

PATIENCE IN SUFFERING  
JAMES 5:7-12

TODAY WE CONTINUE IN JAMES CHAPTER 5. THE LETTER THAT JAMES WROTE TO THE SCATTERED CHRISTIAN JEWS, TO GIVE THEM HOPE AND DIRECTION DURING A TIME OF PERSECUTION. GOD, THROUGH THE PEN OF JAMES AND THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, COMMANDS THE PERSECUTED CHURCH TO EXAMINE THEIR HEARTS IN TRYING TIMES. THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE, WITHOUT ERROR, AND WILL NEVER FAIL. THESE COMMANDS ARE AS RELEVANT TO US TODAY AS THEY WERE NEARLY 2,000 YEARS AGO. THERE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAVING FAITH AND IGNORANT FAITH. SAVING FAITH CONSISTS IN THE LIFE FILLED WITH REPENTANCE, A HUNGER FOR GOD'S WORD, A DESIRE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS, AND PRAYER. IF YOU LACK THESE CHARACTERISTICS, YOU MAY BE JUST A WEEKLY SPECTATOR AT SOCIAL GATHERING CALLED "CHURCH". SALVATION COMES FROM GOD AND GOD ALONE. FAITH MANIFESTS IN A PERSON WHEN THEY RECEIVE THE REVELATION THAT GOD, MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, SENT HIS SON TO EARTH, BORN OF A VIRGIN, LIVED THE SINLESS LIFE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE, AND TAUGHT THE PEOPLE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FATHER AS RECORDED IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. THEN, IN OBEDIENCE JESUS TOOK HIS PLACE (IN OUR PLACE) NAILED ON THE CROSS TO RECEIVE THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN. THE FULL WRATH OF THE FATHER Poured OUT ONTO CHRIST. THIS SHOWS THE MERCY AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. SIN HAS BEEN PUNISHED IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. BUT, BECAUSE HE

IS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE AND NO SIN WAS FOUND IN HIM, HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY. THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS FOR ALL THOSE WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. HE IS THE FIRST BORN INTO THE RESURRECTED LIFE, ASCENDED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, WHERE HE WAITS PATIENTLY FOR THE FATHER TO GATHER HIS PEOPLE, PRAYING FOR US, UNTIL THAT WONDERFUL DAY COMES, WHEN HE RETURNS AGAIN. THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. WE AS THE CHURCH MUST LIVE EVERYDAY IN EXPECTANT FAITH THAT JESUS IS COMING SOON. WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN, BUT WE DO KNOW IT IS SOON ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES. JAMES, AFTER REBUKING THE WICKED RICH (WHO HAVE MADE MONEY THEIR GOD) IN THE FIRST PART OF CHAPTER 5 IS NOW ENCOURAGING THE CHURCH TO STAND FIRM AND NOT TO GROW WEARY IN DOING GOOD.

## 1. ANTICIPATE THE LORD'S COMING

James 5:7 NIV

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

PERSEVERENCE/HYPOMONE/SELF CONTROL IN CIRCUMSTANCES, TO ENDURE PATIENT/MAKROTHYMEO/ SELF CONTROL WITH PEOPLE, TO HAVE A LONG FUSE EMOTIONALLY

NATURALLY, WHEN WE ARE TREATED UNJUSTLY, WE WANT TO RETALIATE...THIS IS THE WRONG RESPONSE  
WE ARE NOT TO RETURN EVIL FOR EVIL, WE ARE TO (IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S RETURN) BE PATIENT, STAND FIRM ON THE WORD OF GOD, AND PRAY FOR OUR ENEMIES

A FARMER PLANTS THE SEED, THEN WAITS WITH EXPECTATION OF A HARVEST (A REWARD FOR THE WORK AND PATIENTCE)

QUESTION: DO YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH AN EXPECTATION OF CHRIST'S RETURN? BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD

James 5:8 NIV

<sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

STAND FIRM/STERIZO/FIRMLY ESTABLISHED

LIKE JESUS WAS STERIZO IN HIS MISSION UNTO DEATH ON A CROSS, SO WE MUST BE IN OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIM

WHY? BECAUSE THE GUARANTEE OF HIS COMING IS SURE

John 16:26-28 NIV

<sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup>No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came

from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

John 16:33 NIV

<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

BE ENCOURAGED!! THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THERE IS NO MORE SICKNESS, SADNESS, THE PRESENCE OF EVIL AND SIN WILL BE NO MORE

## 2. DO NOT SIN IN UNBELIEF

James 5:9 NIV

<sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

GRUMBLE/STENAZO/TO COMPLAIN INWARDLY OR OUTWARDLY

THIS IS A PICTURE OF A JUDGE STANDING AT THE DOOR BEFORE HE ENTERS THE COURTROOM

Romans 14:10 NIV

<sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

WE WILL NOT BE JUDGED ON OUR SIN AT THE BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST BUT WE WILL BE JUDGED BY GOOD WORKS FOR ETERNAL REWARD. THE REST WILL BURN UP USELESS

### 3. FOLLOW THE LORD'S SERVANTS

James 5:10-11 NIV

<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

JOB WAS FULLY RESTORED BY GOD AFTER HAVING EVERYTHING TAKEN AWAY INCLUDING THE DEATH OF HIS CHILDREN  
JOB WENT TO GOD WITH HIS AGONY INSTEAD OF TAKING THE ADVICE OF HIS "SO CALLED FRIENDS" AND HIS WIFE  
GOD DID NOT APOLOGIZE BUT GAVE HIM A REVELATION OF HIS MAJESTY

Romans 8:28

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Hebrews 11:32-38 NIV

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

THE ONLY WAY THE PROPHETS ACOMPLISHED PERSEVERENCE AND PATIENCE WAS BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVING A SOLD-OUT LIFE WITH THEIR FOCUS ON OBEDIENCE TO GOD NOT THEIR FEELINGS

#### 4. UNDERSTAND THE LORD'S BLESSING & PURPOSE

Matthew 5:3-11 NIV

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.
- <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.
- <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and  
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Luke 5:32 NIV

<sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to  
repentance.”

THE LORD IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND MERCY

## 5. CONSIDER THE LORD’S CHARACTER

Isaiah 5:14-17 NIV

<sup>14</sup> Therefore Death expands its jaws,  
opening wide its mouth;

into it will descend their nobles and masses  
with all their brawlers and revelers.

<sup>15</sup> So people will be brought low  
and everyone humbled,  
the eyes of the arrogant humbled.

<sup>16</sup> But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice,  
and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts.

<sup>17</sup> Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture;  
lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich.

GOD IS HOLY & RIGHTEOUS. HE WILL CONDEMN THE PRIDEFUL  
AND HAVE MERCY ON THE HUMBLE. HE WILL VINDICATE THE  
DOWNTRODDEN. VENGEANCE IS MINE SAYS THE LORD

James 5:12 NIV

<sup>12</sup> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by  
heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a  
simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

JEWS WERE FAMOUS FOR SWEARING BY THE TEMPLE OF GOD

BE STRAIGHT FORWARD, HONEST, AND PLAIN WITH YOUR  
SPEECH.....JUST LIKE JESUS....THE CHARACTER OF GOD IS PURE,  
TRUE, JUST, AND HOLY

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