

Is Any among You Sick?

the **Literary structure** of James: context context context

The theme throughout the entire epistle of James is **perseverance in times of adversity**.

He wraps his theme around a three-point message in:

James 1:19 (NKJV)
19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath**;

Then in 5:7 he returns to the theme of patience and endurance.

In verse 13 he asks three questions.

James begins his conclusion by returning to his opening theme of patience and endurance:

James 5:7-18 (NKJV)

7 Therefore be **patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting **patiently** for it until it receives the early and later rain.
8 You also be **patient**. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!
10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of **suffering patience**.
11 Indeed we count them blessed who **endure**. You have heard of the **perseverance** of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

1st question is the controlling question of the three questions:

Maintaining the theme

The theme of the book

264 καταποθήω (katapothēō, vb.; 1 Sr 2533, TDNT 5:356—LN 24.89 **suffer distress, withstand trouble, endure hardship**)

James returns to his opening solution

James 1:5 (NKJV)
5 If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

He is **strengthened in his soul**

Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

2313 εύθυμος (euthymos, vb.; 1 Sr 2114—1. LN 25.146 be **encouraged**)

let the context determine our interpretation.

In contrast the believer who failed to apply doctrine has fragmented his soul and is falling apart he asked the 2nd question:

14 Is anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord.
15 And the prayer of faith **will** save the **sick**, and the Lord **will** raise him up. And if he has committed **sins**, he **will** be forgiven.

Yet another clue indicating he's not talking about physical sickness

This is expressed as an unconditional promise. "The prayer offered in faith **will**..."
It doesn't say might, or in most cases, it says it **will** restore the one who is sick.

sick

839 ασθενέω (asthenēō, vb.; 1 Sr 772; TDNT 1:460—1. LN 74.26 be weak, be in a state of incapacity (Ac 26:26; Ro 4:18 and so in Pauline Epistles); 2. LN 23.144 **be ill, sick** (Mt 10:8 and so the Gospels; Ac 9:37; 16:32; Php 2:26, 27; 2Ti 4:20; Jas 5:14-16)

sick

2672 κάμνω (kamnō, vb.; 1 Sr 2577—1. LN 25.142 **be sick** (Jas 5:15-16); 2. LN 25.291 **become discouraged, formally, grow weary to the soul** (Heb 12:3-4)

kamnō is not used anywhere in the New Testament to mean physically ill or dead.

The majority of the time in the Gospels this word refers to physical sickness to be ill. But in the epistles it is used most often to refer to spiritual or moral weakness, to be weak in faith.

1. bodily weakness:
Matthew 25:39 (NKJV)
39 Or when did we see You **sick** or in prison, and come to You?
John 4:46 (NKJV)
46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was **sick** at Capernaum.

Context always determines the meaning of the word.

Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)
41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is **weak**."

Same subject matter as in James, and the same solution

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with **Endurance** the race that is set before us,
2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
3 For consider Him who **endured** such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become **weary** and discouraged in your souls.
4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

In a similar context of endurance as in James, it makes clear that the subject matter of KAMNŌ is acrid weariness or spiritual failure or spiritual impotence in the midst of adversity; And that we do that through doctrine:

The Same subject matter as in James
The Same word **Endurance** as used in James
The Same word **weary** as used in James
The Same solution as in James:

fixing our eyes on Jesus as in verse 2 and applying doctrine is the solution

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)
31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

James 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Is anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
15 And the prayer of faith **will** save the **sick**, and the Lord **will** raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he **will** be forgiven.

Hebrews 12:3 translates the same word **kamnō** as **weary**

The Christian who has failed, who has fragmented his soul, is to call for the elders of the church that they may be healed.

James 5:16-20 (NKJV)

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
17 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.
18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.
19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
20 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.

If James was speaking of physical sickness, why didn't he refer to Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 17:20

1 Kings 17:17-23 (NKJV)

17 Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his **sickness** was so serious that there was no breath left in him.
18 So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my son to remembrance, and to kill my son?"
19 And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed.
20 Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?"
21 And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."
22 Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.
23 And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

James is not introducing a new subject; he's drawing his conclusion

Question 1

The positive response to 13 b. encouragement and giving thanks to God

Question 2: What to do if successful

Question 3: What to do if you failed to apply doctrine

The elders of the church who are in fellowship are walking by faith, they're applying doctrine, they are successful believers; as a result, God hears their prayer, and the believer who failed, who is looking for restoration through calling the elders to pray; will be restored.
Saved from walking as a dead believer. Restoration forgiveness doctrine is communicated through the knowledgeable believer, strengthening the resolve of the restored one

Anoint with Oil
This was a cultural anointing. This would assist him to get out of the multigrabbs of depression and discouragement from failure.
Similarly in our culture we would take a bath and put on cologne

patient | πόσειον | adjective
wile to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious

1428 μακροθυμία (makrothymia, vb.; 1 Sr 2114; TDNT 4:374—1. LN 25.168 be **patient** exhibit internal and external control in difficult circumstance, long-suffering

1182 ὑπομονή (hupomonē, vb.; 1 Sr 2173—4. LN 25.175 **endure, persevere in spite of difficulty** (2Ti 2:10;

endure | ανδύσσει | verb
endure suffer something painful or difficult patiently; it seemed impossible that anyone could endure such pain