



James: *Wisdom for the Christian Faith*

James 5:7-12 Wisdom for Patiently Persevering

Introduction

Be Patient

❖ James 4:7a

1. Why the need for patience?

- ❖ John 16:33—*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*
- ❖ Galatians 5:22—*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
- ❖ Romans 12:12—*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*
- ❖ Revelation 2:19—*“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.”*

Patience means that we are NOT to be a vengeful people.

- ❖ Romans 12:17-19—*Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”*
- ❖ 2 Timothy 2:24—*And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,*

Patience means we are not to be an anxious people

- ❖ Philippians 4:4-6—*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

The second question that we need to ask about this opening verse is...

2. What are we to be patient for?

- ❖ Revelation 22:20—*He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

Consider the Farmer



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❖ James 4:7b-8

1. The farmer is patient

2. The farmer is patient because he finds the fruit *precious*

- ❖ Romans 8:18—*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18—*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*
- ❖ Romans 8:25—*But if we hope for what we do not see (the coming of Christ), we wait for it with patience.*

3. The Farmer is patient because he knows that he must wait for the right season

❖ James 4:9

The return of Christ is more than just a day of relief...its a day of judgment.

- ❖ James 3:1—*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*
- ❖ Romans 14:12—*So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:10—*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:12-15—*Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

The priority of the people of God.

- ❖ Galatians 6:10—*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith.***

Remember the Prophets



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❖ James 4:10-11

- ❖ Matthew 5:11-12—*“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*
- ❖ Job 2:9—*“Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”*
- ❖ Job 2:10— *“You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”*
- ❖ Job 19:25-27—*For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!*

“Hope directs us only to the end; God will then shew himself very merciful, how ever rigid and severe he may seem to be while afflicting us.¹”

- ❖ Genesis 50:20—*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

No swearing!

❖ James 4:12

“Instead, we should tell the truth so consistently that oaths become superfluous, a waste of words. The existence of oaths, as a convention of speech, proves we live in a deceitful age. The family of God should be so truthful that we never need oaths or vows to verify our words.²”

“People commonly respond to trouble and distress with unrealistic pledges to God. But it is better to be genuine than dramatic, better to mean what we say than to have unfulfilled, unrealistic vows hanging over us (Ecc 5:4).³”

¹ Calvin's Commentaries, Olivetree Edition

² Daniel Doriani, James: Reformed Expository Commentary, p.186-187

³ Daniel Doriani, James: Reformed Expository Commentary, p.187