

James 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. The prayer of faith (hē euchē tēs pisteōs, ἡ εὐχὴ τῆς πίστεως) will save the sick, the Lord will raise him up, and if sins were committed, they will be forgiven. James connects healing, forgiveness, and God's sovereign action.

Reformed theology acknowledges God as healer who may grant physical recovery while always granting spiritual forgiveness through Christ.

Historical Context

Illness was often linked to sin in Jewish thought; James neither confirms nor denies but offers forgiveness if needed. The early church saw miraculous healings alongside ultimate hope in resurrection.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you balance bold prayer with submission to God's will?
2. Where might illness prompt confession?
3. What testimonies can encourage faith for healing?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἡ εὐχὴ τῆς πίστεως σώσει τὸν κάμινοντα καὶ
And G3588 the prayer G3588 of faith shall save G3588 the sick And
G2532 G2171 G4102 G4982 G2577 G2532

ἐγερεῖ αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος· καὶν ἀμαρτίας ἢ
shall raise him G3588 the Lord and if sins he have
G1453 G846 G2962 G2579 G266 G5600

πεποιηκώς ἀφεθήσεται αὐτῷ
committed they shall be forgiven him
G4160 G863 G846

Additional Cross-References

James 5:13 (Prayer): Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

James 5:16 (Prayer): 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.

James 1:6 (Faith): 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.

Matthew 17:20 (Faith): And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Isaiah 33:24 (Sin): And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.

John 5:14 (Sin): Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

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