

**Afflicted? Merry?**

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. - James 5:13 (Authorized Version)

Each of us experiences all sorts of emotions. We are bound to have times when we are happy and times when we are sad. Sometimes everything seems to work out right and sometimes everything goes wrong. James tells us that regardless of the situation in which we find ourselves, God is interested. If we have trouble, He wants us to pray, and we can find our consolation in His Word. If we are happy, He wants to enter into our joy and happiness. He has placed in His Word passages that will increase our joy and will enable us to feel still happier.

Often people think of Christians as men who go about with long faces and feeling sad about everything. This is certainly not God's will for His people. There is nothing more joyous in all the world than the realization that one can be saved from the misery and gloom of sin, and led into newness of life and happiness through the Lord Jesus Christ. God wants His followers to be radiant Christians, rejoicing in all things, happy and joyful. He wants to enter into their good times as well as to be present with them in their times of hardship. He does not want us to be merely Sunday Christians, but Christians every day of the week, rejoicing in the Lord, praying without ceasing, counting Him as present with <sup>us</sup> every moment of every day.