

STRAIGHT TALK

Patience and Prayer till Relief arrives

James 5:7-20

- Let's be people of **STEADFAST PATIENCE!** vs. 7-12
- Our **FOCUS** is on the **RETURN** of Jesus vs. 7-9
- His return is a **FACT** vs. 7 '*until the coming of the Lord*'
- His return is **NEAR** vs. 8 '*the coming of the Lord is at hand*'
- His return is **IMMINENT** vs. 9 '*the Judge is standing at the door*'
- He is returning as **DELIVERER** and **JUDGE**
- How do we **WAIT** for His return? vs. 7-12
- PATIENT** like a **FARMER** vs. 7-8
- ESTABLISH** your heart for the **EARLY** and **LATE** rains
- STEADFAST** like a **PROPHET** vs. 10-11
- God's **PURPOSE**, **COMPASSION**, and **MERCY** in Job's life
- Avoid **MURMURING** or **BAD OATHS** vs. 9, 12
- Let's be people who actually **PRAY!** vs. 13-18
- Pray **INDIVIDUALLY** vs. 13
- SUFFERING** soul prays for comfort **CHEERFUL** soul sings praises
- Pray with **STRONG** believers vs. 14-15
- Sick = weak, feeble, **WORN DOWN**
- Elders = **SPIRITUAL** leaders
- Pray in **COMMUNITY** vs. 16
- Confess = share your **BATTLE** Pray together = great **POWER**
- Prayer is for **HUMANS** vs. 17-18
- Goal of **LETTER** –bring **WANDERS** back to Jesus vs. 19-20

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 30, 2025

James 5:7-8 *Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (ESV)*

DISCOVER

1. What is wrong with a little grumbling against one another? Are there people or aspects of church for which you are tempted to grumble about? Explain the specifics. What is the difference between grumbling (sin) and properly speaking for needed change?
2. If we would picture God, the true Judge, standing next to us, how would that impact our complaints against others in the church family? Suppose you are justified in exploring a situation. How should compassion and mercy impact your heart and communication?
3. Why might it lead to friction in our relationship with God if we are impatient? If we are feeling restless or impatient with God, what steps should we take to be more closely aligned with Him?
4. Share some prayers for which to you had a long wait before recognizing an answer. See Luke 18:1-8. What prayers are you still awaiting to be answered? Is it possible that your prayer has been answered but you haven't recognized it?

EXPLORE (Read James 5:7-20)

1. In verses 7-10, James emphasizes patience. Why does James compare waiting for the Lord's coming to a farmer waiting for crops to grow? How can we apply patience in our current struggles or hardships? How do these verses encourage believers in moments of impatience or doubt? What does it mean to "stand firm" in our faith, and why is this important?
2. In verses 10-12, James emphasizes faith and perseverance. How do the prophets serve as examples of perseverance in suffering? What can we learn from Job's story about enduring trials? James warns against casual oaths. How can we practice integrity in our words today?
3. In verses 13-16, James emphasizes the power of prayer. If we are suffering, what should we pray for? Will God always take the trial away from us? What is the use of praying if God may not remove the trial? Why do we find it so hard to confess our sins to one another? How does confessing sin to another benefit the confessor? How does it benefit the one who listens?
4. In verses 17-19, James emphasizes turning others back to the faith. What can we learn from Elijah's prayers about faith and perseverance? How might we lovingly help others who have "wandered from the truth"? Why is it significant that helping someone return to the truth "covers a multitude of sins"?

EXPERIENCE

1. How do we know the purpose of the Lord? Why is it important to be steadfast knowing God has a purpose in our suffering?
2. Share what you are going through that is requiring great endurance. What is wearing you out? Who will you ask to pray for or with you?
3. What are you most looking forward to, or being relieved from, when Christ returns, or you are taken home? In light of not knowing the timing, what should active waiting look like?

PRAY

Abba Father, at various times, we are impatient, inconsistent about seeking You in prayer, and too distracted to hear Your response. As Your children, we plead for You to endure our shortcomings. We yearn for the coming Day of the Lord so that we might see as You see. May Your perfect purpose for our lives been manifested as we glorify You. Holy You are. Amen.