

Principles

Jet through James 5 – Gerald Torres

James 1:1-6 Bible

- James has developed the idea of the need for complete dependence on God. He now rebukes those most likely to live independently from God
 - Same as Jesus did in **Matthew 6:19-21 (NKJV)**
- It's not wrong to be rich. Most of us are rich...
 - When we rely and depend on riches, we err.
- After all, we must remember that blessings come to us for the benefit of others.
- I think of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14
 - One was given 5, one was given 2, and to another, 1
 - The purpose of gaining more talents was for the landowner NOT personal gain.
 - That's the kingdom mindset...
 - **Giving is true having. – Charles Spurgeon**
 - That is the kingdom mindset...
- This is why James has taken us through a jet tour of kingdom principles. A realignment...
 - To get back on track...that is what James has done
 - James has given us a great contrast of kingdom principles vs. earthly wisdom.
 - And he has done so with great intensity
 - Tim...list from your mom
 - Al called it the ground and pound; I call it the fist of fury. Bruce Lee style...
 - And I believe we find out here why he has done so with such great intensity.
- **James 5:7-8**
 - BECAUSE the Kingdom of God is at hand....
 - Vs. 8: be patient and establish your hearts for the coming of the Lord is at hand...
 - He's realigning us to have an overall kingdom perspective.
 - Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!
 - Behold the Judge is standing at the door!
 - Jesus comes as a Judge, not only to judge the world, but also to assess the faithfulness of Christians.
 - **2 Cor. 5:10: for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.**
 - We can't involve ourselves in earthly wisdom, in suffering, pride, riches, tongues, hearts.
- **Like Paul says in Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**
 - How do we renew our minds? How do we gain the mind of Christ? Through the perfect law of liberty. The word of Christ gives us the mind of Christ...

- But we must remember that the solution to the great contrast is not found in us getting her done.
 - The tongue is not tamed by man...
 - Kingdom principles require Kingdom power
 - Spiritual living...requires spiritual power. That is why we see the second half of the chapter emphasize the power prayer.
- Just like Paul finishes Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Romans, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and the writer of Hebrews finish with the emphasis in prayer.
 - Romans 15
 - Ephesians 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.
 - Phil 4:6
 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- Vs 13 – Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray? Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.
 - Endure hardness – suffer trouble
 - Endure affliction – be afflicted
 - If that is you, James says pray!
- Vs 14 – 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.
 - The word sickness means physical weakness
 - The role of the pastors or elders
 - The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and pastors interchangeably. In the Greek, episcopos, overseer.
 - In Acts 20:28, the Ephesian elders were called to shepherd the flock. The role here is what we call our elders or pastoral staff to do.
 - The Oil
 - Medicinal
 - Symbolic
 - An outward physical expression of the Holy Spirit.
 - Mark 6:13 speaks of the disciples anointing people with oil.
 - In the name of the Lord
 - When we ask for anything it is to be in line with what God wants for that situation.
- Vs. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
 - The prayer of faith.
 - We don't put faith in faith, we put faith in God!
 - As a result of God's power, we see healing all throughout Scripture and church history
 - But we also see God NOT healing
 - Paul himself (debated)
 - 2 Cor 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
 - Oftentimes we are caught up in our own timetable (we must trust God's!)
 - God can heal directly and immediately
 - God can heal through the natural processes of the body
 - God may heal through medicinal means
 - God can choose not to heal...yet He is still at work.
 - We should pray expecting God to work!
 - We are told to pray! Told to trust! Told to seek God for healing...
 - So we should do this with expectant hearts and see what God will do!

- This should always be the first priority! But we often forget.
 - My personal conclusion is that we should pray in faith expecting God to move and leave it in His hands.
- In the end, the LORD is the LORD
 - The Lord will heal however and whenever He wishes
 - The power of prayer is the power of God
 - *If he has committed sins he will be forgiven*
 - This further demonstrates the scope that James has in mind: both physical and spiritual. Prayer for the body, prayer for the soul.
 - *Is physical weakness or sickness always a result of sin?*
 - No
- But having committed sin, we are called to confess.
- **Vs 16 – Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**
 - When we own up to our sin and confess, it removes the burdens of unresolved sin and removes hindrances to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Bringing us back into alignment...
 - This type of confession
 - Creates humility in the life of the church body
 - When you hear someone confess sin the appropriate response is prayer (not gossip or condemnation)
 - Pray for one another
 - The great temptation in the church body is isolation
 - Yet God desires healing
 - This word healing is translated “to be made whole”
 - 1 Peter 2:24 *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.*
 - It is used for both physical and spiritual healing!
 - So we must be fervent and frequent in our prayer for one another.
- Availing prayer!
 - To have power as shown by extraordinary deeds to exert, wield power, to have strength to overcome
 - We are made righteous by our faith in Christ. We are born again!
 - God’s righteousness becomes ours through faith in Christ!
 - Then by His grace working in our hearts, we are “shown to be righteous” in our prayers
 - The greatest joy of prayer is not so much that we lay hold of things from God but that we are able to lay hold of God Himself!
 - What a privilege! That creation is able through Christ to lay hold of Creator!
 - Pray without ceasing!...to Know Christ!!!
 - “Prayer” the word used here was often used in classic literature to describe the petitions addressed to a ruling sovereign
 - We should come to Him recognizing that we are nothing in and of ourselves.
 - And yet! We are His children because of what He has done for us through the miracle of adoption!
 - We are the lowest coming to the “Highest”
 - This should rid us of any notion of our own personal merit.
- Eli was a man like us...He was a man of prayer
- James was a man of prayer.