

08/16/26 Message

Part of Real Religion A Journey Through the Book of James
August 15, 2026

Message: Don't Quit Now

Series: Real Religion

Background

This series is an exposition of the book of James, written by Jesus' brother who "found faith" after His death, burial, and resurrection. James was writing to a persecuted church, and he wanted them to understand the difference between man-made religion and true, genuine, real religion.

We see something happen in James that should be what happens to us once we grasp who Jesus really is. James became full of the Holy Spirit who lit a fire inside him that made people notice this man was changed!

—Pastor Chad

James is shouting:

- Walking with Jesus is not about RELIGION it's about RELATIONSHIP!

James Talks to Unbelievers

James 5:1-6 (NLT)

1 Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you.

2 Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags.

3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment.

4 For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

5 You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

What I want to tell you right off the bat, James is most likely talking to unchurched non-believers at this point. It makes you ask, why is it in his letter to the church then? Because everything in Scripture is written for everyone. There are takeaways from every single verse in the Bible.

—Pastor Chad

- Bible Study Questions
 - What is the background of the passage (who, what, when, where)
 - Who is the original author and who is the audience
 - What is the main point of the surrounding verses
 - What does this teach me about God and His character
 - What does this reveal about human nature and me (my heart, character, life)
 - How does this point forward or look back to Jesus
 - Is there a command to obey, a promise to trust, or an example to follow
 - What mindset, attitude, or habit does God want me to change
 - How can I turn this passage into a prayer for myself or others
 - What does God want me to understand, believe, desire, do

If you read this passage in light of those questions, you realize, it's not really talking about money or wealth, it's talking about arrogance and pride. It's talking about how I look at my life and how I treat others. You have homework this week. Spend some time digging into that passage and talk to God about it. Guaranteed, God will reveal something that you can apply to your life!

—Pastor Chad

Don't Quit

James 5:7-12 (NLT)

7 Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's

return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.
8 You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

10 For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

12 But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

- James teaches us what's known as the farmer's attitude:
 - PLANT, WAIT, and TRUST

Farmer's Attitude

James 5:7 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.

James is using it as an illustration, an example, and he wants us to understand the significance of living without all the answers or living without knowing the future. Crazy thing, we don't like not having all the answers. We don't like not knowing what's going to happen. We like being in control, having it all together, and being in the know. But that's what separates us from God. We don't know! He knows! And when we step into anger, impatience, quick tempered, retaliatory, unreason... we're stepping out of our box and into His! Kind of what Adam and Eve did, and it didn't turn out so well for them. These new believers had stepped away from everything stable in their life to follow Jesus, and this Jesus they left everything for was no longer present. Jesus ascended to

heaven, and they had to be asking, "Now what!" When is He coming back? Imagine all the questions. James says, hold on, be patient!

—Pastor Chad

Do it...

- PATIENTLY

James 5:8-9 (NLT)

8 You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

Be patient. Be calm and steady. Be tolerant. Endure without complaining! James is teaching us, sitting back and wallowing does nothing but make your problems worse. Keep on keeping on, but be in control of your perspective. Don't let it get negative, there's always something to do. There's always something you can do to keep the negative low and the positive high!

—Pastor Chad

James 5:10-11 (NLT)

10 For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

- REMAIN

Don't give up! Don't give in! Don't give out! Remain! Then he gives two examples. First, he said, look at the prophets. Their job in a nutshell was to tell about something that hasn't happened yet knowing that people would doubt and some never believe them. Imagine having that job. And if that's not enough... Look at Job! This dude lost everything he had even his family, was being tested at every turn, kicked when he was down, and

then kicked some more! Yet, his faith never wavered, and he always kept on going. Even when there was nothing left to do, he kept doing something! One thing he didn't do: Give up! Quit! He remained! One author described it as patience without explanation!

—Pastor Chad

James 5:12 (NLT)

But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

- STEADFAST

The Greek word emphatically asserts a true, unwavering, confirmation of faith or faith-filled affirmation of being steadfast! Webster's defines steadfast as being firm in allegiance to a person, belief, or cause. Firmly planted with commitment.

—Pastor Chad

An Example:

A lighthouse doesn't stop the storm. It doesn't calm the waves or change the wind. It simply stands where it was placed. Night after night, storms beat against it. Waves crash around it. Winds push against it. But its assignment remains the same, to keep standing and keep shining. That's steadfast faith! Sometimes God doesn't remove the storm, sometimes He calls us to remain faithful in the storm. Steadfastness is not avoiding the storm; it's not refusing to feel the effects of the storm; it's refusing to let the storm move you from where God has planted you. You don't have to stop the storm; you just have to keep standing in it! And you can't do it alone, but you can do it with God!

James says, be steadfast, let your yes mean yes and let your no mean no. Don't say one thing and do another. Don't just talk the talk if you don't walk the walk! Be steadfast!

—Pastor Chad

Putting it Together

All in all, James teaches us to:

- PATIENTLY REMAIN STEADFAST!

How do I do this? Here's some practical advice:

First, name what you're waiting for. Not vaguely but specifically. Name it! And then ask: Am I busy trying to provide what only God can bring? Am I waiting faithfully?

Second, read the Bible. Find someone, maybe a prophet or someone else in the Bible who planted and endured without seeing the harvest. Let their patience be your model.

Lastly, choose integrity over drama this week. If you're tempted to make big commitments or maybe respond negatively to a situation. Simply say yes or no and mean it. Say what you'll do and do what you say. Don't just give it lip service, live it out.

This week, try letting God be God and just turn it over to Him. Don't try to do it alone, remember Adam and Eve... We need Jesus. We need His Holy Spirit. We need God the Father. We can't do it without Him. So, why do we wear ourselves out working so hard when we know it's impossible? Let God be God and turn it over to Him. Start right now!

—Pastor Chad