



Faith Prays

PASTOR GARY WEBB • JAMES 5:13-20

Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

James 5:13

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

James 5:14

and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

James 5:15

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

James 5:16

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

James 5:17

Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

James 5:18

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

James 5:19

let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

James 5:20



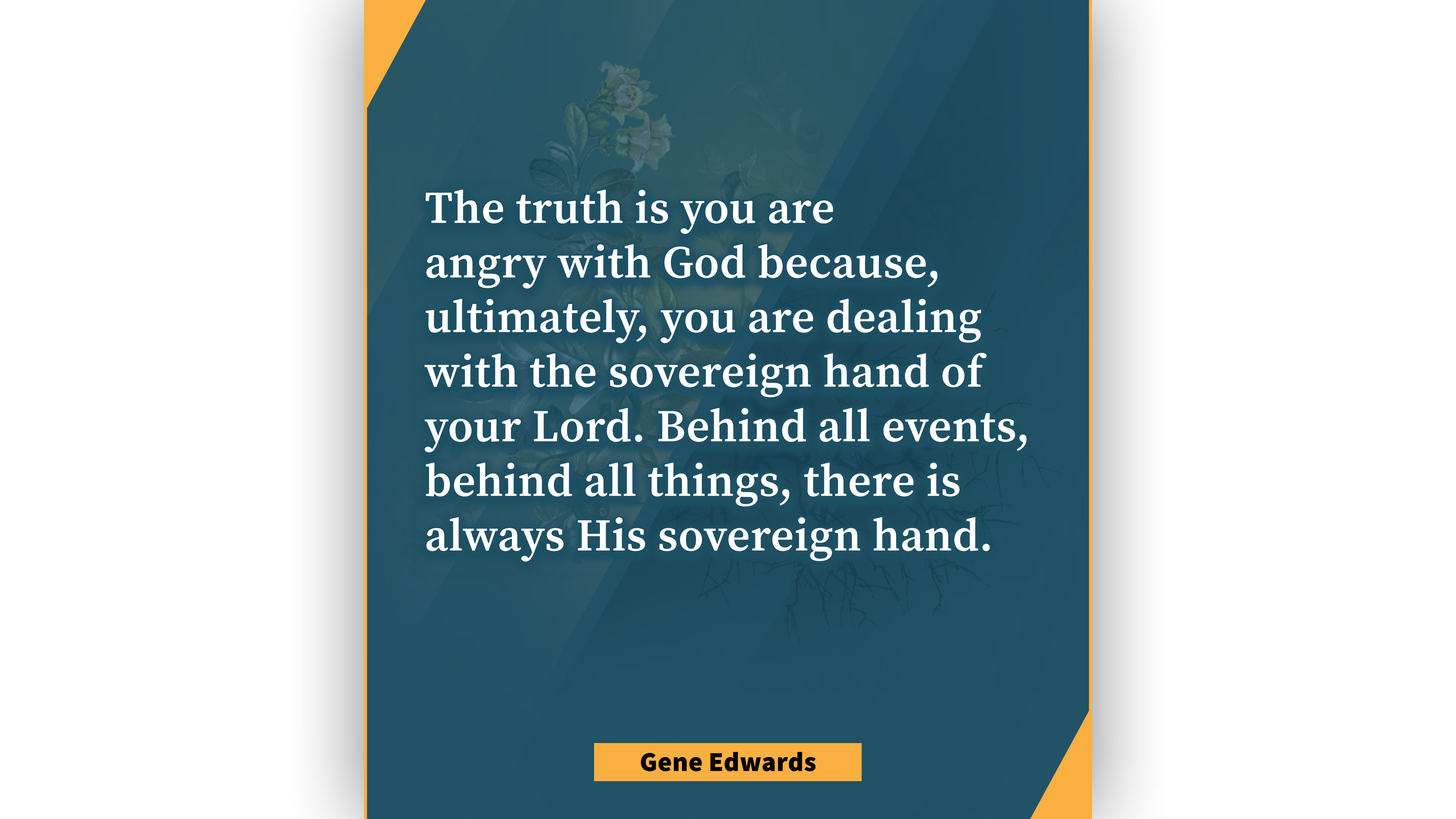
**Our Reaction to Life's
Circumstances (5:13–15)**

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Every believer must come to grips with a God who did not do things quite the way it was expected. You are going to get to know your Lord by faith or you will not know Him at all. Faith in Him, trust in Him...not in His ways. Today you're resentful of those who so callously hurt you. But no, not really...

Gene Edwards



The truth is you are angry with God because, ultimately, you are dealing with the sovereign hand of your Lord. Behind all events, behind all things, there is always His sovereign hand.

Gene Edwards

His commands are a congenial attack on the universal human tendency during trouble to get angry or indulge in self-pity or complaint or, on the other hand, when one is untroubled and happy, to forget God. James commands that Christians pray throughout the whole spectrum of emotions.

Whether low or high, at the bottom or at the top, in the pits or on the pinnacle, either prayer or praise is appropriate.

R. Kent Hughes

Weakness is the office of strength, and embraces the full range of physical, emotional, social, economic, and even spiritual incapacity. All these notions can be expressed.

Colin Brown

We view the oil as symbolic of the consecration (*setting apart*) of the individual. No power is inherent in the oil. Nothing related to healing is indicated in the use of the oil itself. The oil merely focuses the attention of all on the individual who is being set apart for special prayer to the end that God's will be done.

Dick DeArmey

This verse provides no basis for the Roman Catholic Church's sacrament of extreme unction, wherein the dying is anointed with oil with the purpose of removing any remnant of sin and strengthening the soul for dying. A simple reading of the text makes it clear that the anointing with oil is to promote healing, not to ease dying.

R. Kent Hughes

Since Vatican 2, the rite has been called “the anointing of the sick.” Clearly this developed sacrament has little basis in James’ text: he recommends anointing for any illness and associates with healing rather than with preparation for death.

Douglas Moo

The prayer of faith comes from a faith in Almighty God who sovereignly carries out His will. Nothing is beyond Him. He can heal anyone anytime He wills, and He does heal today! He does as He wills in every circumstance, working all things to His glory.

R. Kent Hughes

It means to rescue, to deliver, to set free. It should not be thought of in this case in terms of salvation from sin, but rather our deliverance from whatever has made us powerless.

Dick DeArmey

Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand.

Psalm 20:6

Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.

Psalm 20:7



Our Interaction With
One Another (5:16–18)

Righteous man...is simply the believer, the person who is righteous by virtue of receiving forgiveness through Jesus and is therefore part of the people of God. Prayer, James wants to make clear, is a powerful weapon in the hands of even the humblest believer; it does not require a super saint to yield it effectively.

Douglas Moo

If you are confessed up and walking with Christ, your prayers are spiritual dynamite, especially as they are offered for your needy brothers and sisters in Christ!

R. Kent Hughes

God had said, early in the life of Israel, that if they turned away from Him, He would send certain punishments, one of which was drought: “The Lord will strike you with...scorching heat and drought...the sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron” (Deuteronomy 28:22,23).

Sam Allberry

Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”



**Our Action for the One
Who Strays (5:19,20)**

**Faith always takes action
through prayer.**