

I. We can pray in times of trouble (v. 13)

- A. Our default response to trouble should be prayer

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (I Peter 5:7)

- B. Our default response to good times should be praise

II. We can pray in times of sickness (v. 14-15)

- A. The sick person should seek the elders of the church

- B. The elders will anoint the sick person with oil

- C. The elders will pray for the sick person in Jesus’ name

- D. The prayer of faith will result in healing

1. The prayer of faith believes God is able to heal

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

2. The prayer of faith surrenders to the will of God

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.” (I John 5:14-15)

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” (Romans 8:26-27)

- E. It is the Lord alone who heals

“If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

III. We can pray in times of failure (v. 16a)

- A. In the body of Christ we can confess our sin

- B. In the body of Christ we can receive prayers

- C. In the body of Christ we can experience forgiveness

IV. We can pray for our nation (v. 16b-18)

- A. The prayers of a righteous person are powerful
- B. The prayers of an ordinary person are heard by God
- C. The prayers of an earnest person are answered

V. We can pray for our lost family (v. 19-20)

“Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.” (Luke 8:13)

- A. We should seek to restore sinners to the truth

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. “ (Galatians 6:1)

- B. We should seek to save sinners from death
- C. We should seek to see sinners forgiven