

## The Prayer of A Righteous Person – Part 1

### Introduction and Review

- The unrighteous rich people will suffer eternal misery because they died loving their wealth without any love for God (v. 1-3).
- Three more reasons for their eternal misery are: they defrauded their workers (v. 4), they lived godless self-indulgent lifestyles (v. 5), and they oppressed & killed Christians (v. 6).
- The righteous poor are exhorted to: be patient until the coming of the Lord (v. 7), not grumble against another believer (v. 9), and not carelessly make oaths (v. 12).
- Lastly we examined three examples of patience in suffering: the farmer (v. 7), the prophet (v. 10) & Job (v. 11). In each case they trusted God with the outcome or result of their situation.

### I. The Need for Prayer (v. 13-16)

Paul encourages believers to pray at all times with all kinds of prayer (Eph. 6:18; 1Th. 5:17). James is essentially saying the same thing.

#### A. Suffering (v. 13a)

*This suffering means that believers were experiencing difficulty or trouble in life for the sake of the gospel. This suffering may include: prejudice, slander, financial & legal troubles, even death. When believers are doing the will of God which may result in trouble & difficulty, then we need to pray. Ask God for wisdom & help...*

#### B. Cheerful (13b)

*God also provides occasions for joy & happiness in the midst of difficulties in life. Cheerful (εὐθυμέω) means to be encouraged or have peace of mind. So believers should ask God for help in times of trouble & thank Him thru praise for times of encouragement. Singing praise is also a form of communicating with the Lord in prayer (Eph. 5:19-20).*

#### C. Sick (v. 14-16)

*Believers may also suffer a serious or debilitating illness (ἀσθενέω). There are at least three categories of sickness: 1) divine discipline (1Co. 11:28-33), 2) to the glory of God (Jn. 9:1-3; 11:4), and 3) to death (Jn. 11:4; 2Ki. 13:14). A sick believer is to request the presence of the church elders*

*(v. 14b) & confess any sin that God may reveal is causing the illness (v. 15b-16a). Every believer is not sick because of sin that he/she committed, but some are. The elders (pastors) of the church are to come to the sick person, pray for them & anoint them with oil (v. 14c-d). Anointing the sick person with oil is most likely symbolic of the HS (Lk. 4:18), but **prayer is essential**. The prayer of faith is a prayer of certainty that it is God's will to restore this saint to health in this specific situation (v. 15a; Ac. 3:1-8). The pastors must discern God's will this situation & not misrepresent God to believers who are sick (1Jn. 5:14-15). In specific situations, God will heal a sick believer physically & even spiritually when sin has been committed (v. 15).*

**Prayer & confession are essential for any church to stay healthy both physically & spiritually (v. 16a).**

**ILL:** In Ps. 32:1-7 David describes his failing health problems because of un-confessed sin. Sin also affected his fellowship with God (Ps. 51). His relief & deliverance only came thru confession (32:5-6).

**APPL:** The same is true of every one of us (from the pastor to the youngest & most immature Christian at our church), we must be people of **prayer & confession** of sin in order to be effective for the Lord.

## CONCLUSION

My beloved brothers & sisters James has described the Christian life as being filled with various circumstances – times of suffering & trouble, times of deliverance & joy, sickness & health... But we also learn that there is a godly & biblical response to every circumstance & season of life. Prayer, singing praise & confession to the Lord is essential. Prayer, singing praise & confession with each other is also essential. So what about you; how are you handling the changing circumstances in your life? Do you find yourself praying or complaining in times of trouble? Do you attend prayer meeting more often or less? Do you call upon the Lord & your church family in times of sickness or only the physicians & your medical plan? And do you thank God in praise for His deliverance & encouragement or do you receive His blessings as routine? If you are truly going to love life & have good days, then you must respond God's way – prayer, singing praise & confession of sin!

If you are not a Christian, this is God way of blessing for you too. You must **pray** & ask God to save. He will give to power to trust Jesus for salvation. Then you must **confess** your sin & believe in Jesus. And then you will be ready to **sing praises** of thanksgiving. Will you trust Him today for salvation; will you believe...?

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[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)