

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

FAITH DOESN'T STAY PRIVATE

SERIES

REAL FAITH COSTS

DATE

9/13/2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

James 5:13-20

SYNOPSIS

Real faith doesn't suffer alone, overcome sin alone, or wander alone.

HIGHLIGHTS





BIG IDEA

Every instruction in these eight verses points the same direction: faith that's real refuses to go private.

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise." (James 5:13)

Notes:

DON'T KEEP TROUBLE — OR JOY — TO YOURSELF

Whichever direction is harder for you, say it anyway. When it's bad, prayer says 'help.' When it's good, praise says 'thank you.'

"Pray continually." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Notes:

CALL FOR THE ELDERS

Sickness is exactly the moment we tend to go private. James says do the opposite — let it be a community act, not a solo one.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

Notes:

WHAT YOU HIDE CAN'T BE HEALED

Forgiveness settles your standing with God. Confession to a person is what actually helps you stop.

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

Notes:



ORDINARY PEOPLE PRAY EXTRAORDINARY PRAYERS

Elijah wasn't a superhero — just a tired guy who prayed anyway. The power was never in him being extraordinary.

"Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly..." (James 5:17)

Notes:

GO GET THEM

Not a rescue mission where you get to feel superior. One struggling person going after another one.

"Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins." (James 5:19-20)

Notes:

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Which direction do you tend toward — quick to ask for prayer when it's bad, or quick to go quiet and handle it alone?

Is there someone right now you're keeping at arm's length — sickness, struggle, or sin you haven't let anyone else in on?

Who's the one person who knows the real version of you, not the edited one? If no one does, who could?

Faith doesn't stay private. Neither should you.

Notes:
