

“Be Patient until the coming of the Lord”

James 5:7-12

Sunday, January 7, 2024

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The theme of the Book of James is Spiritual Maturity.

Now, to mature spiritually, one has to learn how to respond and how to act or not act when one finds oneself suffering.

These believers, in their suffering, did need patience, much like we do, to endure, as well as to grow and mature spiritually. So it is in this passage that James teaches them and us the importance of patience.

Look at what James says here in these verses:

James 5:7 Therefore be patient... being patient about it...

James 5:8 You too be patient...

James 5:10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience...

James 5:11 You have heard of the endurance of Job...

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| 1. The Patience of the Farmer | James 5:7-9 |
| 2. The Patience of the Prophets | James 5:10 |
| 3. The Patience of Job | James 5:11-12 |

1. The Patience of the Farmer – James 5:7-9

James 5:7

Therefore be patient, brethren, - James is speaking to the brothers that are suffering at the hand of the rich.

Let us understand that it is through these tests of suffering that we learn to be patient. I believe it is better said, **“Be patient and pray.”**

PATIENCE: “The virtue that God exercises when He does not immediately punish the offenses men commit.”

Romans 3:25 New Living Translation

...This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

Exodus 34:6 ... “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

Therefore be patient, brethren, - Patience: "Virtue of those who know how to suffer with resignation." "*The ability to wait calmly for things*" is the definition found in the dictionary.

The word implies endurance, enduring, bearing burdens until the Lord returns.

Proverbs 14:29 New Living Translation

²⁹ People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness.

Proverbs 16:32 New Living Translation

³² Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.

I know that there are people in our lives who "require extra grace." EGR "Extra Grace Required" to be able to deal with them.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

James 5:7^a Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.

So, in reality James is telling us here that we are to be living in patience. To be focused on the Lord until His return. Be patient until His return.

Let's look at the example that James give us of the Farmer:

The Farmer and the Christian labor by faith. We, as believers, are to walk by faith and not sight.

So, we, like the farmer, are to be patient; the farmer patiently waits for the harvest, and we patiently wait for the Lord's return.

James 5:8

strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Our hearts are the soil, and the seed is the Word of God.

Luke 8:11-12

So, our hearts need to be strengthened with the Word of God, and it is when they are strengthened that they will produce a harvest in our lives. And that harvest will be the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

A heart that has not been strengthened by the Word of God cannot produce fruit.

James 5:9

We will be condemned when we begin to complain about others, and when we begin to murmur against God and His people.

How are you behaving?

Let us remember the example of the Farmer and learn from it.

2. The Patience of the Prophets – James 5:10

James 5:10

Here, we look to the example of the prophets; they suffer and yet have patience in their sufferings. The prophets were sent by God to His people. They suffered in doing the Lord's work; they suffered for doing God's will.

The prophets teach us that one can suffer by being faithful.

2 Timothy 3:12

take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. - and it is when we speak in the name of the Lord that we should also live what we speak.

Romans 15:4

What we can learn from the prophets is: There will be difficult times, there will be great trials, but we have to be patient and continue to be a witness for the Lord.

3. The Patience of Job – James 5:11-12

James 5:11

We count those blessed who endured. We are going to suffer. There are no victories without battles in our lives.

We cannot allow the battles in our lives to defeat us, we have to persevere.

Deuteronomy 11:10-12

You have heard of the endurance of Job - There is no other example of a man suffering like Job. I think it is safe to say that "he suffered."

Job 19:25-27 New Living Translation

**25 "But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
and he will stand upon the earth at last.**

**26 And after my body has decayed,
yet in my body I will see God!**

27 I will see him for myself.

Yes, I will see him with my own eyes.

I am overwhelmed at the thought!

It was through Job's sufferings that he found himself in a deeper relationship with God.

If we go through sufferings that come from the enemy of God, Remember that God is allowing it and that God will only allow what we can bear. God sets the limits on his enemies. We have to be patient and endure.

James 5:12.

When you find yourself under stress, pressure, or difficult times, do not swear, do not make promises that you will not be able to keep.

Matthew 5:34-37

We are to wait for the Lord's return with Patience and Prayer.

Application:

1. Like the farmer, we patiently await the harvest. We need to be patient with everyone.
2. Like the prophets, we need to continue to give a good testimony in the face of suffering.
3. Like Job, in the face of problems and suffering, we need to continue to seek the Lord's will and His purpose for our lives. We need to continue to worship Him despite our circumstances and sufferings.
4. Are you prepared for this new year? What is it that God wants to do in you and through you?