

Patience, Faith, Community

A study on Christian maturity in the Book of James / Ch. 5

Scott Cory, MLCC Elder

June 30, 2024

A. Condemnation of the rich and worldly (5:1-6)

- James it not condemning wealthy people, but those whose wealth causes them to fall into sin.
- Beware the trap of desiring to be rich, don't trust in wealth.

B. Patience in the face of trials (5:7-11)

Don't waver! Waiting is hard when you're suffering. Stand strong on God's promises and wait on His timing.

C. Swearing oaths (5:12)

Yes should be yes and no should be no. Being honest is not complicated.

D. Praying for and over each other (5:13-18)

The mature Christian prays in times of trouble and turns to God.

E. Turning back those who have wandered (5:19-20)

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Bonus: Potty Talk! (sermon commercial): Profanity...don't.

- Ephesians 4:29
- Ephesians 5:4
- Colossians 3:8

James encourages us to:

- Apply the teachings of Jesus to our lives! Be doers of the Word. Act like God's people!
- Pursue a life of holiness as we work out our faith through obedience.
- Be obedient. What do we know about the outcomes of obedience?
 - Obedience grows our faith and maturity in Jesus.
 - Obedience leads to joy and fulness of life.
 - Obedience spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ and glorifies God via a transformed life.

WHAT IS YOUR TAKEAWAY TODAY: Patience in a trial? Praying for someone? Confessing sins to, and praying for, one another? Supporting that brother or sister who is wandering?

NOTES:

Book of James – An Assessment of Spiritual Maturity (Warren Wiersbe)

Are you spiritually mature? Is there fruit in your life? Are you a doer of the world?

Test questions:

1. Am I becoming more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?
3. Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I able to control my tongue?
6. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?
7. Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?
8. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?
9. Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in the paying of my bills?
10. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?
11. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?
12. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?