

Women's Bible Study  
***The Heart's Cry: A Look at Heartfelt Prayer***  
*The Heart's Cry for Healing James 5: 13-15*  
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Intensive Study Questions

**Key verse:** ““And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.” (James 5:15)

Remember to provide biblical references with your answers, especially when you are drawing a principle from scripture.

1. Verse 14 refers to “anointing with oil”. Look at Mark 6:13 and Isaiah 1:6 for some example of how oil was used medicinally. Is the anointing critical to the healing? If not, why might the oil be used?
2. Verse 15 says that the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. If the sick person does not improve, does that mean we don't have enough faith? Why or why not? Find at least one other example of healing, and also look at Mark 9:17-29. What elements seem to be present in a successful healing?
3. We know that God gives each of us a distinct span of days (Psalm 139:16). Why should we pray for healing when someone is terminally ill? What happens when many people pray for the same outcome? (Hint: see 2 Cor. 1:11.) Now think of some reasons that God would choose not to heal. (see 2 Cor. 12:7-10 as an example).
4. In this passage there is a connection made between physical healing and forgiveness of sins. Is it possible for “soul sickness” from sin to cause physical sickness as an outcome? When Jesus said to a person, “Go, your faith has healed you,” (see Mark 5:34; Mark 10:52 for examples) does this mean that with sufficient faith anyone can be healed? What else might that statement mean? The passage also talks about confessing our sins to one another and praying for each other as a part of healing. Why might confession have an effect upon a physical illness? (see Psalm 38:1-8)
5. Disease and death came into the world as a result of the Fall in Genesis 3. What will happen when Jesus returns? Find at least two scripture passages that address what will happen to us upon Jesus' return. What will happen to death and disease?

