

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon notes for October 28-29, 2000**

**"Let's Pray"**

**James 5:16-18**

**Dale Whitehead**

The intercessory prayer of the elders for the sick.

The intercessory prayers of the saints.

What we are to do

We are to confess our sins to one another.

Confess (EXOMOLOGEISTHE) is a compound verb that conveys the thought of an open, frank, and full confession.

James is not calling his readers to confess their sins to one another so that they might be forgiven by God (1 Timothy 2:5).

James is commanding his readers to confess their sins to one another for the purpose of mutual prayer.

What we are to hope for

We are to hope for healing

The healing James is encouraging us to pursue through mutual confession of sin and mutual prayer is primarily physical healing.

At the end of verse 15 James introduces to us the possibility that some people who are seriously ill may have become seriously ill because of a sinful lifestyle.

What should people do in light of the possibility that some illness is the result of a sinful lifestyle? Verse 16 answers that question.

James in verse 16 is basically telling the congregation in light of the possibility that serious illness could be the result of a sinful lifestyle; confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.

Confessing our sins and praying for one another should be a way of life for us and it should, based on this passage, be especially on our mind when we become sick.

Confessing our sins to one another and praying for one another in no way guarantees to us physical health. The passage does not say that you "will be healed." It tells us to do these things so that we "may be healed."

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Though there is not a guarantee of healing we should enter into this process with a sense of positive anticipation. We should enter this process with hope.

"May be healed" is in the subjunctive mood. The subjunctive mood is the mood of probability.