

## James Chapter 5

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.<sup>2</sup> Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.<sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.<sup>4</sup> Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.<sup>5</sup> You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.<sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.<sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.<sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.<sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

<sup>12</sup> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.<sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.<sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,<sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

## **James 5:1-6**

1. Wealth in and of itself isn't bad, Abraham was a wealthy man who walked with God. Why are riches sinful for those James is addressing?
  
2. We see in verses 4 and 6a that these men became wealthy by holding back wages and used their wealth to control the courts. What message can we learn from these verses?
  
3. What was wrong with their hoarding of wealth mentioned in verse 3?
  
4. How does faith enter into how we live financially?
  
5. What, if any, responsibility do believers have in how their wealth is used?
  
6. What is James saying about self-indulgence in verse 5?
  
7. What does verse 4 teach us to do when we are encountering troubles?

### **James 5:7-11**

1. Verse 7a in the Wuest Expanded translation reads:  
*“Be long-suffering, patiently enduring the mistreatment of others, restraining your soul from the passion of anger, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.”*
  
  
2. What three examples of patience does James give?
  
  
3. From verse 7, what needs to be the motivation for our endurance?
  
  
4. Why do you suppose the Lord is having NCCC in a season of patience?
  
  
5. What should we be doing as God tells us to “Stand firm”.
  
  
6. How does impatience come into play in verse 9?
  
  
7. What lessons can be gained from the prophets, who suffered even though they were in the will of God?
  
  
8. Explain how God’s compassion and mercy is evident during hardships?
  
  
9. What would you tell someone you encounter who is experiencing extreme hardship?

### **James 5:12**

1. The placement of verse 12 right after James writes about enduring suffering may seem out of place. Why did James place this here in his letter?
  
2. Can James be making a point about the amount of words some believers use?

## **James 13-20**

1. What instruction is James giving Christians?
2. When do you find it hard to ask for prayer?
3. Verse 13 - what do songs of praise do for our spirit?
4. Do you find yourself resistance to praising God? If so why?

Many believe James is not giving a blanket statement for prayer & healing, since we see God heal some and not others. Contextually, the elders in the early church discipline, so when people were ill the elders could visit, they also could deal with any sin & discipline if it was needed.

5. What role can sin play in sickness?
6. Verse 16- is there power in confessing sin?
7. Why do we resist confessing our sin?
8. How does one become a “righteous person”?
9. How are we to relate to those who have backslidden, or walked away from God?