Moving Forward in Faithfulness
Exercising Prayers of Faith
James 5:13-20

There is an intimate connection between our life and God.

As James closes his letter, he encourages believers to:

1. Cover (Immerse) Personal Suffering into the Character of God (5:13a)
   Response: Interact with the LORD by switching human wishes or ideas for His wishes as He imparts faith.

2. Express Acts of Personal Worship (5:13b)
   Response: Sing praise (Phil. 2:5-11).

3. Commit Sickness to the Lord (5:14)
   Plan:
   1. Call for the overseers of the church to come and pray; see Luke 10:35
   2. Confess sin to one another, as a matter of reconciliation and accountability
   Expectation:
   1. Deliverance (5:15-16)
   2. Forgiveness
   Illustration: Never underestimate your prayers (5:17-18).

4. Showing Compassion for Others (5:19-20)
   Response: Rejoice in the blessing of deliverance.

First Baptist Church Constitution
Article IV
The Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of faith, having been led to be baptized (immersed) in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into a covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love:

   To promote the life and ministries of the church body;
   To promote its prosperity and spirituality;
   To sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines;
   To recognize its divine origin;
   To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions:

   To religiously educate our children;
   To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
   To diligently maintain a Christ-like testimony in a fallen world;
   To demonstrate Christian integrity in all our relationships, obligations, and responsibilities;
   To honor others in word, attitude, and actions;
   To yield personal habits to the Holy Spirit’s control;
   To be zealous in our efforts to obey the missionary command of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love:

   To remember each other in prayer;
   To aid each other in sickness and distress;
   To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
   To be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.