

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

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	κάμνοντα	καὶ
And	G3588	the prayer	G3588	of faith	shall save	G3588	the sick	And
G2532		G2171		G4102	G4982		G2577	G2532
ἐγερεῖ	αὐτῷ	ὁ	κύριος·	κὰν	ἁμαρτίας	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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