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**GENUINE PRAYER IS A SIGN OF HUMILITY.**

*Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <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 one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

Humility and Prayer:

- Call to **praise** when cheerful – 5:13
- Call to **prayer** when suffering or sick – 5:13-15

Q: Why should the sick call for the elders?

A: Humility.

- **Medicine** and prayer work together.
- Olive oil in the Bible:

“The tree became a symbol of fertility (Ps. 128:3), beauty (Jer. 11:16; Hos. 14:6), divine blessing (Deut. 7:13), peace and bountifulness (Gen. 8:11), and it was inextricably associated with Jesus (the Mount of Olives [Mark 14:26; John 8:1])... There was hardly a phase of life not touched by the olive tree. It was used for food (Num. 11:8), for fuel for lamps, as a medicine (Isa. 1:6; Luke 10:34), as an anointing oil (1 Sam. 10:1; 2 Kings 9:3; Isa. 61:1), in sacrifice (Lev. 2:4; Gen. 28:18), and its wood was used for furniture (1 Kings 6:23, 31-33). The olive branch was the first vegetation seen by Noah after the Flood (Gen. 8:11).”<sup>1</sup>

- Not all sickness is caused by sin.

D.A. Carson, “All sickness does not have to do with sin (Jn. 9:3), but sin can cause sickness (1 Cor. 11:30). If sin is involved, then this root needs to be dealt with before moving on to the fruit of the root, the sickness itself.”<sup>2</sup>

- Not a mechanistic recipe for healing but a process for humility (James 1:2-4).

- Call to **confession** – 5:16-18

- *confess your sins to one another* – 5:16
- *and pray for one another* – 5:16
- *that you may be healed.* – 5:16

- Warren Wiersbe, “We must never confess sin beyond the circle of that sin’s influence. Private sin requires private confession; public sin requires public confession. It is wrong for Christians to “hang dirty wash in public,” for such “confessing” might do more harm than the original sin.”<sup>3</sup>

- Powerful prayer **follows** confession – 5:17-18

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<sup>1</sup> P.J. Achtemeier, *Harper’s Bible Dictionary* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 727-728.

<sup>2</sup> P.H. Davids, “James” in D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham, eds., *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, 4th ed. (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 1367.

<sup>3</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* Vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 383.