



Sunday, July 30, 2006 • Kevin Wood
FAMILIAR PASSAGE. FRESH MEANING
 JAMES 5:13-16

Message Text: James 5:13-16 (NIV)

¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

At the heart of James’ message is the necessity of persevering _____.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
 James 1:2-4 (NIV)

1. Suffering is a _____ of this world (v.13)

- ▶ Prayer is the response of persevering faith in _____
- ▶ Praise is the response of persevering faith in _____

All of life is lived between the two poles of:

- _____
- _____

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”
 Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

2. Suffering makes us reliant upon God’s _____ (v.14)

- ▶ It exposes our _____ as fallen people!

In our suffering, God’s Presence provides:

- **The Comfort of Our _____ (the elders)**
 Praise God for His people beside us!

- **The Community of Our _____ (anointing with oil)**
 Praise God for His presence inside us!

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me...”
 Psalm 23:4

“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment... ¹⁴He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.”
 John 16:7-8, 14 (NIV)

3. Suffering makes us reliant on God’s _____ (v.15)

- ▶ It increases our _____ for God’s healing!

God’s Power never works apart from God’s Purpose.

- ▶ God’s primary work in my life is in my _____

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)

- ▶ Every time I experience suffering of any kind, it is first an opportunity for _____ healing.

4. Suffering makes us reliant on God’s _____ (v.16)

- ▶ It deepens our _____ with believers!

Nothing deepens our walk like energetic prayer for one another:

- How _____ is your prayer life? (“fervent prayer”)
- How _____ is your walk? (“righteous man”)

5. Suffering makes us _____ to the World

- ▶ It expands our _____ with the lost!

WORD KEY: faith, 1. Reality, trial, triumph, joy, suffering, 2. Presence, weakness, community, Comforter, 3. Power, want, purpose, spirit, spiritual, 4. People, walk, persistent, pure, 5. Relevant, witness



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1. Suffering is a REALITY of this world (v.13)

- ▶ Prayer is the response of persevering faith in trial
- ▶ Praise is the response of persevering faith in triumph

All of life is lived between the two poles of:

- Joy
- Suffering

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2. Suffering makes us reliant upon God's PRESENCE (v.14)

- ▶ It exposes our WEAKNESS as fallen people!

In our suffering, God's Presence provides:

- **The Comfort of Our Community (the elders)**

Praise God for His people beside us!

- **The Community of Our Comforter (anointing with oil)**

Praise God for His presence inside us!

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3. Suffering makes us reliant on God's POWER (v.15)

- ▶ It increases our WANT for God's healing!

God's Power never works apart from God's Purpose.

- ▶ God's primary work in my life is in my spirit
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- ▶ Every time I experience suffering of any kind, it is first an opportunity for spiritual healing.

4. Suffering makes us reliant on God's PEOPLE (v.16)

- ▶ It deepens our WALK with believers!

Nothing deepens our walk like energetic prayer for one another:

- How Persistent is your prayer life? ("fervent prayer")
- How Pure is your walk? ("righteous man")

5. Suffering makes us RELEVANT to the World

- ▶ It expands our WITNESS with the lost!

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