Kings and Prophets 13-09-13b

We pick up our study now of Kings and Prophets, we're looking at the Prophet Elijah and we're looking at his Notoriety in the New Testament and rather than try to cover all of the places where he's mentioned. I've basically Chosen the James 5 passage this really encapsulates the symbolic value or the meaning of The Prophet Elijah and remember in in Jesus day in the days of the early church in the Apostolic Times when these letters were being written when sermons were being preached to churches When you mention somebody from the Old Testament when you mention a passage or an episode from the Old Testament This is a cultural reference that everybody knows We have Examples of this and I'm not going to regale you with with examples of this now, but You know that there are cultural references that we can make If I say three-hour tour immediately all of you can fill in a lot of stuff, you know, mr mrs. Howell and ginger and You know Gilligan and so on The minnow, you know the USS minnow most of you can And There there are things If you say well, you know, this guy doesn't exactly go chop down the cherry tree you know that there is an allusion to an apocryphal story about the father of our country or We we have these things that we all have in common, especially in this country and and sometimes in our community And it was the same back then so when you mention Elijah Everybody knows Elijah even better than we do today And so when he says take the prophets in general It take the you have heard of the perseverance of Job Well, that's a what 42 chapter book. He says you've heard you've heard of the perseverance of Job This is almost tongue-in-cheek.

He the patience of Job is proverbial, isn't it? And it has been for thousands of years So when we come down to verse 13 and we've we've seen James invoke the Prophets in general, we've seen him mentioned Job Now he's going to zero in on Elijah But what is the why does he do it? What is the? Subject of conversation here. Well, it's something that all of us are familiar with Is anyone among you? weary or weak and It's unfortunate a large amount of the confusion about this passage as I mentioned last week is the translation in verse 14 of Astana Oh It says in your King James New King James. Is anyone among you sick? but this word is The negative it's got the alpha privative on it if something is typical it's It's usual.

It's normal if it's a typical that's the opposite, right? You can be Gnostic meaning, you know things or you can be agnostic meaning you claim to not know the alpha privative negates what follows in in Greek and and those words derived from Greek and so Your Your word sthenos s-t-h-e-n-o-s means to be Potent to be powerful to be strong. And so when you put the a in front of that, what does it mean? You're weak. You're Depleted you're not strong.

You're not Coping you're not handling it. You're not keeping all the plates up on the spinning on the sticks See that itself is a cultural reference if you're old enough to remember, you know, the Ed Sullivan show Yeah that that weeds out a big part of the crowd but You know, I think even even younger people know that this is a reference to this Sort of vaudeville act where people would take China dinner plates They have a table with dowels sticking up in the air and they would take a plate put on the top of the dowel and a wiggle that stick and the plate Would start spinning and it stays on the stick you think wow, that's pretty well then the guy takes another stick and Puts another plate and gets it spinning and then a third and a fourth and a fifth and a sixth until he's got like Twelve or fifteen of these things going. Well the first one that he started It's just like a top or any other spinning thing It starts to not spin and you see this plate wobbling crazily on top of the thing and you think well It's gonna fall off and shatter and so he runs down there and gives that one another spin and as long as he's only got A few plates he's

fine But the more sticks and the more plates pretty soon the guy is just frantically running around and everybody's on the edge of their seat Going, you know, is he gonna keep them all going or not? Well, this is a guy think of this every day you know, this is You know if they ever had the guy, you know, this is your life and they came to do mine You know, that would be the that would be the opening scene is plates on sticks but Is anyone among you suffering Is anyone among us not suffering in some way at some time, you know, can you go very long without experiencing some kind of suffering? It can be emotional it can be physical it can be professional it can be just the frustrations of the fallen world around us or the shortcomings and the Failures of people around us.

It can be our own. I suffer Looking at myself. I disappoint myself.

