

James 5 Real Faith in a Broken World

12/7/25 Calvary Chapel Titusville

Pastor Paul Andris

Come now, [you] rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon [you]! (James 5:1 NKJV)

Wealth is one of the most spiritually dangerous forces in the world.

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. (James 5:2-3 NKJV)

The stuff you thought would save you can't even save itself.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20 NKJV)

If you want to know what your heart worships, look at what you "heap up."

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. (James 5:4 NKJV)

Wealth becomes especially poisonous when it is built on injustice.

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

Read this as a warning about what wealth can do to a heart.

For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Timothy 6:10 NKJV)

Not money. Love of money – Ecclesiastes gives the psychology of it:

He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also [is] vanity. (Ecclesiastes 5:10 NKJV)

Money makes a terrible savior because it never says "enough."

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. (James 5:7 NKJV)

He came first to save.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17 NKJV)

But He comes again to judge and restore.

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (Revelation 22:12 NKJV)

He planted the kingdom in Christ's first coming; He will harvest it at Christ's return.

Our job in between is faithfulness.

You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5:8 NKJV)

Establish your hearts means to strengthen, steady.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. (Matthew 24:36 NKJV)

God doesn't tell us when so that we will live ready.

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! (James 5:9 NKJV)

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Here's one of the "live ready" applications: don't grumble.

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV)

So James says, don't let the waiting make you bitter.

My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. (James 5:10 NKJV)

Suffering doesn't mean you're off track. It often means you're right where God wants you. 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. (James 5:11 NKJV)

The road of endurance is often bumpy.

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 5:12 NKJV)

James isn't forbidding courtroom oaths.

"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (Matthew 5:37 NKJV)

Be the kind of person whose word doesn't need decoration.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. (James 5:13-14 NKJV)

James now turns to community life.

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. (James 5:15 NKJV)

John clarifies prayer like this:

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (1 John 5:14 NKJV)

Faith is submitting to God with trust.

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. (James 5:16 NKJV)

Confession and prayer go together.

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. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. (James 5:17-18 NKJV)

Prayer is not for the spiritual elite. It's for ordinary saints who trust an extraordinary God. Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, (James 5:19 NKJV)

James closes with rescue. Not from a cold or a problem. Rescue from wandering from the truth.

"Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing." (Galatians 5:2)

The truth is this:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)

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And when Jesus died, He sealed it:

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. (John 19:30 NKJV)

Finished means finished. Paid in full. Nothing to add.

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 5:20 NKJV)

The whole book of James is not try harder. It's trust deeper.

Real faith produces real fruit. And it all flows from a real Savior.