

James 5:17-20

17-18. 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 land for three years and six months. And **he PRAYED again, and the heaven gave rain,** and the earth produced its fruit.

- **Luke 4:25** "But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the _____ of _____, when the heaven was shut up _____ years and _____ months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was _____ sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow."
- **I Kings 17:1** "And _____ the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall _____ be _____ nor _____ these years, except at my _____.'" "
- **I Kings 18:36-37** "And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that _____ the prophet came near and said, 'Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at _____ word. Hear me, O Lord, _____ me, that this people may know that _____ are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.'" "
- **I Kings 18:41-45** "Then _____ said to Ahab, 'Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of _____.' So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he _____ down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, 'Go up now, look toward the sea.' So he went up and looked, and said, 'There is nothing.' And seven times he said, 'Go again.' Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, 'There is a _____, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea.' So he said, 'Go up, say to Ahab, "Prepare your chariot, and go down before the _____ stops you.'" Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with _____ and wind, and there was a heavy _____....."
- **Romans 11:2-6** "God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of _____, how he _____ with _____ against Israel, saying, 'Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life?' But what does the divine response say to him? 'I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of _____. And if by _____, then it is no longer of _____; otherwise _____ is no longer _____. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."

Definition: "ELIJAH was a MAN with a NATURE like OURS" - To say that Elijah had a nature like ours means that **he was just an ordinary man who trusted and obeyed God**, and he can be an example of what we can accomplish in prayer. When we look at the miracles of Jesus, it is too easy to say, "Well, He was God in the flesh, so of course He could do this or that!" Even though Jesus did His miracles as a man, and not with any of His powers as God (see Philippians 2:5-8), it is still too easy for us to make excuses because He was a perfect man, and never sinned, so that is why the Father answered His every prayer. James 5:16 says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a **RIGHTEOUS MAN avails much**", but we don't always see that **WE are the righteous ones, because we have been MADE RIGHTEOUS by God** when we believed in Jesus as our Lord and Savior (II Corinthians 5:21). Elijah had a fallible human nature just like ours, but when he totally trusted God, he could do mighty things and his prayers were answered.

- **Acts 14:14-15** "But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, 'Men, why are you doing these things? _____ also are _____ with the same _____ as _____, and preach to you that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them.'"
- **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He made Him who knew no sin to be _____ for _____, that _____ might become the _____ of _____ in Him."

19-20. BRETHREN, if anyone AMONG YOU wanders from the TRUTH, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will SAVE a SOUL from DEATH and COVER a MULTITUDE of SINS.

- **I Corinthians 5:9-12** "I wrote to you in my epistle (letter) not to keep company with sexually immoral _____. Yet I certainly did not mean the _____ immoral people of _____ world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the _____. But now I have written to you not to keep company (fellowship) with anyone named a _____, who is a _____, or covetous, or an _____, or a reviler, or a _____, or an extortioner - _____ even to _____ with such a person. For what have I to do with _____ those also who are outside (non-believers)? Do you not _____ those who are inside (in the church)?"

Definition: "BRETHREN, if anyone AMONG YOU wanders from the TRUTH" - Since this says, "**BRETHREN, if anyone AMONG YOU**" it means Christians ("brethren"), and "among you" means even a closer relationship of probably being in the same local church congregation. This is talking about **someone who claims to be a Christian but is not walking the walk**, and they have "wandered" into sin or doctrinal error of some kind. Many times, all you can do is to PRAY for them, ENCOURAGE them to come to Bible studies in order to GROW in Christ, and be an EXAMPLE to them of righteousness. You can also **WARN them of the consequences** of their continued disobedience, but be aware that they may react harshly to your warnings. Pray and ask God to give you the WISDOM, a humble attitude, and the RIGHT WORDS to say in dealing with such a person.

- **II Timothy 2:24-26** "And a servant of the Lord must not _____, but be _____ to all, able to _____, patient, in humility _____ those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them _____, so that they may know the _____, and that they may _____ to their _____ and _____ the snare of the _____, having been taken _____ by him to do his will."

Definition: "Anyone NAMED a BROTHER" - This means anyone calling themselves a Christian who is a fornicator (sexually immoral), or covetous, or an extortioner, or an idolater, and such. The word of God says that we are not to "eat with such a one" or keep company with them, meaning to have fellowship with them, **until they repent of their sin**. Any time you see the words "brother" or "brethren" it is referring to Christians. The reason **we are not supposed to eat with or have fellowship with a Christian who is living an openly sinful and unrepentant lifestyle** is because that gives the impression to the unsaved world that what they are doing is "okay" because, "Hey, look! Even the Christians are doing it!" Refusing to fellowship with a brother or sister and removing a Christian from the congregation ("excommunicating" them) is the final resort when all other methods of

counseling and trying to bring them to repentance has failed. **Obviously, the first step is to try to "turn a sinner from the error of his way"** as James 5:20 states.

- **Galatians 6:1** " _____, if a man is overtaken in any _____, you who are spiritual _____ such a one in a spirit of _____, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."
- **Matthew 18:15** "Moreover if your _____ sins against you, go and _____ him his _____ between _____ and _____ alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."