I Want to go in the backyard and crank up the rear-end kicking machine and just stand in front of it and you know Because I know how much I deserve it and I suffer for my own Dim wittedness and and distract ability and and inconsistency and and The the only advantage I have is nobody Typically hears the Tirades that I launch against myself They're all in my head and I take a Tylenol and take a nap and wake up and feel better But is anyone among you suffering? Well it you can't go very long without suffering. So this is pretty much When you are suffering Pray the solution is to pray we take these burdens to God. Is anyone cheerful sing psalms? Not sing German drinking songs, you know, Oktoberfest is coming up, you know Don't that don't don't don't die the Star-Spangled Banner is an old German drinking song, you know, that's that's the tune And Well, that's that's not a psalm.

That's a song a psalm is a particular kind of song, isn't it? and They don't say well, here's a psalm to Buddha. Here's a psalm to Vishnu here's a psalm to Poseidon Who is the subject and the object and the the Deity in view when you do a psalm, there's only one object for a psalm and that's the Lord God creator Yahweh Elohim, that's That's who a psalm is about and and directed to and for right Sing a psalm. It's not, you know, Jeremiah was a bullfrog joy to the world, it's The Lord is my shepherd I don't lack make a joyful noise to the Lord all ye land serve the Lord with gladness come before his presence with singing Remember the Lord is God is he that made us and not we ourselves We're his people the sheep of his pastor enter his gates with Thanksgiving his courts with praise be thankful to him Bless his name the Lord's good as mercy is everlasting his truth endures to all generations And then go back to the beginning and do it again because every good and perfect gift comes from above and It's not Wow.

Isn't it great? The boss gave me a raise or isn't it great that it's good weather today, or isn't it? Great that I I left this thing out and it didn't get ruined or isn't it great that you know Nothing bad happened or something good happened Every blessing is In the context of our relationship with God. So when you get to 14 is anyone among you not strong is Anyone among you meaning at those times when you yourself are weak Now astana Oh can be used for physical illness as I mentioned last time But in many cases it is not in many cases it means just what it says Weak and there are perfectly good words for Physical illness that could be used here but We know from the context that this is not talking about a physical ailment Hasn't he just talked about when you are suffering? You know when you're when you're under the gun Throughout this throughout this letter you remember James one of our memory verses in chapter 1 counted all joy When you enter into various testing Counted a joy knowing that the trial of your faith works patients and so on Counted all joy When you he doesn't say call for somebody with a gift and get the thing taken away That that's not the thrust and the message of this book He's saying use

your spiritual assets your spiritual resources As you know one of my peeves is that you'll be listening to something on the radio, and they say well You know this month. We've got a resource and send us $49.95, and we'll send you this wonderful resource That's not a resource God the Holy Spirit is a resource the truth of God's Word active and circulating in our soul, that's a resource a Cassette well not a cassette.

What is it now a CD an mp3 a download of? Something or a you know attract or a flyer for refrigerator magnet You know a coffee mug There were two sets of tracks, and then there was one and you know I carried you and that's not a resource This that we're looking at is a resource So is anyone among you not strong? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him We saw last time if you're suffering to the point that you can't do the first part of verse 13 Maybe you've let it go. Maybe you got distracted, and you've awakened and and it's just a cloud of confusion You just have that dull. I'm too tired to think I'm too weary.

I'm beat down. I'm overwhelmed. I'm overcome I Can't I don't even know what to say if I try to pray I don't know you know we start convincing ourselves that God doesn't want to hear from us Well, I've you know part of this is my fault God.

God doesn't want to hear from me You know I'm not in a condition to go before God And and we we can't do the first part of 13 if we're suffering let him pray we just we can't generate the energy to pray Which is our fault like everything else typical and that makes us even less likely well what we can do is Contact the mature believers in our fellowship Elders of the church sounds like well. You know they've got a badge on a car with a sign on the side or something I'm an elder of the church. This is the this is the this is the the more mature believers in your fellowship and Especially in in in one like ours.

