PRAYER FOR ALL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 5:12-18

- **Before we begin with James 5:13-18, let us spend time on James 5:12.** James has already spent a large section of the letter on the topic of the tongue (3:1-12). While in the previous section he spent time describing the power and abuse of the tongue, in v12 he is showing the believer the right manner of the tongue.
 - How would you rewrite and apply v12 to fit your contexts and the various spheres in which you engage with people, such as, church, work, friends, or soccer leagues?
 - Read the following passages: Matthew 5:8, 5:34; Proverbs 10:9, 11:3, 12:17, 12:22, 28:18. What areas in your life seem to disregard the Christian's call to absolute honesty? Why is it hard in our world today to maintain this ethical standard?
 - A lack of verbal integrity seems to lead to condemnation before God. This cannot be in reference to our eternal standing before God. James is addressing his hearers as "brothers and sisters". What then are the consequences that James is possibly warning about? (Hint: Hebrews 12:6-11) What are ways that you need to grow in this aspect of the Christian life?
 - Life is always going to medley of ups and downs, but what seems to be a constant is how we are to respond. James asks those who are suffering to pray, and those who are cheerful to sing praise, which is simply praying in thanksgiving, giving God glory. Through our ever-changing circumstances how does Malachi 3:6 give us confidence?
 - Why must we pray during times of trial? What about the nature of God, gives us confidence to pray to him in the midst of trials? Consider the following prayers: Psalm 17:6-7, 69:16, 86:1-7. Also consider Psalm 34:4, 118:5-7; 138:1-3.
 - We are all called to praise God in cheerful times. Is this a response you find active in your life? Read Psalm 145:1-7; list the lessons can we learn from David's praise.
 - A What are ways that we can make praise a regular part of our lives? When you pray, how much time do you spend praising God for his goodness towards you, before rolling into a list of desires and wishes?

| 3 In calling the elders to pray over the sick, James mentions that the "Prayer of faith" will raise the one who is sick sins, he will be forgiven. | | ne who is sick, and if he has committed |
|--|--|---|
| | We know from the word, that God does not always heal, for instance, Paul's prayers for healing go us 2:25, 1 Cor 12:7-9). Was this because Paul did not have enough faith? How does this inform your unde not? | nanswered (1 Tim 5:23, 2 Tim 4:20, Phil. erstanding of what the prayer of faith is |
| | It seems like the prayer of faith is connected to a special gift of the Holy Spirit, "the gift of faith" menti that all Christians possess but a special measure of faith. This gift is bestowed by the spirit freely by h of faith? Consider this commentary on the prayer of faith: "When we pray, our faith recognizes, expl providential purposes of God. We may at times be given insight into that will, enabling us to pray w answer as we ask." How does this help us better understand the prayer of faith? | <i>is will. How could this relate to the prayer</i> <i>icitly and implicitly, the overruling</i> |
| | What are reasons that would prevent you from calling on the elders to pray for you? Do you know th deeply care for you? The elders are called to be overseers, watching over your souls as shepherds und | |
| 4 | The passage further commands believers to confess their sins to one another, that they may be forg | iven and healed. |
| | The passage indicates a link between sickness and sin. Do you think you are tempted to be too quick, circumstances to unrepentant sin? What are the strengths and dangers of such an approach? | or too slow, to connect adverse |
| | We are called to confess sins to one another and pray for one another. Prayer and confession of sins the right reasons to pursue confession to other believers? What are possible abuses of this command? | are tied deeply. Why is this so? What are |
| | Are your prayers for others being hindered due to sin in your life? Maybe you need to confess your sin to someone you may have offended. The word takes such confession very seriously. Read Matt. 5:23. | PRAYER REQUESTS |
| | A Take time to pray for one another tonight. If you need prayer, please ask those around you. May be you can take time to think about struggles in your life that you need intercessory prayer for. It is our solemn and glorious responsibility to pray for one another. | |
| 5 | An example of prayer is given to remind the believers of the power of prayer. Often times we do not pray because we forget the power that prayer brings. | |
| | 🖋 Elijah is called "a man just like us". How does thinking about Elijah's prayers excite you about yours? | |
| | 🏈 What are things that you do not pray for because they seem too big for God? (or may be too small). | |