Definition: "If your BROTHER SINS against YOU" - Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:15 to first go **DIRECTLY to the ONE who has OFFENDED you**, and try to resolve the issue with that person, especially if it is a "brother" in the church. However, many people **DO NOT OBEY the words of Jesus**, but they immediately go around behind the person's back, and **they tell everyone else** how that brother or sister has offended them! That is wrong, and it brings DISCORD, strife, division and confusion to the church of Christ!

- **Proverbs 6:16-19** "These six things the Lord _____, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a _____ witness who speaks _____, and one who sows _____ among _____."

Definition: "Will SAVE a SOUL from DEATH and COVER a MULTITUDE of SINS" - The death referred to here is a **physical death**, not eternal death in hell. If you are able to help a brother in Christ to turn his life around and walk away from sin, you may save that brother from an early physical death due to the consequences of his sin, or perhaps even the Lord taking him "home to heaven" early (see I John 5:16). To "cover a multitude of sins" means that **a lot of sin that might have been committed** if this person had continued on in his rebellion against God, will now not even be committed, because the person has repented.

- **I John 5:16** "If anyone sees his brother _____ a _____ which does _____ lead to _____, he will ask [God], and He will give him _____ for those who commit sin _____ leading to _____. There is _____ leading to _____. I do not say that he should pray about that."
- **I Peter 4:8** "And above all things have fervent _____ for one another, for ' _____ will _____ a _____ of _____.'"
- **I Corinthians 13:4-5** " _____ suffers long and is _____; love does not envy; _____ does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does _____ behave _____, does not seek its own, is not provoked., thinks not evil...."

Definition: "SIN leading to DEATH" - This refers to Christians only, because it says "his brother", which means another Christian. What this means is that a Christian may DIE PHYSICALLY before their time **as a result of CONTINUED SIN**. There comes a point where **PRAYING for such a person is wasted prayer**. There is no particular sin that is "the sin unto death" on a list of sins. It is **whatever sin in that particular person's life** that has a HOLD on them, and which they will not surrender to the Lord. It could be drunkenness for one person, and sexual sin for another person, and pride and materialism for another person. Whatever it is, **they have already set their course on a particular path or direction of life**, and have resisted the Lord's warnings. If they WILL NOT REPENT, they will have to **SUFFER the CONSEQUENCES** for their sin (see I Corinthians 5:1-5). They are still saved and going to heaven (see I Cor. 3:15), but God has had to remove them from the earth

before they cause more damage to other Christians and bring reproach to the name of Christ. However, we don't know who has committed that sin, only God knows, so you should not give up on praying for someone. Bottom line - you can't judge a person and say they've committed the sin unto death **until they DIE**, in spite of all your prayers for them. As long as a Christian is alive and in their right mind, they can REPENT at any time, and God will forgive them, and may spare their life. But remember, **there will ALWAYS be consequences to a life of sin and disobedience**, even if God spares the person's life.

- **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be _____, God is not mocked; for whatever a man _____, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his _____, will of the flesh reap _____, but he who _____ to the _____ will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."
- **I Corinthians 9:27** "But I _____ my _____ and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have _____ to _____, I myself should become disqualified."
- **James 1:15** "Then, when _____ has conceived, it gives birth to _____, and _____, when it is full-grown, brings forth _____."
- **Deuteronomy 6:2** "That you might fear the _____ your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments..... that your _____ may be _____."
- **Psalms 91:14-16** "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him..... with _____ will I _____ him, and show him My salvation."

Definition: "MOCK" - To treat with CONTEMPT, to insult; to DEFY or CHALLENGE.

Definition: "SOWING and REAPING" - Sowing means planting seeds, and reaping means harvesting or gathering the crop that has grown from those seeds. We may still have to suffer the CONSEQUENCES of our sinful behavior ("seeds" we have "planted"), even though God has FORGIVEN us. Sowing and reaping is mostly referring to our time HERE ON EARTH, although it may mean a LACK of REWARDS in heaven, as well.

Definition: "I MYSELF should become DISQUALIFIED" - This verse has nothing to do with a saved person somehow not going to heaven, but Paul is talking about "preaching to others" and what kind of testimony we are to others. If we have continual, unrepented sin in our lives, we will be "disqualified" as far as being a witness for Christ is concerned, and we will appear as HYPOCRITES if we try to preach to others. We will also miss out on rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

- **II Corinthians 5:10** "For we must _____ appear before the _____ seat of _____, that _____ one may receive [rewards or judgment for] the things _____ in the _____, according to what he has _____, whether good or bad."
- **I Corinthians 3:14-15** "If anyone's _____ which he has built on it endures, he will receive a _____ . If anyone's _____ is burned, he will suffer _____; but he _____ will be _____, yet so as through fire."

Definition: "HE HIMSELF will be SAVED, yet so as through FIRE" - The person who gets into heaven but receives no rewards from Jesus is compared here to a person who escapes a burning house, but is not able to rescue any of his possessions out of the fire. That person has escaped the fire, but everything they owned has been burnt up - they were **"SAVED, yet so as through FIRE."**