This is a very informal thing You know if somebody forced me to sit down and list the elders in our church. I'd end up probably listing everybody But what what are you what does it mean an elder that the pres Bouderoy the the ones who are Longer in the faith stronger in the word at this particular point Somebody who has strength to help when you've got a Flat I I told you several weeks ago There was a gal and a guy in a car and it was the girl's car and they had a flat with no spare right in front of our house and The girl was out there trying to change the flat and so I went out and helped him the guy was I Mean you know with all respect. He was just useless I don't think the guy had ever seen a jack or the back end of a car.

I mean he was I Don't know what his Particular set of challenges were but he was utterly incapable And the girl didn't know much more than he did but they were out there, and they needed help obviously well if this girl Has a flat and need some help changing the flat because she doesn't have the physical strength to you know jack the car up with that little two-bit jack they include You know that little bendy thing with the little little diamond That's supposed to raise your car, and you you know if you most people can't operate one of those Well is she gonna call a 10 year old child walking by and saying hello 10 year old child Could you come you know help me turn this jack? Well, no you need somebody stronger. You need somebody with more ability than you have not the same or less like your boyfriend In this particular case So that's the idea of the elders But but don't think that this is a formal thing well I've got to find a church that's got elders and because what if our church has deacons now. What do I do? if this means you know find somebody stronger than you and Listen don't over formalize this if you're a woman, and there's there's Another woman in the church.

That's that's not currently experiencing a lot of challenges. That's an elder Don't think that this is well the qualification of husband of one. No.

This is somebody that is more mature. This is not formal There's no regulation In scripture when when you see the the qualifications for an elder if you look at that context This is an authority exercising teaching elder This isn't someone who can pray you can be any gender you can be any age and you can pray This is a prayer function. This is a praying elder not a teaching elder not an administrating elder not a Accountable to God for the good order and discipline of the group elder.

This is you know how elder Do you have to be to pray? You've just got to be more elder than the person that is so beat down right now. They can't pray So you may be this elder in some situation, so don't let yourself off and say well That's a job for the elders you may be this elder or you may need to call on someone near at hand or someone that you trust to respect your private privacy to not do the Grumble against one another grown against one another thing up here from verse 9 They're not gonna stanazzo you when you say hey, you know, what's the matter with you counted all joy that that's not an elder So you're clear on what an elder is here call for the elders plural Why There's a good reason why this is plural and I did not point this out last week, but it's elders plural Because if you've got a situation like this where it is complicated enough, it's severe enough. It's significant enough that you're Having trouble finding your way out of the dark room with no light switch You need not only The respect for your privacy and the sympathy for your situation But you need more than one person and there are multiple reasons for this.

It's not really Elucidated in the passage, but think about it among other things There needs to be a little bit of accountability for the information that you share There needs to be objectivity this by the way is a reason that a pastor in a larger church That's got an office and someone comes in for counseling Should have somebody else there. You don't go one-on-one, you know, here's a woman in the church She's got a problem with her husband or whatever She's not going to go in behind closed doors one-on-one with the pastor bad Idea if you end up being this elder and someone calls you and says look I'm really Struggling with this issue You know, would you come over and pray with me or help me try to figure this out? Recruit somebody else it is elders and there's a reason for it You may get emotionally entangled you may be brought to the place where this person is and you need a A Center of mass you need more than one other person to help stabilize this situation Have you ever seen a case where somebody's drowning and another guy jumps in to try to save them and they both drown? That doesn't happen when two people are in the water rescuing the person never happens You've ever heard of two people jumping in and and all three of them drown. You never hear that story It's the one-on-one thing where it becomes too much for the rescuer Elders plural remember this remember it when you are the person appealing for aid and remember it when you are the person appealed to There's accountability there is Additional strength a threefold cord is not quickly broken and there's also a much better chance for objectivity because it's no one person's sympathies or past experiences that can be sort of co-opted or Subverted by the you know, this is obviously a charged situation or the person wouldn't be calling for help But it's elders.

