

# BE YE ALSO PATIENT; STABLISH YOUR HEARTS JAMES 5:7-12

Text: James 5:8

## **James 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Introduction:

From addressing abusive rich non-believers James turns again to restless suffering saints. Learn endurance was his counsel at the beginning of his letter (1:1-5).

## **James 1:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. <sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

We are not to expect to have life easy and comfortable. Jesus told us that, "In the world you will have tribulation" (John. 16:33).

## **John 16:33**

<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Notice:

# **1. THE EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE**

## **James 5:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. <sup>8</sup> Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. <sup>9</sup> Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. <sup>10</sup> Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Therefore refers back (5:1-6) to the unjust suffering believers were experiencing at the hands of rich land owners and merchants whose goal for life was money and pleasures. They are exhorted to be patient till the coming of the Lord.

Tribulations develop stamina in believers who look to the coming of the Lord instead of taking vengeance into our own hands.

Christians are to trust God to bring about justice and to punish those who cause them hardships.

**Romans 12:19**

<sup>19</sup> Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

To further reinforce the point that believers need to wait patiently for the second coming, James describes a familiar scene using a simple, concrete example of the farmer to help us learn patience.

A. The Farmer

- Must be patient with the soil

There is pain and toil involved in preparing the soil to sow the seed.

- Must be patient with the seed

After the soil is prepared the seed is sown.

- Must be patient with the season

Why is the farmer patient?

**James 5:7**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the

earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

James is picturing the Christian here as a spiritual farmer, waiting for a spiritual harvest. James reminds these suffering believers the secret of endurance when it gets tough is to remember that God is producing a harvest in our lives.

So often when things get tough we have a tendency to begin to grumble, but note verse 9:

**James 5:9**

<sup>9</sup> Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

So many times we become impatient. Impatient with God, and impatient with others. The truth is when we become impatient with God it will flow out against others.

**B. The Prophets**

**James 5:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Many of the Old Testament prophets suffered and as we read and understand that God is in control we are encouraged.

We know that even in the will of God we may suffer like the prophets of old, but God was faithful.

The third example was:

### C. Job

#### **James 5:10-11**

<sup>10</sup>Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Job lost all but a nagging wife and non-understanding non supporting friends.

Job didn't understand what the causes of his suffering were. He didn't know what was going on behind the scenes with God and Satan, yet he patiently endured.

## 2. Evidence of Patience

#### **James 5:12**

<sup>12</sup>But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

And as we read verse 12 it may seem to be out of place or out of context, but think for a moment, how often during trials and suffering do we try to deal or bargain with God. But we must understand the God's way is perfect and that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

When the heat is on and the days are difficult some would do anything to get out of them. James warned Christians in the midst of trying circumstances, do not swear.

James is not condemning the taking of solemn oaths, such as God's before Abraham (Heb. 6:13) or Jesus' before Caiaphas (Mt. 26:63-64), or Paul's (Rom 1:9; 9:1), or a man's before the Lord (Ex. 22:11). Rather, he is condemning the flippant use of God's name or a sacred object to guarantee the truth of what is spoken or a fox hole kind of maneuver to escape hardship or difficulty.

Close:

As James begins to close his letter he wants to encourage these believers and believers today to be patient in difficult times.

Like the farmer; keep working and waiting for the harvest.

Like the prophet; keep witnessing and seeking opportunities to share the truth of God

Like Job; keep walking and trusting in God.

And like all of these examples, we will have a clear vision of the Lord and come to know Him better for having been in the furnace of affliction.