



June 7, 2026

Faith in Action - Patience & Perseverance

James 5:1-16

Pastor Mike Griffin

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider 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. Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Questions for Personal or Small Group Use

Opening

What makes you most impatient? Congested traffic? A long line at the grocery store? Meetings that go long? How do you act when you feel impatient?

Discussion

- What is the message for wealthy people? Why is wealth often a corrupting influence?
- What signs of the abuse of wealth can you find here?
- Are you hoarding wealth or living in self-indulgence rather than treating poorer people with justice and generosity? If so, what can you do about this?
- What do you think James would regard as the basis of real security? How is piling up riches the opposite of patience that waits in faith for God to provide?
- What is the call to patience based on? What examples of patience and perseverance are given in the passage?
- What do we learn about the Lord and his character and activity that can encourage us? Why should expecting the Lord's coming make you patient (5:7-9)?
- Why does grumbling at others lead to judgment (5:9)?
- Why do we consider those who persevere under suffering to be blessed (5:11)? What are some of the blessings that follow such perseverance?
- How do the instructions in verse 12 reinforce the themes of the tongue (3:1-12) and of patience (5:9-11)?
- Read James 5:13-20. How should a humble and patient Christian respond to unexpected circumstances?

Application

In what areas of your life are you impatient? Where would you like to see patience & perseverance cultivated in your life and circumstances right now?



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