This needs to be a small group effort two or more To help this person that has called for aid if it's overwhelmed them There's a good chance that it can overwhelm just one other person. So it's elders. Let him call for it doesn't say an elder so Highlight it circle it underline it we need to

collectively help each other This doesn't have to be everybody but Elders of the church let them pray over him or her and what does this mean? They're not standing there silently they don't say well, I appreciate you telling me that story I'm gonna go home and you know put that on my prayer list The prayer is done in the presence of the person that has asked for help.

This is Verbal prayer this is prayer at the time with the person It's an event that happens at the point of appeal you call for the elders two or more Experienced wise in the faith Christians come and there is a prayer out loud by them meaning more than one person prays In the presence of the person that has asked for help. You don't say well appreciate you telling us about this We'll go off and have a little prayer meeting and we'll let you know if God reveals in it. No, this is a The this is like One on each side of Moses holding up his arms It's a it's a collective activity that takes place at the time with the person out loud That's clear in the passage.

Let them pray when it says pray over him. That's what it means It's at the time out loud in their presence. You address it now you address it together and the sharing of doctrinal viewpoint Biblical viewpoint in the prayer benefits everybody and if one person is getting a little too far in this way God's got another person there.

It can put in their heart to pull the thing back to the center Objectivity not subjectivity. What is subjectivity eyes on what? Eyes on self eyes on people eyes on circumstances the best way to overcomes and what is the problem here? Too weak to pray for yourself. Can't get enough objectivity to pray Have to be objective when you pray you have to you've got to be looking outside yourself You've got to be looking to God not overwhelmed with people not overwhelmed with self and not overwhelmed with circumstances.

Well. The Senate the Collection of mass here the center of mass shifts to objectivity when you've got three or more people in the room.

Anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. I've given this a lot of thought, especially over the last week. This whole anointing with oil thing, because people, as I said last week, have purported this to be some sort of medicinal use of oil and, well, you know, all of oil does a mild antiseptic. That's not it at all, because a this doesn't appear to be a physical ailment. That is the problem, because you wouldn't be calling for elders. You'd be calling for somebody that's got the gift of healing. Let him call for somebody with a gift of healing and let them pray and call down healing and agree and invoke the name of the Lord and behold the blind will see and the lame will walk and the deaf will hear and so on. That's not the this is spiritually overwhelmed, spiritually weak. So they're going to pray, and now that's anointing with oil.

So if it's in the spiritual realm, what is the anointing with oil? Well, what do we typically hear about the symbolic value of oil in Scripture? What is everybody always told us ever since we first heard that oil could be a symbol. What is it a symbol of? Holy Spirit? True. But here's my suggestion. Here's my suggestion. What is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit? It is an expression of what attribute of God's character that the Spirit comes and does his work? It's grace. It's grace.

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit is grace. When the Levitical priests had their heads anointed with oil and they were commissioned to function as priests before God on behalf of the people, and you say, well, they have oil they're anointed with oil. What is that? It's a grace provision for the people that there is a priesthood, that there is somebody that can be qualified

to do this sort of intermediary function, shadowing the ultimate mediator capital M who is our High Priest. It's grace. When the king is anointed, Samuel takes out the horn of oil and anoints David's head or anoints Saul's head.

What is that you say? Well, that's he's gonna he's the king. So he's gonna have the Holy Spirit. Well, what is that? That's grace it's grace that God would impart his spirit to the leader of your nation so that he will have the judgment and the and the power and the Acumen and the discernment to lead in a beneficial and productive way.

It's grace when anointing is Given to us we say well even today in in Christian circles. You hear a lot of thing. Well that you know, that's that's That's an anointed work that's an anointed person.

What does it mean? There is some special divine power at work. But what is that? It's grace that God would Condescend that God would deign to come down and and bless us with with some provision So taking nothing away from the the Holy Spirit What is that? That is grace and I would suggest and I would submit that when the elders as they Come together and agree together on behalf of this person and are praying to God for strength and for restoration And for guidance and for wisdom in whatever circumstance has brought this about this anointing oil and I don't see any harm if you want to actually get some out. I Think it's like a lot of other symbolic things that that in the absence of a finished Bible.

