

**Mutual & Reciprocal**  
**James 5:12-20; I Jn.4:7-11**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Focus on v.16 (confess to one another, pray for one another) – a *mutual* engagement
- 0.2 *Mutual* means two-way street – as one gives, the other gives in return
- 0.3 Though James ends epistle with caution about promises/oaths (v.12), facing joy and hardship together (v.13), visiting and praying with the sick (vv.14-15), to help a stumbling believer redirect life (vv.19-20) – *mutuality runs throughout*

1.0 Mutual Acts: ‘One Another’

- 1.1 Bear one another’s burdens (Gal.6:2)
- 1.2 Submit to one another (Eph.5:21)
- 1.3 Confess to one another (Jas.5:16)
- 1.4 Forgive one another (Col.3:13)
- 1.5 Esteem one another highly (Phil.2:3)
- 1.6 Love one another (I Jn.4:7; II Jn.5)

2.0 Necessary Ingredients

- 2.1 Earned trust (demonstrated dependability)
- 2.2 A degree of transparency (risk)
- 2.3 Determination to be forthcoming, to forgive, to just love others
- 2.4 This can take place in your home, place of work, recreation & events, circle of friends – taking time to be kind, to sit together, to work together, possibly *to wait together...*
- 2.5 Special time needed for those suffering (v.13), sick (v.14) and discouraged (v.15): can you give yourself to others at these places in their lives?

3.0 James’ Epistle for Us Today - Last Thoughts

- 3.1 Christian community is possible because Jesus *first* loved us (I Jn.4:19).
- 3.2 Easy to slip into old habits, or hide in familiar settings – can you step up your game?
- 3.3 Most of us need the support & encouragement of friends (vulnerable, breakable).
- 3.4 James’ letter is all about translating kind thoughts into concrete actions.

*Next week (April 25) – Vanity & Vapor*  
*Ecclesiastes 1:1-11*

## James 5:12-20 (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> But above all, my brothers *and sisters*, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you do not fall under judgment.

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; <sup>15</sup> and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much. <sup>17</sup> 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 earth for three years and six months.

<sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers *and sisters*, if anyone among you strays from the truth and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that the one who has turned a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

## 1 John 4:7-11 (NASB)

### God Is Love

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let's love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was revealed in us, that God has sent His only Son into the world so that we may live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.