



Practical Faith

A Study in the Book of James





Steadfast Until the Lord Returns

James 5:7-12





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[7] Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. [8] You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.





James 5:7-12

[9] Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. [10] As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.





James 5:7-12

[11] Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. [12] But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.





James 5:7-8

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Why does James tell his readers to be patient?





What does it mean to be patient?



■■■ Patience in Wisdom Lit

A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is **patient** calms a quarrel.

(Prov. 15:18 NIV)

The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and **patience** is better than pride.

(Ecc. 7:8 NIV)





Patience in the NT

Love is **patient** and kind...(1 Cor. 13:4 ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**... (Galatians 5:22 ESV)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 ESV)





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*Why do you think James connects
“patience” with the coming of the
Lord?*





*What does it look like to be patient
until the Lord's return? What do we
do, or not do?*





Luke 18:1-8

[1] And he told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray** and not lose heart. [2] He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. [3] And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' [4] For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man,





Luke 18:1-8

[5] yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.” [6] And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. [7] **And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night?** Will he delay long over them? [8] I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on earth?**”





2 Peter 3:10-15

[10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. [11] Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, [12] **waiting** for and hastening the coming of the day of God...





2 Peter 3:10-15

...because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! [13] But according to his promise we are **waiting** for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. [14] Therefore, beloved, since you are **waiting** for these, *be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.* [15] And count the patience of our Lord as salvation...





James 5:7-8

[7] Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. **See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.** [8] You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.





*What does the farmer teach us about
being patient?*



■ ■ ■ Patience is Characterized By...

- Fixing our hope on the Lord's return
- Praying to God for justice, not losing heart
- Remaining faithful when things are hard
- Living lives of holiness
- Living lives of faith
- Sowing what is good, knowing the fruit will come when the Lord returns.





James 5:9-10

[9] **Do not grumble against one another, brothers,** so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. [10] As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.





Based on what we read in the last 2 chapters, why would James warn them about grumbling against one another?





*How are we tempted to grumble
against each other today? What are
the reasons we do this?*





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*Is there any biblical precedent for
God judging his people for
grumbling?*






Exodus 16:2-3

[2] And the whole congregation of the people of **Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron** in the wilderness, [3] and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”



A Pattern in the Desert

The people **wept and complained**, saying "we remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic" (Numbers 11:4-6)

The **entire community grumbled** again, saying, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!" They even considered appointing a new leader to take them back to Egypt.
(Numbers 14:2-4) 



A Pattern in the Desert

God condemns the complaining generation, declaring that everyone twenty years old or older who **grumbled** would fall in the wilderness, except for Caleb and Joshua. (Numbers 14:27-30)

"They despised the pleasant land; they did not believe His word, but **grumbled** in their tents; they did not obey the LORD" (Psalm 106:24-25)





Why is grumbling a serious issue?





Exodus 16:2, 8

[2] And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness... **Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.**"





“Frequently the murmuring against man is only a covert way of murmuring against God.” ~ C.H. Spurgeon

“Murmuring is the rising up of oneself against God. It sets oneself against God as if I am wiser than He.” ~ Thomas Watson

“If Christians spent as much time praying as grumbling, they would soon have nothing to grumble about.” ~ Unknown





*We often grumble because we suffer
(or think we are)... But does suffering
necessarily mean we should
grumble?*





James 5:10-11

[10] **As an example of suffering and patience**, brothers, **take the prophets** who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.





How did the prophets demonstrate suffering with patience instead of suffering with grumbling?





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How are people “blessed” when they remain steadfast/ patient in the midst of suffering?





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*What can we learn from Job about
being steadfast in the midst of
suffering?*





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*What is the “purpose of the Lord” in
the midst of our suffering?*





James 5:12

[12] But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but **let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no**, so that you may not fall under condemnation.





Matthew 5:33-37

[33] “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ [34] But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. [36] And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. [37] **Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.**





What do you think the point of this teaching is for the Christian?





*What does being verbally reliable
have to do with patience, grumbling,
& judgment?*





Practical Summary

We should strive to be patient, encouraging, and reliable in our daily interactions knowing that we will give an account when the Lord returns.





Personal Application

What area do you need to focus on the most this week:

- *Being patient in trying times*
- *Being encouraging towards others*
- *Being a person of your word*





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