

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon notes for October 14-15, 2000

"Let's Pray"

Dale Whitehead

James 5:13-18

Prayers that we pray in response to what is happening in our lives (James 5:13).

Prayers that we pray in response to difficult times.

Prayers that we pray in response to good times.

Prayers that others pray in response to what is happening in our lives.

Prayer of the elders for the sick (James 5:14-15).

The issue of expectations.

The expectation of the readers of this epistle.

As elders prayed for the seriously ill, in accordance with the instructions given in verse 14, the readers of this epistle in the time of James would have expected a healing to take place.

Many well meaning Christians today are continually rejecting the plain literal sense of the word "will" in James 5:14 and in effect reject what the passage is clearly teaching.

The expectation of the elders.

The expectation of the elders as they offered their prayer in faith was that the sick person would be healed.

The expectation that a healing would take place should not be surprising to the readers of this epistle or the elders because miracles were common in the church when the epistle of James was written.

Internal evidence places this epistle as early as 45 AD.

The early date of this epistle is significant because the closer we get to the birth of the church and the early ministry of the apostles the greater the incidence of miraculous healing (Acts 2:43; 5:15-16).

The purpose of the healing ministry of the apostles was to confirm the gospel message (Hebrews 2:1-4).

The healing ministry spread from the apostles in Jerusalem to the elders of these Jewish congregations that James is writing to in this epistle (James 5:14-15).

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Stephen under the leadership of Saul of Tarsus, who we now know as the Apostle Paul, was stoned to death in 35 AD. It was on that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem which resulted in its dispersion throughout Judea and Samaria with the exception of the apostles (Acts 8:1).

As the church expanded beyond Jerusalem and the healing ministry of the apostles, and after it expanded beyond the elders of the dispersed congregations in Judea and Samaria, it appears that certain individuals were blessed with the gift of healing within many gentile congregations (1 Corinthians 12:4-12).

The New Testament makes it clear that some illnesses are in fact the product of sin (Mark 2:1-12; 1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

Those who like the paralytic in Mark 2 who humbled themselves before the Lord and approached the elders as an expression of their faith and an outward sign of their repentance would not only be physically healed but their sins which may have caused the illness would have been forgiven as well.