

James 5:13 – “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.”

PRAYER IN SUFFERING

Happiness is a cause for praise. Suffering is a cause for prayer. The word for prayer here means worship and/or supplicate. When you are going through a period of suffering, all you can do is make your request known to God, and worship Him. Job suffered the loss of his family, his wealth, his honor, his health, and his confidence. When Job spoke from his suffering, trying to reason it out, he was given to extremes. He was irrational at times. He was desperate at other times. Yet those times did not define Job. What defined Job was his confidence in God. “He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me I will come forth as gold.” “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” “With Him are wisdom and strength.” Job’s confidence led to him pray. “Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing that I long for!” He questioned God. He argued with God. He bargained with God. He blamed God. These were all a part of his prayer experience. When prayer didn’t seem to be working for Job, he fell back on what he knew. “I know that my redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I will see God.” When you are suffering and don’t know why, fall back on what you do know. Stand on the promises of God, and keep praying. One day you will be able to say with Job, “He knows...” And that is what counts.