



# God Still Heals Today

James 5:13-15

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Church history reports about James, Old Camel Knees: “He used to enter alone into the temple and be found kneeling and praying for forgiveness for the people, so that his knees grew hard like a camel’s because of his constant worship of God, kneeling and asking forgiveness for the people. So often did he pray that he was referred to as ‘Old Camel Knees,’ because he developed knots on his knees from long seasons of prayers. From his excessive righteousness he was called the Just.”<sup>1</sup>

## When you are hurting – Pray

- “suffering” (v.13a) – afflicted, troubled; hardship. It could be mental, emotional or spiritual.
- “sick” (v.14a) – To be without strength; depicts the debilitating effect of sickness, incapacitating one for work.
- The same word used of a royal officer’s son who is about to die (John 4:46-47). It was used of Lazarus who shortly did die (John 11:1ff); of Dorcas, who also died shortly after (Acts 9:37); and of Epaphroditus, whose sickness brought him close to death (Philippians 2:26-27).

## When you are happy – Praise

- Ephesians 5:18-19 – the result of the fullness of the Spirit
- Praise should be the lifestyle of the Christian. “Praise” is used 550 times in the Bible.

## The Healing Ministry of the Church

1. Inviting the Elders to Pray (v.14) The sick person takes the initiative.
2. The Prayer of Faith (v.14-15) See also Mark 2:5, where Jesus saw the faith of the friends.
3. Anointing with Oil (v.14) a symbol of the Holy Spirit. When we baptize with water, water is a symbol of the burial. When we take communion, the juice is a symbol of the blood. The anointing oil is simply an aide to faith. The oil does not heal. The elders do not heal. God heals.

<sup>1</sup> Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, vol. 1, trans. Kirsopp Lake, Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 1965), 171 (II 23:3-9).

## The Connection between Sin and Sickness:

Sometimes not connected (see John 9:3 – Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” See also Job)

Sometimes they are connected (John 5:14 – Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” See also 1 Corinthians 11:27-32).

## Five Different Attitudes Toward Healing<sup>2</sup>:

- 1. The Sensationalists** – they say, “let’s line up 1,000 sick people in an auditorium and a gifted healer will heal them, but James 5:14-15 does not refer to this practice.
- 2. The Confessionalists** – they say, “just claim your healing, and if you are not healed, you are not in faith,” but Hebrews 11:33-38 tells us that some of the faith giants suffered and died.
- 3. The Dispensationalists** – they say, “the gift of healing was just for New Testament times”, but Hebrews 13:8 says “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”
- 4. The Rationalists** – they say, “sickness is just in your mind and all you have to do is deny the sickness exists (Christian Science),” but Romans 4:19 says Abraham considered the fact that his body was too old to have children, but trusted God anyway (see the more accurately translated ESV and NASB)
- 5. The Realists** – God does heal today, but He does not heal everybody. Simply because He does not heal all, doesn’t mean it will keep me from praying that God will heal. ***Faith expects a miracle, but does not demand a miracle.***

### **Daniel 3:16-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.*

<sup>17</sup> *If that is the case, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.*

<sup>18</sup> ***But if not***, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

## God uses miracles and medicine.

### **Acts 28:8-9 (ESV)**

*It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him **healed him** [Gk: miraculous healing]. And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were **cured** [Gk: medical healing].*

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<sup>2</sup> My personal notes but the outline is taken from Rick Warren, “How to Pray about Your Problems”, [www.pastors.com](http://www.pastors.com)

[www.mvbcnow.org](http://www.mvbcnow.org)

[www.joshfranklin.org](http://www.joshfranklin.org)