

# James - Week 5 - Social Media and Follow up Study

Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:22 AM

## Week 5 - Waiting & Praying

**Big Idea:** Waiting on God and praying in faith are two of the most powerful actions a believer can take.

**Scripture:** James 5:7-18

### Things to Consider

*Can you even imagine how difficult it would be to face persecution and be told you should wait on God, or pray God would provide a miracle?*

Waiting isn't easy, and in this fast paced immediate gratification world we live in, I suspect waiting is a distant afterthought for most of us.

Why wait when we can fix most of our problems with a few simple mouse clicks?

Why wait when there are things like 60-day same as cash financing, or YouTube, instant coffee, and 5-minute rice?

We've built our entire culture to be efficient, precise, and productive. And amazingly, we are no closer to being peaceful, content, and satisfied than when we began.

*Isaiah 40:30-31, Psalm 27:14, 2 Peter 3:9*

Waiting isn't passive. Waiting is powerful. And adopting a posture of patience is a strength, not a detriment to all of those who profess to be followers of Jesus.

And there are some other things we do in the midst of waiting that make it even more powerful. It's like they *supercharge* the waiting you could say.

James 5:13-18 almost starts off like one of those Michael W. Smith call and response worship songs...

*Are you in trouble? Pray.*

*Are you happy? Pray louder.*

*Are you sick? Call someone else and have them pray.*

The response to every one of these situations is the same... Which really begs the question, should that be *our* default response too? Should prayer be a habitual response to each and every situation we may or may not find ourselves in? I know this sounds crazy, but elsewhere in the Bible the answer to these questions would in fact be yes!

And more than just yes, but yes...It's actually the will of God for your life

*Prayer matters. And when you add fervent prayer in the mouths of the righteous, you supercharge the season of waiting.*

*For those who believe, patience and prayer are two of the most powerful forces on earth.*

As we finish up in the book of James, I want to reiterate the care and compassion he had for his church. I believe that same compassion extends to all who have read his letter through the centuries. And if he were standing here today, I trust James would speak with the same passion and care he did 2000 years ago.

The trials and tribulations haven't changed so much over the years. Sin and destruction are still crouching at your doorstep every morning, and their desire is to "have" you. (Genesis 4:7)

The enemy of our souls is still seeking to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10)

But in the midst of this present darkness and chaos shines the ever present light of Christ. His glory, power, and majesty won't fade away and someday sooner or later he'll return for His Church. His bride.

I pray we would take to heart the encouragement of pastor James. That we would persevere in the testing, we would be doers of the word and not hearers only, that we would be known for both our faith and our works, that our mouths would be filled with praise, and that we would be marked by our deep commitment to prayer and patience.

These characteristics have set us apart from the world for hundreds of years and there's no reason to think that's going to change anytime soon.

So over the next few weeks take one or two of these big ideas from the book of James. Ask God to expand your courage and increase your strength. Ask Him to use you in the lives of others, to shine the light of the gospel in the midst of darkness.

And do it all with faith that God will see you safely through until the very end.

*"For behold," Jesus says, "I am with you always, till the end of the age." - Matthew 28:20*

**Prayer:** *"Lord we repent of any time we thought that prayer was too trivial or simple for us. Increase our faith and expand our understanding of the power of prayer and the righteous action of waiting."*