

PART 11 HANDOUT The Power of Patience and Power of Prayer: JAMES 5: 7-20

James Challenges Us to Break the Mold of Immaturity and Become Mature Believers!

- In Chaps 1-3, He Emphasized the Importance of Putting Faith into Action, Enduring Trials with Joy, and Controlling Our Tongues.
- James began chapter 4, Talking about the war with God and ended talking about the will of God. The 2 themes are Related because, A wrong attitude toward the Will of God created War with God!
- James 5:1-6 delivered a strong warning to the wealthy, about the Dangers of *Misplaced Trust* in Riches and the Potential Judgment Due to their Ungodly Actions. **A Matter of the Heart!**

*Today as We Conclude James Epistle...We Will Look at What it Means to Be Patient in the Midst of Suffering and the Correct Use of Prayer. **Read James 5:7-20***

- Point: God is Not going to Right All the Wrongs in this World until Jesus Christ Returns...SO, Until Then, We Believers Must Patiently Endure and Expect!

In Vs 7-9 Three Times James Reminds Us of the Coming of the Lord. **Titus 2:13; John 16:33; Acts 14:22**

- *We Must Patiently Endure Hardships and Heartaches Until Jesus Returns.*
- The Question For Us: How can We Experience this kind of Patient Endurance as We Wait for the Lord to Return? **Here James Gives 3 Examples of Patient Endurance.**

VS 7-9: The Farmer: No crop appears overnight, except perhaps a crop of weeds, and no Farmer has control over the weather. Too Much Rain Or Sun or an Early Frost Can Kill a Crop *It takes a Long Time with a Lot of Patience for the Harvest to Come! The Farmer Willingly Waits...Because the Fruit is Precious!*

- James Pictures The Christian as a Spiritual Farmer, Looking for a Spiritual Harvest. The Christian as a Spiritual Farmer Plants Spiritual Seeds (the Word of God, Encouraging Others, Good Deeds).
- He Patiently Waits for the Holy Spirit to help those Seeds Grow, and *Looks Forward to Reaping a Spiritual Harvest of Salvation, Changed lives & Kingdom Blessings..*

The “Secret of Endurance”, *When Things are Tough, God is Producing a Harvest in Your Life! He wants the Fruit of the Spirit to Grow in Our Lives* Gal 5:22, 23.

- *God Does it is Through Trials and Troubles! SO, Instead of Growing Impatient with God, and with Ourselves, We Must Yield to the Lord and Permit the Fruit to Grow.*

To Enjoy this Kind of Harvest Your Heart Must Be Established! Read Romans 1:11; Luke 12:42, 43

- A Heart that is Not Established Can Not Bear Fruit! As Believers in Christ...like the farmer we do not stand around doing nothing. **We are to constantly work...Looking Forward to the Harvest.**

Vs 10: James Uses The Prophet's As an Example to Be Patient in Difficult Times:

- "Satan tells the Faithful Christian that their Suffering is the Result of Sin or Unfaithfulness; and Yet the Suffering Might Well Be Because of Their Faithfulness! We Must Never Think that Obedience Automatically Produces Ease and Pleasure." Our Lord Was Obedient, and it Led Him to the Cross!

KEY The Will of God Will Never Lead You Where the Grace of God Cannot Keep You!"

- Like Job *You Cannot Persevere Unless there is a Trial in Your Life*
- **There can be No Victories without Battles, and No Peaks without Valleys.**
- If You Want the Blessing, You Must Carry the Burden and Fight the Battle!

NOTE: In Studying the experience of Job. It is Important to remember that *“Like Us” Job did Not Know what was Going On Behind the Scenes Between God and Satan.*

- Circumstances were Against Job: He Lost his Wealth, his Health and his Children. Even His Wife was Against him, for She said Curse God, and Die Job 2:9.

*It seemed like God was Against him! When Job Cried Out for Answers to Questions, there was No reply from Heaven. Yet Job Endured. **Great Lesson For US!***

God made a Covenant with Israel that He Would Bless them If they would Obey His Laws. This Led to the idea that, If You were Wealthy You Were Blessed of God...But if You Were Poor, You were Cursed of God.

- Sad to Say, Many People have that Same Erroneous Idea Today! Job Refuses that Idea!
- **Job teaches Us that God has Higher Purposes in Suffering than Just Punishing Sin.**

In Chapter 42 Job Met God in a Deeper Way and received greater blessings from the Lord. *Because He Remained Faithful!* **KEY: God Never Waste the Suffering of the Saints.**

- POINT: If There Is Nothing to Endure...You Cannot Learn Endurance. When You find Yourself in One of Life's Fires...Remember that God Keeps His Gracious Hand on the Thermostat!
- The Thorn in Pauls Flesh: Instead of fighting it or giving up, Paul Trusted God for the Grace he needed and *he Turned Satan's Weapon into a Tool for the Building Up of his Own Spiritual Life.*
- **FACT: The Lord Has a Gracious Purpose to All of Your Suffering.** Remember>>You're Not a Robot Caught in the Jaws of Fate! You're a Loving Child of God, a Part of His Wonderful Plan!

Vs 12 Speaks to not swearing an Oath...Just say Yes or No: Jesus said it is Impossible to not include God with such Oaths. Heaven is His Throne, Earth is His Footstool, and Jerusalem is the City of the Great King.

- The person who uses oaths, to Convince Us has Something Wrong with his Character.
- The Mature Christian Understands...One of the Purposes of Suffering is the Building of Character.
- Like Job, we'll have a clearer vision of the Lord & Know Him Better through the furnace of Affliction.

In James 5:13-20 he concludes his Epistle emphasizing the Power of Prayer, **KEY:** The Mature Christian is prayerful in every aspect of life: Midst Trials and Temptations...When on the Mountain Top Or in the Valley.

- Taking Everything to the Lord in Prayer is A True Mark of Spiritual Maturity.

In Vs 14-16: I Do NOT Believe that James Gave Us a Blanket Formula for Healing the Sick Vs 15-16 says, the person is sick because of Sin. The Greek Text says, "If He Has Been Constantly Sinning."

- The Person is Healed by the Prayer of Faith...It is Not the Anointing...But Prayer that Heals.

JAMES CONCLUDES WITH THIS PROMISE VS 19-20: My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, **Remember this:** Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

The Origin of Sin is When a Person "Wander's from the Truth".

- Truth is the Word of God...Hebrews Chapter 2:1 says, *Unless Believers Stay Close to Truth They Will Begin to Drift.*
- James 5:20 says, the Outcome of Wandering is Sin and Possibly Death.

The "Bottom line" of James Epistle is that True Faith is Demonstrated by Actions, Not just Words, and that a Genuine, Transformed Life is the Result of God's Grace.

Believers are Called to Live Out their Faith Practically through Obedience to God's Word.

- And to Endure Trials with Joy, acring for the needy, and showing love and justice to all people, reflecting their internal transformation.

"LIFE" POINT: This One Life Will Soon be Past...Only What We Do For Christ Will Last!