

"True Faith and Patience"

Part 1

James 5:7-11

Introduction: Today as we return to our study of the book of James we step into another section of the book. In James 5:1-6 James spoke directly to those mixed in with the believers who were religious but not saved. Now as we come to James 5:7 James will address the believers who are the recipients of his letter.

The subject of James 5:7-11 is "patience" and we know this because the word "patience" is used 5 times within these 5 verses.

Notice James 5:7-11

In this section James is calling on his readers to be patient in the face of trials and suffering.

The Bible teaches us much about the subject of suffering that we as believers need to understand.

1. **Suffering is to be expected when we live out our faith.**

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

2. **Suffering is part of God's plan for His children.**

1 Thessalonians 3:3

³ *That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.*

3. **Suffering that comes upon God's children is permitted by God.**

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

⁷ *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

These verses were written to believers under the persecution of Nero when he blamed them for setting fire to Rome. The persecution was extremely severe. God had permitted the persecution and they were called to submit to the will of the Father in the midst of the suffering.

4. Suffering is a means by which God causes growth within the lives of His children.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

5. Suffering is impossible to escape within this world.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

¹⁸ *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

¹⁹ *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

Suffering is part of the curse.

Now before we get started here let me say that James is addressing those who were suffering for WELL DOING. There are believers who suffer because they are living out of the will of God but that is not the people James is writing to here.

As we step into the section that is before us we will see several points of encouragement which James gives to his readers to help them to be patient.

I. The Encouragement

Notice James 5:7a

The word "therefore" which James uses is very important here. It connects back to what James recorded in 5:1-6 but it specifically connects to 5:6. The just that were being taken advantage of were the believers within this local assembly and they had not resisted. Last week we saw a glimpse of what was happening.

James 2:6b

Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

The rich were oppressing them by dragging them to court and there they were judicially killing them as they stripped away all they had. That is the very idea in James 5:6.

So here in James 5:7 we see that James is exhorting them to be patient unto the coming of the Lord.

I want to take a few minutes and consider the coming of the Lord which James is speaking of here.

1. There is the return of Jesus Christ spoken of in Matthew and Luke.

Matthew 24:29-30

²⁹ *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

³⁰ *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

This is the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation. **But this is NOT the Coming of the Lord which James is speaking about.** You see James is writing to the church and the church will not go through the Great Tribulation. The church does not look for the coming of Jesus at the end of the tribulation.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

So James is not pointing to the Second Coming which written about in Matthew. But there is another "Coming of Jesus" recorded by the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

¹⁵ *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

¹⁷ *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

¹⁸ *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

This is the "Coming of the Lord" that James is speaking of and it is known as the Rapture of the Church". Let me give you some details about the Rapture.

Now let me tell you why the Rapture is encouragement for those who are suffering:

- a. This will happen before the Great Tribulation.
- b. We who are believers will be taken immediately from the earth when this event takes place. That all suffering and pain will be over.
- c. We will be gathered together with all the believers who died before us. This means there will be a great family reunion when the Rapture happens.
- d. We will forever be with the Lord. This mean our joy will be full at all times.
- e. We will be given glorified bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

⁵¹ *Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

⁵² *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Those are 5 reasons why the Rapture is encouraging to the believer but there is more and James points to several more points as we move on.

Notice James 5:7

James uses an analogy of a farmer who plants his crop and he patiently waits to harvest the fruit of his labors. The farmer would wait for the early and the latter rain. The early rain fell at sowing time, about November or December; the latter rain, about March or April, to mature the grain for harvest.

Now in this analogy there are 2 points to be made.

a. There was a reward for the patience of the farmer.

The farmer worked and waited until the time of harvest. It was then that he would receive his reward for all of his labors.

Application:

The main point which James is using here is that when the Rapture happens there will be rewards for the service done here on this earth.

1 Corinthians 4:5

⁵ *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Now let me bring another thought along side of this Truth.

God sees all of our labors.

Ephesians 6:8

⁸ *Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

Hebrews 6:10

¹⁰ *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

So let me pull this together and tell you what is on the mind of James. As we face the storms and the trials and the difficult people of this world we must know that there is coming a day of reckoning for us. We are given gifts to exercise while we are on this earth and when the day of reckoning comes we will be rewarded for our labor.

Now it may seem like we are all alone and it may seem as though we are not even noticed as we serve and we endure the sufferings of this life. But the Truth is that God misses nothing.

Illustration:

The other day I spoke with someone who was going through a great period of suffering and they ask me a question, "What is the benefit of remaining True to God?" The answer to that question is right here. There will be rewards given at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The Bible speaks of 5 crowns which will be given as rewards in heaven. One of them will be a crown that is given to those who endure suffering.

James 1:12

¹² *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

b. The farmer had to endure the storms in order to get the reward.

The farmer waited for the early and the latter rain and both were a necessity for the precious fruit to grow.

Application:

The same is true for us also. It is the storms of life that God uses to produce the precious fruit. In other words it is the patience in the midst of the storms which will receive the rewards when we stand before the Lord.

Conclusion:

Maybe you are in the midst of a storm today. Let me give you several points of encouragement:

1. **God knows what you are going through.**
2. **The rewards in heaven will far outweigh the suffering in this life.**

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.