

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 4, 2016**

**“Faith that Works: The Letter of James ~ Faith in Affliction”**

**James 5:13-20**

Trials and challenges are an \_\_\_\_\_ reality of life—none of us are \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

The goal of the gospel is to be so \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, despite our \_\_\_\_\_. The goal of the gospel is to experience \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ no matter what trials or challenges we’re going through.

**THE INDIVIDUAL KEY**

**Individual Responsibility #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.” (James 5:13)

*happy or merry (KJV) = euthymeo* is the same word \_\_\_\_\_ uses in in Acts 27:22; “And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.”

Paul acknowledges that no matter what situation we find ourselves in, we can be of good cheer—we can \_\_\_\_\_ God—because God is \_\_\_\_\_.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

*in = pos =*

God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_ in every circumstance. We can give thanks in the midst of them because we know that God is in \_\_\_\_\_—that He can bring good out of evil.

When we find ourselves in the midst of a storm—when we’re suffering from some kind of affliction—we need to \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_. And we need to \_\_\_\_\_—we need to bring it to God.

“Prayer is not preparation for the work of God. Prayer is the work.” (Oswald Chambers)

There’s nothing wrong with bringing our requests to God, but that’s not the only thing we should do when we’re experiencing affliction. Instead, we need to pray like \_\_\_\_\_.

“After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth...’” (John 17:1-3)

**JESUS’ PRAYER IN JOHN 17**

- vs 1-5 - He begins by focusing on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- vs 6-19, Jesus prays about how his suffering will glorify God in the lives of those \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. Again, He’s not concerned about Himself here, but about His disciples—how they will \_\_\_\_\_ to His suffering and how it will glorify God in their lives.
- vs 20-24 He prays that His suffering will glorify God in the life of all \_\_\_\_\_—the church that would be born through the testimony of the disciples.
- vs 25-26, Jesus prays that His suffering will glorify God in all the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus could pray this way is because He \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

**Do we trust Him?**

**What is the first thing you do when you’re suffering affliction?**

**Do you pray?**

**Do you trust God enough to pray like Jesus in times of affliction?**

**Individual Responsibility #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“Are 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. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well” (James 5:14-15)

*sick = astheneo =*

**elder = Episkope =**

This refers to a person who holds a specific \_\_\_\_\_ within the church. This is where we get the English word \_\_\_\_\_.

**elder = presbyteros =**

This generally refers to people within the church—usually those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in years—who are specifically recognized for their godly \_\_\_\_\_.

**Pray over** = come \_\_\_\_\_. It means they unite their \_\_\_\_\_ with ours in prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ support.

Not only are they to come along side us, they're also to \_\_\_\_\_ us with oil. This was to be accompanied by the words "in the name of the Lord," which was an act of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in itself.

**When you're in the midst of affliction, who do you call on for help?**

**Do you call on the elders for prayer and anointing  
or do you prefer to keep your suffering private?**

### THE CORPORATE KEY

We weren't meant to be alone—we were made to be \_\_\_\_\_ and we were created for \_\_\_\_\_—that's what church is all about.

**church = ecclesia =**

Church is not an event and it's not a location—it's a \_\_\_\_\_.

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit...All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 27)

We are member of Christ's body—we \_\_\_\_\_ to each other. As fellow believers, we're \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

God didn't save us in \_\_\_\_\_. He saved us into a \_\_\_\_\_ body—the body of His son.

**Corporate Responsibility #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

"Such 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. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." (James 5:15-16)

**sick = Kakopatheo** - doesn't just refer to \_\_\_\_\_ sickness, but \_\_\_\_\_, affliction, or \_\_\_\_\_ of any kind—and includes everything from persecution, to bodily sickness, to sin or \_\_\_\_\_ sickness.

It only makes sense that if the sickness is that broad, so is the healing—and includes everything from physical healing of disease to spiritual healing of committed \_\_\_\_\_.

Sin is a sickness and \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the keys to healing. However, scripture is clear that the only One who can forgive sins—the only One who can bring healing—is \_\_\_\_\_.

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

It's through these humble, contrite prayers that we realize how \_\_\_\_\_ we are to deal with things on our own.

This kind of prayer raises up—it takes our eyes off \_\_\_\_\_ and places them firmly on God—the \_\_\_\_\_ of our forgiveness and healing. It leads to the forgiveness of sin; and restores \_\_\_\_\_ and fellowship in the body of Christ.

Corporate confession is about being \_\_\_\_\_ to each other and holding each other accountable. It's about being \_\_\_\_\_ with each other. If we see a brother or sister engaging in sin, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ them for the good of the community.

**How easy is it for you to confess your sins to some one else?  
How well do we hold each other accountable?**

**Corporate Responsibility #2.** \_\_\_\_\_.

"Confess 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. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops." (James 5:16-18)

Elijah didn't pray for his own comfort—he prayed for the \_\_\_\_\_—he prayed that God would be \_\_\_\_\_, no matter what.

**Do you see affliction as an opportunity to focus on yourself and your needs? Or do you see it as an opportunity to pray that God be magnified and glorified in your affliction?**

**As a Church, how do we see the affliction of one of our members?  
Do we see it only as their problem or do we see it as a way that God's glory can be magnified?**