



James 5:11–13

[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.

[13] Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. (ESV)

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. (ESV)

Psalms 50:14–15

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, [15] and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 5:1–7

[1] Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. [2] Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. [3] For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.

[4] When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. [5] It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. [6] Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? [7] For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear. (ESV)

Introduction: Longing for a promise...

7487 promises in the Bible...we don't need 7488.

1. When trials (sufferings) come, the flesh will insist God's promises have failed, so we better take control. (10-12)

2. Swearing and oaths are our attempt to take control. (12)

3. When trials (sufferings) come:
a. Often, stay the course.

b. Continually, pray with God's promises in hand.

c. Always, give thanks and follow.

--- Revelation Demands Response ---

4. Thanksgiving Testimony: grateful for the promises of God.

Write down:

- *A promise from Scripture.*

- *A gift you are grateful for.*

- *If He is calling you to testify?*

Application questions on the back →

Closing the Gap: Grateful for God's Promises!

James 5:12 – November 23, 2025

For the following application questions, review your notes from the front.

SUNDAY after church...

Think through the morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give. 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received. 3) List songs that touched your heart.

MONDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Are God's promises in His Word sufficient for your happiness? Is there anything in your life that you are holding on to as a promise that He has not promised in His Word? How have seasons of suffering helped you see His compassion and mercy?

TUESDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** What is the knee-jerk reaction from your flesh when suffering comes? Are you trying to take "control of the wheel" from Jesus in an area of your life, instead of being steadfast in suffering?

WEDNESDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Have you ever sworn or made an oath to God? How has it turned out? What have you been able to keep apart from His grace? Is there an area of your life that you have been tempted to mix law in with God's grace?

THURSDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** What are some promises of God from His Scripture that you are holding tightly to in this season of life? What are some things in your life that you are grateful for? How is He asking you to steward them today?

FRIDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** What are things that God hasn't given you that continue to produce grumbling in your heart? What are some things that God has given you that you are grateful for? How is He asking you to steward them today? Are you holding anything back from Him? Do you find joy in stewarding the little or much that He has given you?

SATURDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS & BUILD:** How is God calling you and your family to help build the Body of Christ tomorrow at the gathering of the saints?

Our purpose is *to know...follow...and love Christ!*