These things were great teaching tools but The Bible says anoint with oil if you want to get some oil out and anoint the person What is it a reminder of is it going to physically bring down the Holy Spirit on this person? No But what is it going to do it is going to remind everyone of the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit his Five-fold fully orbed ministry to believers and what else is it going to do? It is a reminder that all of this is grace. We're not without hope We're not without God in the world and in this age as church age believers Look at this tremendous gift that we have that wasn't available to everybody in earlier ages God's Holy Spirit and that anointing is not just a reminder of him and his ministry leading us into truth Imparting the things of Christ making them perspicacious and understandable, but it's a reminder in the larger sense of God's grace We are in a position to receive God's grace. We're not without hope We're not without God in the world and that oil is a tangible physical reminder in this situation that James describes That you're not just anybody you are Privileged to be a part of the royal family of God you are a priest you share in Christ and In Christ, what is he? He is a prophet.

He is a priest and he is a king and We are in him when he is in us. We share his Sonship, we share his inheritance. We share his chosenness his election We share his baptism we share his destiny we share all the in Christ We have all things remember the first part of Corinthians.

I think that's probably gonna be our next study is Corinthians and you remember Paul Chastises people for not remembering everything that we have in Christ. Well, this is a reminder Sometimes we need a tangible reminder sometimes little kids Need a tangible reminder that there are penalties for bad behavior Not theoretical not staring into a corner. They need a tangible reminder need something traveling up the Electrical lines of the nervous system as a tangible reminder of certain realities in life This oil is a tangible reminder and nothing more.

It's not medicinal per se It's not magical per se it is symbolic it is a reminder and long after these people leave You know, the person starts to grab their face and sink back into depression. What are they gonna find? Oh Yeah We just had a prayer session. We just had a reminder that God's

grace is available God's grace is at work and sometimes that this is why we put things on earth I've got nothing against refrigerator magnets if they're well thought out because they're a tangible reminder So think of the anointing oil as Leaving a little something behind as a reminder of care and concern This oil was brought by the people who came to pray by the way I didn't say well go get some of your oil and we'll pour it on you.

They brought it They bring something of God's power with them symbolically speaking in The name of the Lord all in the name of the Lord if you baptize someone in the name of the Lord Are you just saying in the name of the Father? or are you invoking and remembering and appreciating and Enjoying the attributes of God his grace his compassion his long-suffering his willingness to forgive his Sacrificial love for us. That's the name of the Lord and when you anoint this person With this symbol of grace and symbol of the Holy Spirit in the name of the Lord. That's Providing something to this weakened person that is actually going to benefit it is actually going to make a difference It's something we can do for one another.

This is why we have a prayer chain we can Pray for one another by the way Thank you to everyone who prayed for Joseph's granddaughter because the day after we got that note and prayed it was gone That cyst in the baby's stomach was gone. Everybody was where did it go? Well, all I know is it went on our prayer chain one day and it was gone the next so you can Everybody that prayed send up a thank you to the Lord. Joseph is extremely appreciative.

He You know your grandchild, what are you gonna say? This looked like it was going to be a serious thing requiring surgery on a newborn and instead it's a non-problem It's not even there the prayer of faith will deliver the sick and what I did not tell you last time unless you stayed after This word sick is not the same as Astana. Oh at the beginning This is the word calm. No verse 15 the prayer faith will save the calm know This word only occurs one other place in the New Testament and It is Hebrews chapter 12 verses 3 & 4 Consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself.

This is the Lord Jesus.

Consider the Lord Jesus who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself so that you may not grow weary, calm no, and lose heart.

Calm no means weary not sick.

So instead of sick and sick in verse 14 and 15 is anyone among you Weak is anyone among you not strong the prayer of faith will deliver the weary.

The weary changes the complexion of the whole passage, doesn't it, and causes it to fit very seamlessly and very elegantly and very beautifully into the argument of the whole letter.

