

**James 5:7-20**  
**Patience in Suffering and the**  
**Prayer of Faith**

Lenny D'Ambrosia

# Content

- 1. Patience in Suffering (vs. 7-12)**
- 2. Praying in Faith (vs. 13-20)**

# 1. Explain the examples James uses with reference to being patient.

James 5:7-11

7 Therefore **be patient**, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord**. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

8 You too be patient; **strengthen your hearts**, for **the coming of the Lord is near**.

9 **Do not complain**, brethren, **against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged**; behold, **the Judge is standing right at the door**.

10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

**1. Explain the examples James uses with reference to being patient.**

A. “The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.”

1. Christians are to focus and set their hearts upon the Lord’s return.

2. Christians must not complain, murmur and judge other Christians. Christians must not complain about our situations, our trials and temptations.

**Phil. 2:14**

**14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

1. Explain the examples James uses with reference to being patient.

B. "...the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."

1. Christians are to be as patient as the prophets in suffering affliction, for they believed and spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Matt. 5:12**

**12** "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

## 1. Explain the examples James uses with reference to being patient.

C. "...the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful."

1. Job was steadfast in his integrity before God.

2. The example of Job encourages Christians who are suffering trials to patiently endure, realizing the Lord's purpose is to strengthen them, perfect them, and, in the end, to richly bless them.

### **Rom. 8:28**

**28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

# 1. Explain the examples James uses with reference to being patient.

James shares six practical thoughts that enable believers to patiently endure sufferings:

1. Anticipate the Lord's coming
2. Recognize the Lord's judgment
3. Follow the Lord's servants
4. Understand the Lord's blessings
5. Realize the Lord's purpose
6. Consider the Lord's compassion and mercy

## 2. How can Christians strengthen their hearts?

Christians are to display courage and have an attitude of commitment to stay the course, no matter how severely they suffer.

**“...until the coming of the Lord...”** (vs. 7)

**“...the coming of the Lord is near.”** (vs. 8)

**“...the Judge is standing right at the door.”** (vs. 9)



### 3. How are those who endure blessed?

1. Jesus will deliver us through all the trials and temptations of life, giving us the most victorious life and that is Eternal Life in Heaven.
2. The hope of blessings, now and in the future glory, should motivate suffering Christians to patient endurance.

#### **Matt. 10:22**

**22** “You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

4. How will the Lord hold everyone accountable for their speech in the day of judgment?

## James 5:12

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

4. How will the Lord hold everyone accountable for their speech in the day of judgment?

**2 Cor. 5:10**

**10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

4. How will the Lord hold everyone accountable for their speech in the day of judgment?

1. Faith that perseveres is demonstrated by trustworthy speech.

2. The words from our mouths should be so consistent and dependable that they guarantee reliability.

3. Words reveal the truth of the heart.

#### 4. How will the Lord hold everyone accountable for their speech in the day of judgment?

##### **Matt.5:33-37**

**33** “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’

**34** “But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

**35** or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

**36** “Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

**37** “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.

## 5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

James 5:13-15

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

## 5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

Is anyone among you suffering?

He must pray.

Is anyone cheerful?

He is to sing praises.

Is anyone among you sick?

He must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

The prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick.

The Lord will raise him up and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

## 5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

James is not suggesting a ceremonial or ritual anointing as a means of divine healing. He is referring to the common practice of using oil as a means of bestowing honor, refreshment, and grooming.

1. A person who is fasting should not be sad and ungroomed but should “put oil” (aleiphō) on his head and wash his face.

**Matt. 6:17**

17 “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ...”

2. The woman “poured” (aleiphō) perfume on Jesus’ feet.

**Luke 7:38**

38 and standing behind *Him* at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.



5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

3. A host “put oil” (aleiphō) on the head of his guest

**Luke 7:46**

46 “You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.”

4. The Good Samaritan

**Luke 10:34**

34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

## 5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

James 5:16-18

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

## 5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

Confess your sins to one another.

Pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

### 1 John 1:9-10

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

### Gal 6:1

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

**5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?**

Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain.

It did not rain on the earth for 3 years and 6 months.

Elijah prayed again.

The sky poured rain and the earth produced fruit.

5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?

1. We should use prayer to praise, honor and glorify God.

2. Also, pray when you are hurting. This includes all different kinds of trouble or suffering. That is spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, etc.

3. The patience in suffering comes from God, and prayer is the way to obtain it.

**5. What does a prayerful attitude reveal about your heart?**

**4. Humble yourself before God by praying earnestly.**

**5. You are requesting God's grace and mercy in your prayers.**

**6. You are constantly in prayer to God.**

6. What is our responsibility towards professing believers?

## James 5:19-20

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## 6. What is our responsibility towards professing believers?

1. Believers are responsible for restoring straying brothers and sisters.

**If we see them turning from the truth, we are to:**

1. Pray for **wisdom.**
2. Share with them **from Scripture** that what they are doing is in error, with meekness and gentleness.
3. Encourage them to **repent and turn back to the Lord.**



## 7. How has the Book of James increased your growth as a Christian?

**Trials** will increase your growth in **FAITH**.

**Endure temptation** and you will be blessed by the Lord.

**Faith and works**

**The tongue**

**Submission, repentance and humility to the Lord**

Poor Christians being defrauded and persecuted by the rich.

The need for **patience through suffering**.

**Anticipating and waiting** for **Jesus to return**.

The **power of prayer**.