

Studies In The Book James Faith In Action!

Lesson 26

Read James 5:16

Introduction: *There are some practical lessons from this section that we must not overlook. For one thing, disobedience to God can lead to sickness. This was David's experience when he tried to hide his sins (Ps. 32). Second, sin affects the whole church. We can never sin alone, for sin has a way of growing and infecting others. This man had to confess his sins to the church. Third, there is healing (physical and spiritual) when sin is dealt with. "He that covers and forsakes them shall find mercy" Prov. 28:13). James wrote, "Make it a habit to confess your sins to each other" (literal translation). Do not hide sin or delay confession. The "confessing" that James wrote about is done among the saints. He was not suggesting confessing our sins to a preacher or priest. We confess our sins first of all to the Lord (1 John 1:19), but we must also confess them to those who have been affected by them. We must never confess sin beyond the circle of that sin's influence.*

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. In your opinion why does confessing our sins and praying for each other still hold an important place in the life of the church?
 - What did Jesus say about forgiveness in Matthew 6:16?
 - How can sin affect your prayer life according to Mark 11:25 – 26?

3. According to Matthew 18:15 – 17 how do you handle a brother who has sinned against you?
 - What do we learn from the instructions on forgiveness that Jesus gave Peter in Matthew 18:21 – 35?

 - What is our standard for forgiveness according to Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 1:13 – 14?

4. It's wonderful how confessing our sins to God can bring salvation and healing. It's also amazing to see how God can restore broken relationships by confession and prayer. It is God's desire to heal what was broken and to restore what was lost. Can you think of anyone that you have offended or perhaps has offended you that you need to go to and ask forgiveness?
 - What do we learn from 1 John 3:20 – 23 and 5:14 – 15?