

What does James mean when he talks about the prayer of faith that will make a sick person well?

1. The prayer of the elders will always heal.
2. It only applied to the time of the apostles and God doesn't heal anymore.
3. The prayer of faith is a means to God healing when it is his will to do so.

saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." Luke 22:42 (ESV)

Stand on what we know for sure God promises he will do.

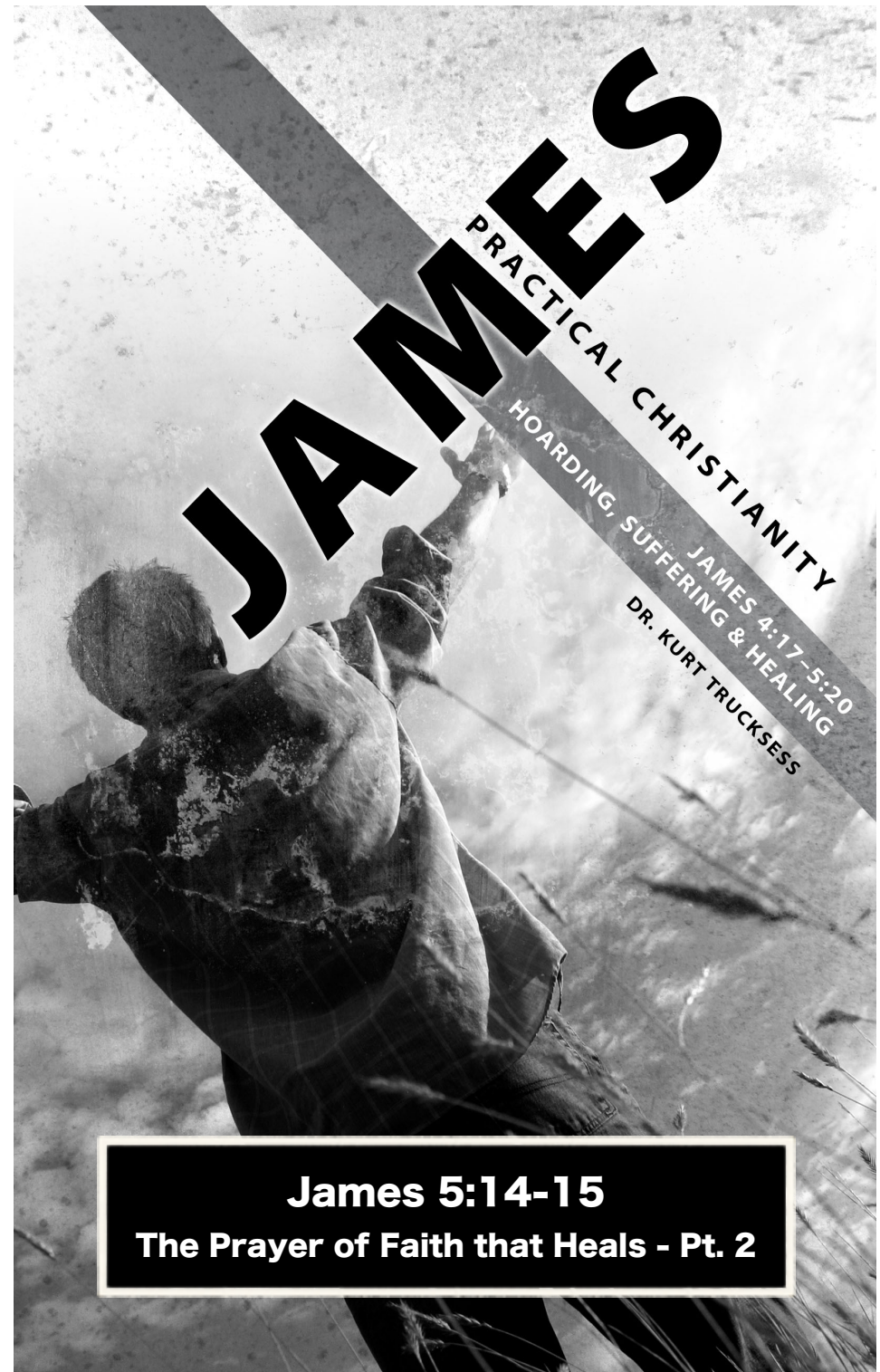
1. God promises to give us grace, help and the faith to persevere in our trials.
2. God promises to not give us more than we can handle, but many times he will take us to the edge.
3. God promises to give his Holy Spirit to comfort us in all our troubles.
4. God promises to bring glory to his name through our life, even if it is through terrible suffering, like Job experienced.
5. God promises we can trust how God responds to our prayers. If he chooses not to bring healing, but allow death, we can still trust him.
6. God promises whatever he does with us is for his glory and our good, even in sickness.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

Closing story from If God is Good, by Randy Alcorn, pg. 400.

Want To Learn More? This handout, small group questions, sermon manuscripts, audio and video are available at www.christ2Rculture.com. You can also find sermon video and audio on iTunes by searching for "Kurt Trucksess"

Next Week: James 5:16-20 - The Power of Confession and Prayer
Two Weeks: Psalm 14 - God came to save fools



Faith Church - EFCA

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James 5:13-16 - The Prayer of Faith that Heals - Pt. 2

Why are people not healed when elders pray for them?

1. Blame God for not keeping his promise to heal. (God failed.)
2. Erode your confidence in God's Word because it seems like it is making promises that are not true. (The Bible failed.)
3. Blame yourself and believe the reason your friend or loved one wasn't healed is because you didn't have enough faith when you prayed. (I failed.)
4. Blame the one who was sick for not having enough faith to be healed. (The one who is sick failed.)

It is not always God's will to heal.

Sometimes sickness is caused by sin.

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:15 (ESV)

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 (ESV)

Sickness is not always caused by sin.

"Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off? As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. By the breath of God they perish, and by the blast of his anger they are consumed. Job 4:7-9 (ESV)

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. John 9:1-3 (ESV)

Sickness and death are for God's glory.

Don't Waste Your Cancer - John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/taste-see-articles/dont-waste-your-cancer>

1. You will waste your cancer if you do not believe it is designed for you by God.
2. You will waste your cancer if you believe it is a curse and not a gift.
3. You will waste your cancer if you seek comfort from your odds rather than from God.
4. You will waste your cancer if you refuse to think about death.
5. You will waste your cancer if you think that beating cancer means staying alive rather than cherishing Christ.
6. You will waste your cancer if you spend too much time reading about cancer and not enough time reading about God.
7. You will waste your cancer if you let it drive you into solitude instead of deepening your relationships with manifest affection.
8. You will waste your cancer if you grieve as those who have no hope.
9. You will waste your cancer if you treat sin as casually as before.
10. You will waste your cancer if you fail to use it as a means of witness to the truth and glory of Christ.