

# James 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

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**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:** Is anyone sick? Call the elders to pray, anointing with oil in the Lord's name. James combines pastoral care, tangible symbol, and communal prayer.

Reformed practice affirms the ordinary means of grace along with prayer for healing. Oil signifies consecration; elders represent church care.

## Historical Context

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Ancient medicine was limited; the church provided spiritual and relational support. Early Christian writings describe elders anointing the sick, showing James's instruction shaped practice.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Do you seek the church's prayer when sick?
2. How can leaders cultivate responsive care teams?
3. What does anointing communicate about God's involvement?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀσθενεῖ τις ἐν ὑμῖν προσκαλεσάσθω τοὺς  
**Is** **any** **among** **you** **let him call** G3588  
G770 G5100 G1722 G5213 G4341

πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας καὶ προσευξάσθωσαν ἐπ'  
**for the elders** G3588 **of the church** **and** **let them pray** **over**  
G4245 G1577 G2532 G4336 G1909

αὐτὸν ἀλείψαντες αὐτὸν ἐλαίῳ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ  
**him** **anointing** **him** **with oil** **among** G3588 **the name** G3588  
G846 G218 G846 G1637 G1722 G3686

κυρίου  
**of the Lord**  
G2962

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 6:13** (Parallel theme): And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

**Acts 28:8** (Prayer): And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

**Mark 16:18** (Parallel theme): They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

**2 Kings 5:11** (References Lord): But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

**Acts 14:23** (Prayer): And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

**Acts 9:40** (Prayer): But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

**Acts 15:4** (Parallel theme): And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

**2 Kings 4:33** (Prayer): He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

**Titus 1:5** (Parallel theme): For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: