The Power of Prayer

James 5:13-20

We come to the last part of the Book of James. The Book of James has been so practical, so down to earth, so “facing the problems and challenges” that we have within our life and our congregation. Today, James talks with us about prayer. In this text, there are 4 commands that may challenge us in a way to measure our obedience to Christ, and the reality of our Christianity.

This first one comes straight from the text. “13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.” This is a call to pray when we are troubled. So our first response in the midst of trials and distress should be to sit down and pray to God.

The second is, “Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.” God desires that when we are happy, we express that joy and good cheer through singing. Singing praises to God is a way of thanking Him for the happiness He has provided us.

Thirdly, it is commanded to call the elders of the church. The elders are to then come and pray over the sick person and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord (vs. 14).

Then, James commands that all believers should be confessing our sins to each other and praying for each other in all situations (vs. 16). It is one of the primary functions of the church—to pray together and look out for one another, and to be concerned with the needs of each other, and most importantly, to be concerned about the faith of one another.

Prayer is so important to the life of a church. All of these commands relate to prayer. So… whatever your circumstances, be in prayer for those around you, whether they be your brothers and sisters in Christ, or family and friends who need the Lord. Pray.