

*The Letter to the
12 Tribes*

James

Jas. 5:13-20



Jas. 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

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12 Tribes
James

The image shows the bottom portion of a book cover. The background is a textured, brownish-gold paper. On the right side, there is a white rectangular area containing the text '12 Tribes' in a small, black, sans-serif font above the word 'James' in a large, red, serif font. To the right of the word 'James', there is a circular red stamp with some illegible text and a date '502'.

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Jas. 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

C. The burden of prayer, 5:13-18

1. The hypotheses, 5:13-14a

- a. The man who is overwhelmed: let him speak,
5:13a “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray...”



James

Original Word: κακοπαθέω

Transliteration: kakopatheó

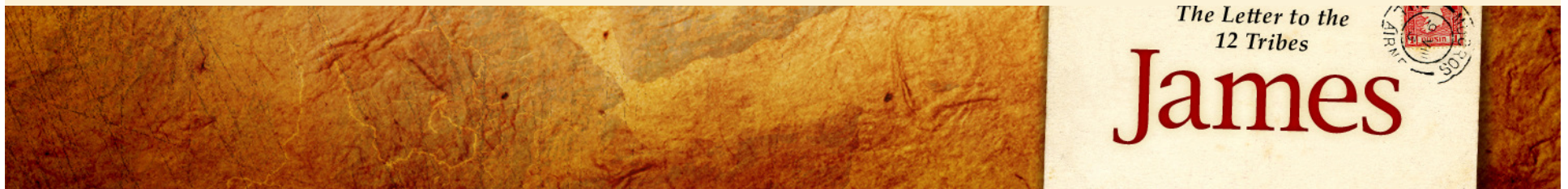
Short Definition: I suffer evil, endure affliction

kakopathéō (from *kakós*, "of a malicious disposition" and *páthos*, "pain") – properly, experiencing *painful* hardship (suffering) that *seems* to be a "setback" but really isn't.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2553.htm>

"James's emphasis on prayer in this section is especially noteworthy since few things undergird perseverance more effectively than prayer. In the final analysis, a persevering life is also a prayerful life."

Hodges, Zane C. *The Epistle of James: Proven Character through Testing*. Grace New Testament Commentary series. Irving, Tex.: Grace Evangelical Society, 1994. (p. 113)



- b. The man who is overjoyed: let him sing, 5:13b
“...Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”
- c. The man who is overcome: let him send, 5:14a “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church...”

Original Word: ἀσθενέω

Transliteration: astheneó

Definition: I am weak (physically: then morally), I am sick.

asthenéō – to be ill, without strength; to languish.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/770.htm>



Jas. 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. ...

Jas. 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

2. The healing, 5:14b-16

- a. The prayer, 5:14b "...and let them pray over him..."
- b. The procedure, 5:14c-d



(1) The sanctifying oil, 5:14c "...anointing him with oil..."

Luke 10:34 And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, **pouring in oil** and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

To perform this rite fully takes an appreciable time, but in cases of urgent necessity, when death is likely to occur before it can be completed, it is sufficient to employ a single unction (on the forehead, for instance) with the general form: "Through this holy unction may the Lord pardon thee whatever sins or faults thou hast committed." By the decree of April 25, 1906, the Holy Office has expressly approved of this form for cases of urgent necessity.
<http://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/extreme-unction>



(2) The sovereign name, 5:14c "...in the name of the Lord:"

c. The promise, 5:15

(1) What is asserted, 5:15a-b

(a) The authority of the prayer involved, 5:15a
"And the prayer of faith **shall** save the sick..."

Mt. 9:21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; **thy faith hath made thee whole.** And the woman was made whole from that hour.



Mt. 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but **speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.**

9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

10 When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.**



Mark 5:35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house certain* which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, **Be not afraid, only believe.**

Jn. 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, **that will I do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

1 Jn. 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

Benjamin Franklin reportedly said, "God heals, and the doctor collects the fee."



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2 Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 **For this thing I besought the Lord thrice**, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**

(b) The authority of the person invoked, 5:15b "...and the Lord **shall** raise him up..."

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(2) What is assumed, 5:15c "...and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jn. 9:1 And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

d. The postscript, 5:16

(1) A requirement, 5:16a "Confess *your* faults one to another..."

JAMES

Greek Texts

Westcott and Hort 1881

ἐξομολογεῖσθε οὖν ἀλλήλοις τὰς **ἁμαρτίας** καὶ προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων, ὅπως ἰαθῆτε. πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη.

Westcott and Hort / [NA27 variants]

ἐξομολογεῖσθε οὖν ἀλλήλοις τὰς **ἁμαρτίας** καὶ προσεύχεσθε / εὐχέσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων, ὅπως ἰαθῆτε. πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη.

Original Word: ἁμαρτία

Transliteration: hamartia

Short Definition: a sin

<http://biblehub.com/greek/266.htm>



Parallel Verses

New International Version

Therefore **confess your sins** to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

New American Standard Bible

Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

RP Byzantine Majority Text 2005

Ἐξομολογεῖσθε ἀλλήλοις τὰ **παραπτώματα**, καὶ εὔχεσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων, ὅπως ἰαθῆτε. Πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη.

Stephanus Textus Receptus 1550

ἐξομολογεῖσθε ἀλλήλοις τὰ **παραπτώματα**, καὶ εὔχεσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων ὅπως ἰαθῆτε πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη



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Original Word: παράπτωμα

Transliteration: paraptōma

Definition: a falling away, lapse, slip, false step, trespass, sin.

Properly, fall away after being close-beside, i.e. a *lapse* (deviation) from the truth; an error, "slip up"; wrong doing that can be (relatively) unconscious, "non-deliberate."

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3900.htm>

παράπτωμα paráptōma, a side-slip (lapse or deviation), i.e. (unintentional) error or (wilful) transgression:—fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G3900&t=KJV>

King James Bible

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

(2) A response, 5:16b"... and pray one for another, that ye may be healed..."

1 Pet. 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Eph. 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Be careful to whom you confess your faults. Their fault may be gossip.

"He was in the habit of entering the temple alone, and was often found upon his bended knees, and interceding for the forgiveness of the people; so that his knees became as hard as [a] camel's, in consequence of his habitual supplication and kneeling before God."

The Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius Pamphilus. Twin Brooks series. Popular ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974. (p. 76)



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(3) A reason, 5:16c “...**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**”

Jer. 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and **shew thee great and mighty things**, which thou knowest not.

Eph. 3:20 Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,

3. The hero, 5:17-18

a. Elijah and his passions, 5:17a “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”

(See 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1, 41-45)

b. Elijah and his prayers, 5:17b-18

(1) His first prayer answered, 5:17b "...and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months."

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?



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1 Jn. 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

(2) His further prayer answered, 5:18 “And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”

D. The burden for people, 5:19-20

1. The careless backslider, 5:19a “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth...”
2. The concerned believer, 5:19b “...and one convert him;”



James

Ezek. 33:1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: 3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

5 **He heard** the sound of the trumpet, and **took not warning; his blood shall be upon him.** But **he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.**

6 But if the watchman see the sword come, **and blow not the trumpet**, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take *and* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.**

7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt **hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.**

8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked *man*, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood will I require at thine hand.**

9 Nevertheless, **if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity;** but thou hast delivered thy soul.

3. The consequent benediction, 5:20

Jas. 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

1 Cor. 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Jn. 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. **There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.**



Mt. 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.



Conclusion

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;**

considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 For **if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**

4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5 For **every man shall bear his own burden.**

