

Joyful Life Bible Studies

JAMES 5:7-11

Lesson 19

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a specific way James 4:13-17 has influenced your life this past week.
 - a. We are appalled at the behavior of the people in James 5:1-6. What sins does this passage induce us to avoid? Why?
2. Note and mark the paragraph division in this week's lesson, James 5:7-11. What particular verse, phrase or thought stands out to you?
3. *The coming of the Lord* is a phrase repeated twice in this paragraph. James appeals to these early believers to be *longsuffering* and *steadfast* in their oppression and suffering in the light of that hope. Think about your life in relationship to the return of the Lord. We, too, need to be *patient* (*longsuffering*, verse 7) and *patient* (*steadfast*, verse 8) in this present chaotic culture. Begin your study with a prayer asking the Lord to grant you clear understanding of what He wants to reveal to you through these verses. Express to Him the joy you experience in anticipation of His return and your desire to be *patient* and *steadfast*. Thank Him for His enabling and empowering and His love for you.

*Therefore, my beloved, be ye steadfast, unmoveable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

-I Corinthians 15:(51)58

SECOND DAY: Read James 5:7(8)

1. Print the exhortation of James 5:7a. Selah

- a. The word *patient* here means *longsuffering*. The *therefore* refers the believers back to James 5:1-6 where they are assured the wicked, greedy oppressors will be judged and punished. The injustice of their suffering could have led these Christians to vindictiveness and despair. *Longsuffering* is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not retaliate or seek vengeance. Define *longsuffering* in your own words.
- b. Choose and record a few verses or phrases from Psalm 37 that encourage you to be *patient* (*longsuffering*) when you are experiencing unjust treatment.

2. How long were they to be *patient* (*longsuffering*)? Selah

3. James uses the illustration of a farmer (husbandman) to emphasize his exhortation in verse 7a. *Behold* - pause and intensely gaze - at the *farmer*. What parallels do you find between the *farmer* waiting for the harvest and the Christian's *patience* (*longsuffering*) in waiting for the Lord's return?

Advanced Students: What is the significance of the *early rain* and the *latter rain* in this verse?

4. What does *be patient* (*longsuffering*) until the return of Christ mean in your life?

*It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus;
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ.
One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase,
so bravely run the race, 'til we see Christ.*

E.K. Rusthoi

THIRD DAY: Read James 5:(7)8

1. The farmer in James' time did his part in preparation for the precious harvest but he had to depend on God's providential provision of rain for the germination of the seed and the maturing of the crop. *Both the farmer and the Christian must work, wait, and live by faith.* How does this speak to you about *Be ye also patient?* James 5:8a
 - a. Connect Galatians 6:9 with James 5:8a. What is the challenge and the promise?
2. Meditate for a few moments on the phrase: *stablish your hearts.* *Stablish* is an old-fashioned word for *establish*. It means to make stable, fix steadfastly, or strengthen. Behold the evidence of an *established heart* from the following verses. What do you see?
 - a. Psalm 57:7
 - b. Psalm 112:7,8a
3. What things might cause a believer to have an unestablished, unstable heart?
 - a. What things contribute to stablishing our hearts?
4. In what way does *the promise of the coming of the Lord draweth nigh* increase your desire to be *patient and stablish your heart?*
5. Read Proverbs 4:23. In your own words state why a stablished heart is absolutely essential to a victorious Christian life.
 - a. On a daily basis what do you do to keep your heart established?

FOURTH DAY: Read James 5:9

1. James now insists on believers being patient (longsuffering) with one another as well as with the oppressors of verses 1-6. *Don't grumble against or complain about each other, brothers (and sisters) or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door.* James 5:9 Compare this paraphrase with the KJV. What does this verse say we are to *behold?* Why?

a. The word *condemned* here means *judged*. *The Judge standeth before the door* refers to the Lord's return and the judgment associated with it. What does I Corinthians 4:5 say about this?

b. Pastor Chuck says: *Watch and be wise for the Lord, the True Judge, is right there listening to what you are saying. He's right there at the door.* What affect do you think this would have on you if it came to mind every time you were tempted to grumble or complain about another believer?

(1.) Share a method you have for accessing or recalling this admonition when you start to *grudge* (grumble) against another believer.

