

Seasoned Spirituality

James 5:13-20

What are the qualities of a seasoned church?

1. A seasoned church is a church of community. (5:13-14)

A. We are *designed* for community. (to do life together - in *all* of it's phases)

- i. Too many churches & too many Christians are weak because they are missing genuine community.

B. How do we as a church community respond rightly to:

- i. Troubles/Suffering? Prayer.
- ii. Happiness? Praise.
- iii. Weaknesses? Accountability.

C. Questions:

- i. Who knows my defeats, victories, or weaknesses this week?
- ii. Do my spiritual leaders know? (Do you have any?) **Elders Involvement**
- iii. Am I trying to do Christianity by myself?

Romans 12:15-16

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another...

2. A seasoned church is a church of revival (refreshing & healing). (5:15-18)

A. In these verses we find the cure for spiritual weaknesses:

- i. Personal confession. ("*If*" needed.)
- ii. Prayerful concern.

B. In these verses we find the conditions for spiritual revival: **(individually and church-wide)**

- i. Prayer with faith. (Mark 11:22-25)
- ii. Repentance with confession. (Acts 3:19) **Church-Wide**
- iii. Righteousness. (Romans 1:16-17)
- iv. I would add - Unity in these things. (Psalm 133)

c. Questions:

- i. Have I *considered* that my weak Christianity may be do to something I can change (i.e., it may be me)?
- ii. When was the last time I confessed a sin or weakness to a fellow Christian or spiritual leader?
- iii. Does my prayer life lack effectiveness because I'm weak in faith, righteousness, or confession? (Mk. 11:22-25)

3. A seasoned church is a church on the look-out. (5:19-20)

A. We must look out for each other! (Pursue the disillusioned wanderer). *Hebrews 3:12-13 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

B. We must strengthen each other! *Hebrews 12:12-13 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.*

C. We must be at church regularly for this to happen! *Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

D. **Church-Wide Involvement.**