

James 5:14

**“Is any sick** (“astheneo” = weakened and feeble as a result of physical suffering, as in Acts 20:35, Romans 4:19, 2 Corinthians 12:10, but in this case {James 5:14}, weak from a spiritual standpoint because of suffering the effects of sin, a sickened and weary spirit suffering the results of sin, be it mental, moral, emotional, spiritual) **among you? let him call** (the errant and backsliding brother is individually responsible for seeking spiritual help and being reinstated in the local assembly) **for the elders of the church** (the spiritually strong, mature, and victorious); **and let them pray over him** (for his spiritual healing and restoration to God and the local church), **anointing** (“aleipho” = the pouring of oil upon a person which could also be rubbed into the skin and provide relaxation and relief to a tired and weary body) **him with oil** (as a customary gesture of kindness, refreshment, encouragement, friendship, and acceptance – Psalm 23:5; 45:7; 133:2; Luke 7:46) **in the name of the Lord** (invoking God’s will, power, and blessing upon the individual):

James 5:15

**And the prayer of faith** (a confident prayer that is related to God’s working in the backslider’s heart and granting the errant brother spiritual restoration to God and healing from the effects of his sin, in view of his repentance and desire to be restored) **shall save** (deliver and make whole) **the sick** (“kamno” – faint, wearied, and exhausted” as in Hebrews 12:3 – “lest ye be wearied and faint” = the promise that the person in need of spiritual restoration from his sinful and weary condition will be *spiritually healed* from the effects of sin and restored to God), **and the Lord shall raise him up** (As a result of the elder’s praying, God will work in the heart of this person and heal him from the depths of spiritual defeat, depression, discouragement, brokenness, exhaustion, and the many ill-effects brought on by his sin – heavy conviction, guilt, inner turmoil, weariness, anxiety, sadness, emotional loneliness); **and if he have committed sins** (when the elders arrive at his home and it’s discovered or brought out in the open that the person has sinned against

the Lord and Church, resulting in spiritual defeat and a need for spiritual restoration), **they shall be forgiven him**” (through his confession to God, as in 1 John 1:9, he receives restoration before God, and through his repentance and confession in the presence of the elders, who have encouraged him to confess and helped him discern his sins, he also receives the forgiveness necessary for church restoration, as promoted in 2 Corinthians 2:10, which would in an official way grant this man forgiveness and restoration to the fellowship of the church).

James 5:16

**“Confess your faults one to another** (a reference to an erring saint confessing his sin to the elders in order to be restored to the local church and ultimately to God through their loving ministry of reconciliation, as in Galatians 6:1, and helping a brother to get his life straightened out before God and the church), **and pray one for another** (praying for the spiritual restoration and well-being from the emotional effects caused by sin which can also cause physical effects), **that ye may be healed** (receive forgiveness and no longer experience the emotional effects brought on by one’s sin and errant living – emotional weariness, spiritual weakness, guilt, broken hearts, battered lives, depression, discouragement, sadness, inner guilt). **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much**” (the energetic and passionate praying which is powerful enough to produce the desired or intended effect, the kind of prayers that are answered by bringing about the spiritual restoration and healing of wayward and backslidden saints, as a result of God working in their hearts).

James 5:19-20

**“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth** (a brother who is backslidden from the way of truth and righteousness), **and one convert him** (turn around a brother from his sinful condition by confronting him with his sin and helping him to repent, restore his relationship with God, and change his lifestyle); **Let him know, that he which converteth** (turns

around - reverses) **the sinner from the error of his way** (by confronting the brother, who has sinned and moved into an errant lifestyle, and getting him to repent of his sin and be restored to God spiritually – as in Luke 22:32) **shall save a soul from death** (a physical and premature death of a genuine child of God due to the chastening hand of God - 1 Cor. 11:29-30; Heb. 12:6), **and shall hide a multitude of sins”** (cover the sins of the repentant brother in the sense of forgiving a brother for his wrongs done against the church and no longer remembering them or dragging them out in the open before others, as in 1 Peter 4:8).