2. What do you recall from the following verses that prompts you to obedience to James 5:9:

a. James 1:26

b. James 2:8b

c. James 2:12

d. James 4:11,12

3. It is so easy to slip into a grumbling, complaining, blaming mode but it often seems so difficult to refrain from criticizing or complaining. Using the following letters, write an acronym or acrostic to help imprint this verse on your mind:

Example:	G rumbling	C
	R eveals	R
	U nnecessary	U
	D isobedience	D
	G rieving	G
	E veryone	E

4. What enabling power is available to believers to keep them from grumbling and complaining? Support your answer with a scripture if possible.

FIFTH DAY: Read James 5:10,11

1. Who does James tell us to take for examples of suffering affliction and of patience? (*Patience here means endurance; patience in circumstances and situations.*)

2. Their patient endurance in trials has made the prophets role models for us. They teach by their example how *suffering* and *affliction* are to be borne. Read Hebrews 11:32-38 and record what these men did and what they suffered.

- a. Thoughtfully write the phrase in parentheses from Hebrews 11:38a.
- b. How does the prophets' example minister to you about *longsuffering, endurance, and steadfastness* in your sphere of witness and service for the Lord?

Challenge: What does Hebrews 11:39 reveal about these men that makes their example all the more powerful? See also Luke 10:24

3. When we consider our *patience* (endurance) in contrast to their example, we begin to realize that the God who enabled them to endure in a far more fierce and desperate arena is also with us. He is able to work in us that *patience - perseverance, steadfastness, and endurance* - He so desires in His children. What does James 5:11a say to *Behold* about those which endure? Use other versions if you desire. Selah

- a. James 5:11a indicates that there are *blessings* in trials. How does James 1:2,12 confirm and amplify this?
- b. What have you discovered through your patient endurance in affliction and trials that has been a blessing?

(1.) What do you learn about endurance and joy from Jesus' example in Hebrews 12:2?

4. The prophets of James 5:10 didn't live to see the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah *but they endured as Moses, seeing Him Who is invisible* (Hebrews 11:27c). Now, James 5:11 gives us another example of *patience*. Compare this NAS version of James 5:11 with the KJV: *Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.* What does this verse say we have heard about Job?

- a. What does Job 1:20-22 reveal about Job as he endured all the losses recorded in verses 13-19?
 - (1.) After Job's health was gone, what did Job's wife tell him to do? Job 2:9 Don't judge her harshly, she was suffering loss, too.
 - (2.) What was Job's answer to her? Job 2:10 Selah
 - (a.) Complete this verse from Job 2:10: *In all this Job did not _____ with _____.*
 - (3.) What example from Job's life can you draw from Job 13:15a?
 - b. How did the Lord recompense Job for his *patience* (endurance)? Summarize from Job 42:10,12,13.
 - c. What glorious revelation of the Lord was given to Job through his sufferings? Job 42:(1)2-5
 - (1.) What was Job's response to this revelation? Job 42:6
5. What does James 5:11c reveal about our Lord? Use other versions for your answer, if you desire.
- a. What do you learn about the Lord's *compassion* (very pitiful) and *tender mercy* from the following verses:
 - (1.) Psalm 103:4b
 - (2.) Lamentations 3:(21)22-26
 - b. When you go through suffering, affliction, and trials, what does it mean to you that the Lord is very *compassionate* and of *tender mercy*.

SIXTH DAY: Review James 5:7-11

1. James 5:7,8 stresses the coming of the Lord as a strong motivation for patient endurance. Contemplate I Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:18; I Corinthians 15:49,52. Think especially on the last phrase of I Thessalonians 4:17. Write it here.
 - a. How does the prospect of Christ's return motivate you to *patient endurance* now?
2. In James 5:7-11 we have been given three examples of patient people. How is each of these an example of patience:
 - a. the farmer
 - b. the prophets
 - c. Job
 - d. Add to this the example of the soldier of II Timothy 2:3,4.
3. Into our comfortable, convenient, complacent Christian lifestyle, these prophets and Job confront our commitment like a meteor from heaven and compel us to reexamine our lives in the light of what longsuffering, affliction, steadfastness, and endurance meant for them. We groan and carry on about being *stressed out* or *time pressed* or our *inability to cope*, but know very little about suffering because of our testimony for Him. What is the deepest desire of your heart in response to James 5:7-11?
4. What particular aspect of James 5:7-11 gripped your heart most powerfully?
5. What have you learned from the study of James 5:7-11 that you are applying to your life now?
6. This passage strongly urges us to focus on the Lord's return as an incentive for steadfast endurance in our life no matter what the circumstances. In practical terms share how you keep eternity in view on a daily basis.

Nothing is important but the eternal.

"God's Missionary"
Amy Carmichael

