

Lesson 22 – **The PRACTICE OF PRAYER!****James 5:14 - 16 (NLT)**

¹⁴Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

PSALMS 133:1 - 2 (NLT)

- ¹ HOW WONDERFUL AND PLEASANT IT IS
WHEN BROTHERS LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY!
- ² FOR HARMONY IS AS PRECIOUS AS **THE ANOINTING OIL**
THAT WAS POURED OVER AARON'S HEAD,
THAT RAN DOWN HIS BEARD
AND ONTO THE BORDER OF HIS ROBE.

God can heal with or without means; in each case, it is God who does the healing

¹⁵Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

- *Not the elders or the oil, **but the Lord himself does the healing.** Does this mean that every prayer for healing guarantees that God will make the sick person well? **No.***
- **Psalms 41:3 (ESV)** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.
- *It is not always God's will to heal those who are ill (see 2 Corinthians 12:7-9). A prayer for healing must be qualified with a recognition that God's will is supreme.*

There are some practical lessons from this section that we must not overlook.

1. *Disobedience to God can lead to sickness. This was David's experience when he tried to hide his sins (Ps. 32).*
2. *Sin affects the whole church. Sin has a way of growing and infecting others.*
3. *There is healing (physical and/or spiritual) when sin is dealt with. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall find mercy" (Prov. 28:13). Do not hide sin or delay confession.*

¹⁶Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

- **James 5:16 (KJV)**

¹⁶Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: Action Step

"Pray without ceasing!"

2 Chronicles 20:12 (NLT)

¹²O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."