We come together to pray and to encourage and to bear with one another in a time of weakness, in a time of weariness.

Isn't this what bearing one another's burdens means when we get too weary, burdened with a load of care? The prayer of faith will deliver.

This is what so Joe means. This is what save means it means deliver will deliver the weary the prayer of faith will deliver the weary from what from this weakened weary state and the Lord will raise him up raise him up how?

Well, this is a wonderful passage for depression, isn't it, a wonderful passage for when you're down, and you can't get back up.

The prayer of faith will raise up will deliver the weary the Lord will raise him up. You appeal to the Lord and say Lord Encourage strengthen guide impart wisdom give clarity give peace Grant the benefits and the blessings that come from and this person obviously is in a position to receive them.

Why because they did something right they applied the Word of God, and they called for the elders I? Can't do anything else, but I know I Should appeal to my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I've done that much that is enough for God to deliver.

That is enough for God to bless that simple act of obedience. You don't sublimate you don't turn to alcohol You don't turn to pills you don't turn to you know some other human solution You turn to God and the people of God if you don't feel strong enough to turn to God turn to the people of God and they raise you up and the prayer of faith will deliver.

That's the idea now. When it says confess Trespasses to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed doesn't that fit perfectly into this context?

Why is it that you're so weak you can't pray for yourself? Why is it that you've fallen down so far that you really need the assistance of fellow believers?

This is not an indictment, but it is a situation that has arisen by some bad previous decisions. Normally if we don't have a pattern of failure.

We won't get ourselves in this position, but sometimes we do Normally we don't run out of gas, but sometimes we do and I was thinking about this today you know one of the wonderful things about the whole family model in in the United States that that is being eroded and chipped away is when you Have a flat or you run out of gas or you have you get someplace and lock your keys In or your purse in or you you have some other difficulty who's the first person you call? You've got a built-in go-to person if you've got family you call your family It's we don't even think about it. Oh Call call mom call dad call my son call my daughter. That's it's family We've got a built-in immediate source of aid right there You know what happens when you've got no family when you're collective and everybody's a worker bee and the you know proletariat or whatever You know well comrade Mind driving across town and helping me.

I've got a little issue here well the comrade sorry But you should have thought ahead. You know I got my own Family we have those to whom we can appeal and in the spiritual realm. This is the blessing we have from God We have family we are brothers and sisters in Christ And we in the same way that you're you know you'd without thinking you go to family well without thinking We go to our spiritual family in a time of weakness in a time of weariness They lift us up they help us get back on our feet and the Lord is the one that actually does the raising He's the one that that gives them the wisdom to be an elder He's the one that gives them the the compassion to come over and bring the oil and and do the praying Everyone gets a blessing, but this is the context of verse 16.

This is not public confession of well hello Mildred I was lusting after you yesterday. I just thought you ought to know I'm confessing my my trespasses You know I thought you really looked hot in that outfit that you know this this is a destructive thing to churches that tried to practice this public confession of sin have Exploded have blown apart into fragments. What do you mean you know Mildred is married? You know here comes Joe.

Mr.. Mildred, and now you're you know You're scattered all over the parking lot somewhere.

The Bible never encourages public confession of sin. This, when it says confess Trespasses, what is it talking about? When you have called the elders, and they are coming to pray for you. And you've got this select group of mature believers, Two or three gathered together in the Lord's name, Attempting to pray and lift you up, you need to let them know the details so that they can pray intelligently so that they can offer Applicable pertinent biblical truth that you're too weary and too weak to think of.

And What this is saying, what James is telling us here, is it's okay to reveal the details in this situation set up in verses 13 through 15. You don't stand up in front of a group of 200 people and well, here's what I did. Gracious sakes.

But notice confess trespasses to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. And The word healed here is is a is a summary. This is yeah, oh my in the context of weariness and weakness it means restored brought back to spiritual health. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Notice Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. And This is where when we go back to Kings. We're gonna see his faults in his failures. He gets weak.

