

Faith Resolutions

Week 10: I Will Not Oppress

Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

Scripture:

James 5:1-6

Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

Scripture is full of resolutions.

James wrote about resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life.

Three Steps to a Resolution -

- **A Decision to Change** (this is not enough by itself)
- **A Plan to Progress** (where the real work happens)
- **A Commitment to Endure** (Some quit at the first sign of failure)

Most never move past the first step because they don't prepare for the next two steps.

We'll be talking about the ***13 Faith Resolutions in the book of James.***

Tenth Faith Resolution – I Will Not Oppress.

Information (What You Need to Know):

James focused on businesspeople in James 4:13–17.

He now focuses on wealthy landowners -

- They controlled much of Galilee (and much of the Roman Empire)
- They accumulated wealth and land
- They took advantage of those who worked for them

The issue isn't how much you have, but how you use what you have.

Decision to Change – *I will not use money and possessions improperly*

Improper Use of Money and Possessions:

▪ **Used for Happiness**

James 5:1 (ESV) Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.

- ✓ They can establish stability (food, clothing, shelter)
- ✓ They can afford opportunities (education, access to healthcare, innovation)
- ✓ They can't prevent misery (sickness, disappointment, loss, judgment)

▪ **Used for Temporary**

James 5:2 (ESV) Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

▪ **Used for Injustice**

James 5:4 (ESV) Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. . . . **6** You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

▪ **Used for Over-Indulgence**

James 5:5 (ESV) You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

James doesn't provide a way to correct this behavior...or a plan to progress. *Why?*

“...these are the wicked wealthy who profess Christian faith and have associated themselves with the church, but whose real god is money.” – John MacArthur

There was no corrective behavior given through the power of the Spirit, because it is an indication that these individuals weren't a part of God's family.

Next week, we'll tackle how we should respond to those who oppress – *patience*.

Plan to Progress – I will put God first in what I have

What are the keys to viewing money and possessions properly?

- **Don't view yourself as superior**

1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

- **Set your hope on God**

1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) ...nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

- **Do good works with your money and share**

1 Timothy 6:18 (ESV) They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...

A Commitment to Endure

Money and possessions must be approached with contentment.

Philippians 4:11 (ESV) Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.