

# #ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

## REFLECTION- Adults patiently expect Jesus' return    Passage: James 5:9-11

03/20/26

**James 5:9-11** | Do not complain, brothers *and sisters*, against one another, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. **10** As an example, brothers *and sisters*, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

James continues to admonish believers in ways of behavior honoring to God. He revisits a theme mentioned previously in chapter 1 to remain steadfast and resolute in the face of trials. Verse 9 points out that a complaining attitude hinders us from developing patience and long-suffering. "Grumbling" involves the development of criticism and faultfinding against our circumstances as well as one another. Some may have questioned the devotion of other Christians or faulted the way others had treated them. God will judge and punish "grumblers." Such a loveless attitude is a direct contradiction of the true spirit of Christianity. Who can hold on to such attitudes when the Judge is standing at the door! How inappropriate it is for Christians to be fighting when the return of Jesus is a certain event.

Instead of grumbling, James encourages us to emulate the Old Testament prophets and Job who exemplified patience in suffering. The prophets suffered because they spoke in the name of God. In suffering, they demonstrated incredible capacity for devotion without complaint. All showed long-suffering in that they neither complained nor found fault with God's treatment. We are to imitate behavior like that.

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 5:9-11 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options- you can easily compare in the Bible app or on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. Read Job 1:6-22. Imagine yourself in Job's stead. How would these events impact you and your emotions? How do you think you would respond?
3. Read James 1:2-6. What themes does James discuss in this passage that are parallel with today's reading? Why is James revisiting this theme?
4. Why does James mention the "Judge" in verse 9? Who is this and why did James add this in the text?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How does this passage correlate with James 5:10-11? How can you further develop your "spiritual muscles" in the midst of trials and suffering?
6. Read Job 42:10-16. Does the Lord's treatment of Job offer you any comfort? If not, why and if so, why?