

# **Be Patient and Stand Firm**

James 5:7-18

# James 5:7-12

<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.

# Impatience Defined

- Lack of Love
  - Cynicism, giving up on people
- Lack of Humility
  - Choosing to trust in ourselves
- Lack of Hope
  - Only sees the present inconvenience

# Patience Defined

- Examples of patience
  - Prophets & Job- looking to the past
- Trusting in God
  - In His ability to know better- looking at the present
- Perspective
  - Not lacking in hope- looking to the future

Impatience	Patience
Lack of love	Look to examples of patience
Lack of Humility	Trust in God instead of yourself
Lack of Hope	Have perspective

# James 5:13-18

<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.

He then goes on to give the example of Elijah in verses 17-18: <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.

# Conclusion/Application: Prayer

- Instead of using your mouth to grumble, use it to pray
- Prayer of confession: reminding us we can't do it on our own
- “There is no time in which God does not invite us to himself” (Calvin)
- “Prayer may not remove the affliction but it most certainly can transform it.” (Motyer)--and it transforms us!
- “This then, is the individual prayer. He is reflecting all his life upward, acknowledging the sufficiency and sovereignty of God, practicing the grace of acceptance and rejecting the disgrace of stubbornness. In this the voice of prayer and the voice of praise are at one, for alike they say that the will of God is good.” (Motyer)