

James: Faith at Work

"How to Suffer Well"

James 5:7-11

Sunday, October 11th, 2026

~ Suffering, pain, loss, heartache, etc = they are not topics we are particularly fascinated with. Perhaps one of our biggest problems as Christians is we don't *prepare* ourselves well for suffering when it happens.

> Learning how to do anything in life, we have to practice & prepare. But preparing for and putting in the work to learn how to suffer well it's not something we consider often.

"We do not give the subject of evil and suffering the thought it deserves until we ourselves are confronted with tragedy."

- Don Carson

3 Characteristics Mentioned Here to Help Believers Suffer Well

I. _____ (v. 7-8)

~ Note the word "*brothers*" - James directs his attention back towards the believers ...

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:14 - "*And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, heal the weak, be patient with them all.*"

> Patience is a consistent theme throughout the majority of the Bible; We see it all over the OT in books like Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, the Psalms, Jeremiah! And even the book of Isaiah - "*those who wait on the Lord shall be renewed in their strength.*"

> I think James speaks of patience for two reasons: There is the *Why* we are to be patient; & the *Who* we are to be patient with.

II. _____ (v. 9)

~ "*Do not grumble*" ... which really points us to the opposite of negativity. Christians must get along with one another.

*** vs 8 he said "*the return of our Lord is at hand.*" ***

> Suffering is not a _____ !

> Consider Paul's life as described in Philippians 1 & 2
"*Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*" (Ph. 2:14-15)

~ Why we do wait & remain positive? Because of what Peter taught in ***1 Peter 1:3-4*** We are awaiting "*an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*"

III. _____ (v. 10-11)

~ James directs his readers attentions to the prophets of old; a list of many perhaps, but specifically he mentions Job.

> Notice why they suffered:

- vs. 10, they "spoke in the name of the Lord..."

- vs. 11, they remained "patient for the purposes of the Lord."

~ Suffering isn't always about what we (or the prophets) did wrong; it's about what they did _____!

a) Perseverance Enables us to See the _____ of the Lord

b) Perseverance Allows us to See the _____ of the Lord

Nothing _____ the gospel more than suffering!