

James 5:13-16

"Is any suffering - let him pray" - what a blessed word, a word of relief & release - while we are to pray & be thankful in all things, even trouble, there is room to, to just pray - at times, in trouble, can't praise or thank - but feel guilty - the modern emphasis as we shouldn't feel the burden, so try to deny it, suppress it & play act at praise & thanks - but there are times when it is just a Scriptural to pray = w/out praise & thanks (denying the real need).

Trouble crashes on knees & they feel it & we don't have to ignore or deny its reality & danger. It's okay to feel human, at wit's end. - xians not exempt: we trouble, suffer, fear - just as do mere mortals - the difference is we can't vent our frustration feeling w/out oaths & swearing - but by praying. The ear of God is open to panic prayer as to instant praise.

Intro - Swiss army knife

- the genius of xianity is that conditions ^{don't have} ~~to do~~ have to be perfect, etc. for it to work - unfriendly circumstances do not hinder, reduce its effectiveness -

tell me the true, real thing by this = (prophet test - always correct; faith as means of sal. - work under any condition = put man in barrel, chain it, knock at hole & shout thru me but hole has to be covered - True xianity same. But today emphasis is on we must get it all together, shape up. - our ~~photo~~ picture of happy xian - healthy, wealthy, marriage bliss, children worship, etc but seems to be goal - & it is a worthy goal - But the worth, value of xianity is it works under any conditions - Some of the poorest I know had none

of these things - Xianity like a tiger tank moving
thru enemy lines - Trees, buildings, machine bullets -
but stop it - it keeps coming - First century, persecution
to stomp out church - ~~he~~ meant to subvert, caused
multiplication (Paul: "None of these things move
me")

Xianity doesn't have the answer for everything, but
it does have an assurance, a response in
everything - never need to cry in head-wringing
bewilderment - "What shall I do?"

What to say when you don't know what to say -
"Jesus" - "my soul is troubled + what shall I
say?" "Father, glorify Thyself."