

**James 5:7-11** – “Pursue Patience”

- A. What inspires you to greatness? Is it the talent, intelligence, or hard work of others? Most of us would not think of the endurance of suffering on this list, yet James did.
- B. Earlier in **5:1-6**, James rebuked the unrighteous rich who often oppressed the people of God. Our text tonight gives further evidence that James spoke against the rich outside of the Christian community.

**I. YOUR CALLING TO PURSUE PATIENCE** → **vv7-8**

- A. Because of the imminent return of Jesus, you ought to be patient.
  - 1. In **Lu 12**, **“Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes . . . You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect” (v37, v40).**
  - 2. Here in **v8**, **“You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.”**
    - a. Some of you may question, “It has been about 2,000 years since James wrote this, was He mistaken when he wrote, ‘the coming of the Lord is near?’”
    - b. We know that since James was filled with the Holy Spirit, he could not be wrong.
    - c. Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown wrote concerning this verse, “The *Greek* expresses present time and a settled state. 1 Pe 4:7, ‘is at hand.’ We are to live in a continued state of expectancy of the Lord’s coming, as an event *always nigh*.”<sup>1</sup>
- B. We are to expect the return of Jesus in the same way a farmer waits for his produce from the soil.
  - 1. No man plants crops, expecting to get nothing. He is looking for **“the early and late rains” (v7)** to come to provide that necessary water for his crops. His expectation is also a **“precious produce” (v7)** of fruits, vegetables, and grain from his farm.
  - 2. This text teaches that you ought to be patient with a hopeful anticipation of God’s blessing.
    - a. Using a farming illustration, Paul spoke of this truth in **1 Cor 3:1-9**. Turn there.
    - b. Endeavor to be faithful in each of your callings. Seek to be faithful to support this church’s worship and service while you wait for God to cause the growth.
- C. Another exhortation to be patient involves how we treat one another within the church. → **v9**
  - 1. This could be translated more literally, **“Do not groan, brethren, against one another.”**
  - 2. James’ complaining against the abuses of the rich outside the church was fine, yet groaning against one another within the church is discouraged for multiple reasons.
    - a. In **1 Pet 4:8-10**, the apostle commanded us to **“keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”**
      - 1) Each of us has lots of imperfections and sins; however, unless it is a matter where the wrong cannot be overlooked, we should endeavor to let **“love covers a multitude of sins.”**
      - 2) We need to use the process of church discipline laid down in **Mat 18**; however, we should first consider **Prov 19:11**: **“A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.”**
    - b. James talking about the Judge **“standing right at the door”** is also reminiscent of **Lu 12:45** when the steward of the house said in his heart, **“My master will be a long time in coming, and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink...”**

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<sup>1</sup> Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [\*Commentary Critical & Explanatory on the Whole Bible\*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 493).

## II. FOLLOW EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE →v10

### A. Remember Jeremiah, the weeping prophet.

1. His message was one of judgment and the people hated him for it.
2. God even told him, **“You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you” (Jer 7:27).**
3. Jeremiah was beaten and put in stocks because of his preaching (Jer 20:1-2).
4. They threatened to kill him. The priests and the prophets said of Jeremiah, **“A death sentence for this man! For he has prophesied against this city” (Jer 26:11).**
5. He was cast into a cistern without water but only mud allowing him to sink into the mud (Jer 38:6).
6. As horrible as all these sufferings were, Jeremiah patiently endured them. God later blessed him with a magnificent prophecy of the new covenant that would come through the Messiah.  
→ Jer 31:31-34

### B. While considering Jeremiah, James 5:11 says, **“We count those blessed who endured.”**

1. This man and many other prophets were spoken of in Heb 11:36-38: They **“experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two [Isaiah], they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy).”**
2. James went on to mention Job as an example of endurance even though he faltered at times.  
→v11
  - a. Job did not understand his sufferings. The reason was never given to him during his lifetime.
  - b. The outcome of the Lord’s dealings with him was that God restored to him what was lost and his faith— his trust in the Lord flourished. He was even more convinced than before that, **“the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful” (James 5:11).**

### C. Jesus is our ultimate example of endurance.

1. As the eternal Son of God, He left the splendors of heaven to endure the miseries of this life.
2. He faced lies, betrayal, beatings, mocking, and the crucifixion.
3. Worst of all, he endured the wrath of His Father due for sins of the elect!
4. All this Jesus patiently suffered for you if you put your faith in Him as your Lord and Savior.

## Review, further application, and conclusion: