



God Has an App for That!

Leaders Notes Week 8

“Heal Your Affliction”

James 5:7-19

1. The attention turns from rich to poor, from the evil oppressors to the righteous oppressed, from presumption to patience. Rather than fighting back, they are called to patient endurance and to trust in God to vindicate them. **NOTE:** James uses the example of the farmer for us to learn from. The early and the late rains describe the Palestinian climate in which the autumn rains occur just after sowing and the spring rains just before harvest (Jer. 5:24; Joel 2:23). Even though three-fourths of Palestine’s rain fell from December to February, these two rains were the most critical.

2. Go around and share. As the last week in this 8-week series, this is where the rubber meets the road. Share from your heart without fear of judgment or criticism. Remember, what goes on in the group, stays in the group. Model transparency to those you are leading.

3. Share how you can easily miss out on what’s on the other side of the trial. Job is the perfect example. James ends his letter just as he started. Re-read James 1, “2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” Trials are “tests” that challenge faith (vv. 2–5). When trials occur, one should count it all joy—not meaning mere worldly, temporal happiness, but rather spiritual, enduring, “complete joy” in the Lord who is sovereign over all things, including trials.

4. The world sometimes blames God for suffering. In times of affliction, the world turns to advice that is self-focused with temporal solutions. James, in this passage, advises us to go straight to God for healing. “The prayer offered in faith” does not refer to the faith of the sick person, but to the

faith of the people praying. Reminder: We need to pray as a first resort, not as a last when all else has failed.

5. Christ has made it possible for us to go directly to God for forgiveness. But, confessing our sins to each other still has an important place in the life of the church. Sometimes, confession in the community is needed before healing can take place since sin may be the cause of the illness (cf. 1 Cor. 11:29–30). "Pray for one another" is directed to all the readers of James' letter and indicates that he did not expect prayer for healing to be limited to the elders (James 5:14). The righteous will have great power in prayer as God grants their requests. In Christ's kingdom, every believer is a priest to other believers. (1 Peter 2:9) God knows there is power in confessing our sins to one another.

6. Romans 10:9 is referring to seeking salvation. "Confess with your mouth" is referring to putting our faith in Jesus as Lord and through that confession, God grants us salvation.

1 John 1:9 is referring to the forgiveness of our sins. This confession is also to God, but unlike the Romans 10:9 confessions, this one is seeking forgiveness of sin in our disobedience.

SEE NOTE in answer #5 for the confession type we see in James 5:16

The difference in James 5 and the other mentioned verses is confession to God vs. confessing to one another.

7. Christians disagree over whether or not it is possible for people to lose their salvation, but all agree that those who move away from their faith are in serious trouble and need to repent. So, if you are not being a righteous man and living a God-fearing life you should be careful with your prayer life. The righteous will have great power in prayer as God grants their requests.

8. Go around and share what you have experienced in your life regarding prayer. You may have been the recipient of the prayer or the person praying. Allow time for members to share, that God may be glorified because of His power.

9. We hope this series had blessed you and those in your LIFE Group. You can check out other series a www.4lifegroups.org under the "Resources" "Past LIFE Group materials" tab.



FURTHER STUDY |

There is a reoccurring theme throughout scripture for each one of these topical studies. Take this week as the Leader of your group to immerse yourself in the reading of the Word and see how these verses can help you download God's app to Heal Your Affliction.

- James 1:12
- Romans 8:18
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
- John 5:1-3
- Luke 9:5-6
- Matthew 9:34-36
- Psalm 30:1-3
- Isaiah 53:4-6