He gets weary Angel has to wake him up and give him some food and put him back to sleep for another nap God has to speak to him and Give him some instructions because he gets weak, but it didn't impede The grace of God it didn't impede the plan and purpose of God when Elijah prayed Because the power in prayer is not with the person offering the prayer The power is not in the request. This is why this whole prayer of Jabez thing is such a travesty It's like we have found the magic formula if you say the right thing in the right way in the right order It's like putting a quarter in the machine and out will come the you know, that was up at the courthouse I put a dollar in the machine and and it didn't even recognize it dollar disappeared. I got nothing And to put in another dollar nothing like getting ripped off by the justice system God is not a coin machine.

You don't put in the money Well, if I just put in the correct change out will come the you know, the v8 I was trying to get Elijah was a man with the nature's like ours He prayed earnestly that would not rain and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months whose power Controlled the weather Elijah or God but God worked in and through a fallible human being with a nature like ours and If you are the person called upon to be of assistance sometimes you say well, I'm just inadequate I I don't know what I would do in a situation like this. I'm I've got a nature like theirs. I this could easily be me We the shoe could be on the other foot with our roles could be reversed I could be calling them if this had happened to me and What James is saying is don't let the situation discourage you you don't have to be some sort of spiritual giant to pray Look at Elijah.

He says Elijah was just like us and look at the at the power that is brought to bear in and through Prayer, it's the power of God Keep in mind whether you are the requester or the person

who has come at their request Whether you are the weak person or you're the wise elder that comes Regardless of your role. Don't forget. The power is of God.

That's what the anointing oil means How does the power of God come into the life of the believer? everybody Spirit of God and the Word of God, right? It's the two parts if you want God's power in your life It comes in no other way than the Spirit of God and the Word of God Well, you've got the word being spoken in prayer and you've got the Spirit of God Symbolically represented in this oil. It's all of grace That's what this passage is talking about. That's what Elijah represents when people say Elijah It's like us saying well, you know, you say Abraham Lincoln everybody thinks Emancipation Proclamation or penny or you know, you say Washington people think cherry tree, you know chuck a dollar across the Potomac or you know crossing the Delaware or Quarter, you know depending on particular bent of your mind when when people talked about Elijah They knew he was fallible and yet they knew the power of God that was invoked in the land in his day And and that's us.

We're all fallible. We all are weak and weary from time to time. We all need to lean on one another That's why there are so many one another commands in Scripture.

And when we do it, we all remember that the power is of God.

Elijah was just like us. There's nothing special about Elijah, but when he prayed, huge things happened. Mountaintops disappeared. Droughts occurred. Ends of droughts occurred. Dead were raised to life, not because Elijah was a great shakes, but because his prayers were the means of God expressing his power.

So that's the point of James chapter 5. We'll return to the Old Testament record and complete our look at the ministry of Elijah and the transition to Elisha. And the very interesting book of Obadiah is on the horizon now because Obadiah is alive and kicking: the prophet Obadiah, the writing prophet, Obadiah, the book of Obadiah in these days, and what that book has to say is a real eye-opener for the Elijah-Elisha time frame, and I can't wait to get to it. So we'll we'll start that next time, but let's close here in a word of prayer.

Father, as we pray we are freshly aware of your grace, that you would listen, that you would allow us an avenue of approach through the Lord Jesus Christ, who made a way for us through the veil that even the high priest in Israel could only pass one time in a year carrying the blood of atonement. We are blessed with that privilege. Any time we choose, we can come boldly before your throne. We can count on your strength and your wisdom and your guidance and your provision and your blessing any time we find ourselves challenged.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will help us to remain aware of those truths That we can avail ourselves of them that your Glory will be reflected in our lives and the Lord Jesus Christ will be evident. Not only in our in our hearts and in our fellowship, but also Will shine outward to the world that we will Be a witness and a testimony To those who are hungry and who are seeking the truth. We pray these things in Jesus name.

Amen