



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

James 5:13-20 Study Hints for Discussion

1. Compare James 5:13, Philippians 4:4, and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Those suffering should pray and the cheerful should sing songs of praise. Everyone in all circumstances can rejoice in the Lord always. We can pray without ceasing for a variety of concerns; and even though we are suffering, we can give thanks in all circumstances. Why do we do all of these things? One reason the Apostle Paul gives is: "For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Other reasons can include love and appreciation to God the Father for the gift of His Son and the saving faith in Him that we will enjoy forever by His grace.

2. Read James 5:14-15. In what other ways do Christians do this today?

They make prayer requests of the whole church to pray. They send out doctors and nurses and build hospitals and send out other caregivers to the sick and needy around the world. What other ways can you think of?

3. When we pray for those who have committed sins, what can we pray for them?

We can pray that they will repent of their sins, make restitution where possible, trust in Jesus Christ to forgive them and save them from their sins and future commission of sins. Pray that they will confess their sins in the right way and for the Holy Spirit to help them live right in the future.

4. Is sickness always the result of sin? Can some sickness be the result of sin? Give reasons for your answer.

No. For example, Job had not sinned, but he was made sick. God showed that Job was a man of integrity. Yes. Job's friends sinned against God and

Job by what they said and did, and they were made sick until Job prayed for them as God commanded and they were healed.

5. Is there a relationship between the way we live daily and the way God hears and answers our prayers?

Yes. See James 5:16.

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