

I. We should live with a God dependent focus (v. 13)

A. Times of trouble should lead us to pray

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

B. Times of happiness should lead us to praise God

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

A. The sick person demonstrates faith by asking for prayer

B. The sick person is anointed with oil symbolic of the Holy Spirit

“They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.” (Mark 6:13)

C. The sick person is prayed for in the name of Jesus

“Then know this, you and everyone else in Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you completely healed.” (Acts 4:10)

D. The prayer must be the prayer of faith

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 trusts in 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.” (1 John 5:14-15)

E. The prayer of faith will result in healing

“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 sins

B. In the body of Christ we can give and receive prayer

C. In the body of Christ we can experience forgiveness

IV. We can experience powerful and effective prayer (v. 16b-18)

- A. We must live a righteous life
- B. We must pray earnestly
- C. We must pray with perseverance

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” (Luke 18:1)

- D. We must pray with faith

“Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24)

- 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 Jesus

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

- B. We should seek to see sinners forgiven