

## TOURNAMENT TIME

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

It is THAT time of the year. March Madness is upon us. I have found very few people who aren't at least aware of some of the games going on this year. Did you fill out a bracket? Is your team doing well? Or are you the type that just cheers against certain teams?

When I saw the focal verse we are using today, I couldn't help but think about the tournament for some reason. Maybe it has to do with how the spectators respond to the games. I wonder how many fans are praying for their teams as they fall behind or momentum shifts away from their team. You can watch how the fans react as soon as the game ends. Some are crying. Some are shouting with joy. Players and coaches are the same way.

But the scripture is telling us something way more important than how to handle our team playing in the NCAA tournament. The writer of James is telling us that we need to rely on God. If times are difficult, we need to be in prayer to God and asking for His help. But the writer is also telling us to go to God when things are going well. The human side of us tends to go to God only when we need something or want to spread the blame. Whether it be during good or bad times, we need to learn to go to God daily.

Let's try to develop a new habit. Scientists say if you do something for 20 straight days or so that it will become a habit. Let's try to start a new habit of going to God daily. Let us approach Him with our needs as well as our praises. Also, let us take it one step further, let us develop the habit of praying for others. We all know people that are in need, that are facing some obstacle in life, or are simply in need of encouragement. Let us pray for them. We all know people that are receiving some kind of blessings. Let us thank God for that person receiving those blessings.