

James 5:12-18

"Prayerful in Affliction"*

Introduction: James's use of "above all"

- **"Above all":** Might be thought of as, "On top of everything else I've told you with regard to speech."
- **What James is forbidding:** The swearing of illegitimate and sinful oaths.
- **What James is saying:** Our integrity should be such that we don't have to go around making promises that we are telling the truth.
- **The flow of thought in James 5:** From the practices of rich unbelievers to the believer's need for patience, and then to the believer's need for prayer in the midst of afflictions.

We must turn to God in _____ in the midst of our _____ and _____ afflictions.

- **The bad example of King Asa:** Not seeking help from the LORD, but only from physicians.
- **One responsibility that falls upon church members:** To call for the elders when facing some serious physical affliction.

- **The misuse of this passage by the Roman Catholic Church:** Misused to support their 'sacrament' of extreme unction.
- **The interpretive difficulty:** Is the anointing with oil a literal anointing, or is it symbolic language that is used to describe being set apart to God through prayer?
- **The word "save" in this context:** Refers to deliverance from physical sickness.
- **A clear biblical teaching:** Some sicknesses and ailments are traceable to some particular sin that has been committed.
- **A trap to avoid falling into:** The trap fallen into by Job's miserable comforters and the disciples in thinking that some affliction must be traced back to some sin that has been committed.
- **James's example of how "the prayer of a righteous person has great power":** The example of how God answered the prayers of Elijah.
- **Personal Application:**

*To view this sermon online go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and search North Fort Myers presbyterian Church Live stream.