Luke 10:30-37)
7. Prayer is the _____ of the two ministries performed by the elders; “*pray*” is the main verb of the sentence, while “*anoint*” is a participle.
8. When the elders have prayed, we see three results can occur in v. 15...
- a. The prayer of faith _____ heal the sick _____ it is in accordance with God’s will (James 1:5-8; Rom. 8:26; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 1 John 5:14-15)
 - b. Notice it is the _____ responding to the _____ of faith that makes the believer well again and not the _____.
 - c. Personal sins _____ lead to mental and physical suffering (Mark 2:1-12; 1 Cor. 5:5; 11:27-31; James 1:15, 21), but this is _____ always the case (John 9:1-3); even so— God can _____.

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life?