

James 5

Let us open with prayer..

5 1.Come now, *you* rich, **weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!**
2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and **their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire.**

- Sin is the chief source of Misery
- The fool puts his trust in earthly treasure

Psalms 107:17 **Fools**, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

- We have the word of God

Proverbs 13:15-16 Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the **unfaithful is hard.**
16 Every prudent *man* acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open *his* folly.

- The old Adam in each of us is always tempting us

James 1:13b-15 nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

- Here James is talking of Spiritual Death

You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, **which you kept back by fraud**, cry out; and the **cries of the reapers** have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

- The Holy Spirit working through James...
- Rebukes the rich who obtain their riches by fraud
- reminds us not to put our faith in worldly possessions.

Habakkuk 2:9-10 “**Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house**, That he may set his nest on high, That he may be delivered from the power of disaster! 10 You give shameful counsel to your house, Cutting off many peoples, And sin *against* your soul.

Jeremiah 17:11 (NIV) Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay are those who **gain riches by unjust means**. When their lives are half gone, their riches will desert them, and in the end they will prove to be fools.

- There is only one Judge

Psalms 34:15-16 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; 16 but **the face of the LORD is against those who do evil**, to blot out their name from the earth.

Ezekiel 18:12-13 If he has oppressed the poor and needy, Robbed by violence, Not restored the pledge, Lifted his eyes to the idols, *Or* committed abomination; 13 If he has exacted usury Or taken increase— Shall he then live? He shall not live! **If he has done any of these abominations, He shall surely die;** His blood shall be upon him.

5 **You have** lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; **you have** fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 **You have** condemned, **you have** murdered the just; he does not resist you.

- **Oh, This can't be good**
- Do not fall for the worldly pleasures

James 4:4-5 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

Proverbs 3:31-35 Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; 32 **For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD**, But His secret counsel *is* with the upright. 33 The curse of the LORD *is* on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. 34 Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

- Do not follow worldly wisdom

7 **Therefore be patient, brethren**, until the **coming of the Lord**. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. **Establish your hearts**, for the **coming of the Lord** is at hand. 9 **Do not grumble against one another**, brethren, lest you be condemned. **Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!**

- Spiritual fruitfulness

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

2 Peter 1:6-8 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance

godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Coming of the Lord
 - The word used here is the same as 1 Thess 4:15 **Parousia** it is defined as a time when the Lord shall come out of heaven.
 - Its interesting how James uses a phrase “coming of the Lord” and “standing at the door” to express immediacies of the Lords judgment but we are to be patient.

2 Peter 3:8-9 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:14-18 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be **diligent** to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider *that the longsuffering* of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, **which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.** 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own **steadfastness**, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

- Without the Holy Spirit our eyes are covered
- establish your hearts

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

“When God shall give you a rich return for all you have done for him, you will blush to think you ever doubted; you will be ashamed to think you ever grew weary in his service. You shall have your reward. Not tomorrow, so wait: not the next day perhaps, so be patient. You may be full of doubts one day, your joys sink low. It may be rough windy weather with you in your spirit. You may even doubt whether you are the Lord’s, but if you have rested in the name of Jesus, if by the grace of God you are what you are, if he is all your salvation, and all your desire, — have patience; have patience, for the reward will surely come in God’s good time.”
(Spurgeon)

John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. **You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord**—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or

by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

- James being the teacher that he was reminds them of what was written
- Read your bible!

Ephesians 4:25-32 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- PRAY
 - Prayer first mentioned

Genesis 4:26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Matthew 6:5 -7 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Romans 8:26-27 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Philippians 4:5-7 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he **prayed earnestly** that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- Listening to the word of God- Elijah listened

1 Kings 17:8-16 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow *was* there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

12 So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I *am* gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' "

15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways **spoke** in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days **spoken** to us by **His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- Chuck Smiths three steps to hear Gods voice
 - Read expectantly
 - Read prayerfully
 - Read Thoughtfully

19 Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and **someone turns him back**, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

James concludes with this because this is exactly what he has endeavored to do through this challenging letter — to confront those who have wandered from a living faith, endeavoring to save their souls from death, by demanding that they not only hear the word, but do it, because a living faith will have its proof. (Guzik)