

James 5:12-20 – Powerful prayer

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1) Connecting promises with actions

James 5:12, *“Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be Yes and your “No”, no, or you will be condemned.”*

see Matthew 5:33-34.

OT use of oaths is OK (Ex 13:19, 22:11, Lev 5:4). Lev 19:12

NT - Paul often calls “God as his witness”

The swearing oaths and the level of truthfulness

Reflect... are our promises matched by our actions?

A misuse- cannot take an oath or swear on the bible in court

2) Prayer - v 13-16

Verse 13 when suffering ... when happy

1 Peter 1:6-7, *“In this(the great news of salvation through Jesus) you greatly rejoice though you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials”*

James 1:2, *“consider it pure joy my brothers when you face suffering of many kinds”*

Calling the Elders - verse 14

... to PRAY.

“as you anoint the sick person with oil PRAY for them.”

The purpose of anointing

- medicinal effects.
- symbolic purpose

A misuse of this verse

- extreme unction or last rites
- superstition

Prayer of faith - v 15

v 15 – *“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven”*

“prayer of faith”.

2 Cor 12:7-9 ... a prayer offered in faith it was not the prayer of faith.

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Applying this today

PRAY for the sick AND treat with the medicine available of the time.

Sickness and Sin – v 16

1 Cor 11:29-30

Example of Elijah. V 17-18

3) A deep concern for each other's eternal destiny

James 5:19-20 calls upon ALL Christians to have a deep concern for the eternal salvation of each other.

How many people do you know who have wandered from the truth?