

Most Sensible of All Things

James 5:13-16

“In and through prayer we express our reverence and adoration for God; we bare our souls in contrite confession before Him; we pour out the thanksgiving of grateful hearts; and we offer our petitions and supplications to Him. In prayer we experience God as personal and powerful. He can hear us and act in response. The Scripture teaches both the sovereign foreordination of God and the efficacy of prayer. The two are not inconsistent with one another, for God ordains the means as well as the ends for His Divine purposes. Prayer is a means God uses to bring His sovereign will to pass.” – R.C. Sproul

Praise God, from whom all
blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here
below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly
host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost!

Acts 16:22-25

²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods.

²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; ²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

“Turning to God in need is half the truth; turning to Him in praise either in the church or alone when one is cheerful (whatever the situation) is the other half. God is not just an errand boy to help human need, but one who deserves worship and praise at all times.” – P. Davids

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

I Corinthians 2:2 & 3

² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

II Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

I Thessalonians 5:14

¹⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

“They are the fallen spiritual warriors, the exhausted, weary, depressed, defeated Christians. They have tried to draw on God’s power through prayer, but have lost motivation, even falling into sinful attitudes. They have hit rock bottom.” – J. MacArthur

“When a Jew was ill, he went to the Rabbi rather than to the doctor; and the Rabbi anointed him with oil, called the best of all medicines. Then the Rabbi would pray over him.” – W. Barclay

“By no means is it certain the aleipho here means in a ceremonial fashion rather than to rub as it commonly does.” – A.T. Robertson

“Aleipho is to rub with oil,
not chrio, which signifies
ceremonial anointing.”

– R. Trench

Psalm 23:5

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

“Therefore James is not suggesting a ceremonial or ritual anointing as a means of divine healing; instead, he is referring to the common practice of using oil as a means of bestowing honor, refreshment, and grooming.”

- R. Trench

Matthew 17:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” ²⁰ And He *said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

“The description of the elder’s prayer in this verse as the prayer of faith does not differentiate it in any way from other kinds of prayer, for there can be no Christian prayer at all without faith. Nor does it imply that, if only there is a sufficient degree of faith, prayer will be answered. Rather to draw attention to the great truth, so much emphasized in this section, that in no circumstances of life is faith impossible; and therefore there is no situation in which Christians cannot resort to prayer.” – R. Tasker

I John 5:14

¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Psalm 32:3 & 4

³ When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away *as with the fever heat of summer*.