

"True Faith and Patience"

Part 2

James 5:7-11

Introduction: Today we are returning to our study of the book of James. The last time we were in James was on December 6th and the last message we looked at came from James 5:7-11 and it was focused upon the subject of "patience".

Notice James 5:7-11

Here in these verses James uses the word "patient" 5 times so we can be sure that is the subject of these verses. Now in chapter 1 of James we learned about patience and true faith but that patience was connected with circumstances. The patience which James addresses here in chapter 5 is patience with people.

Now I really need to refresh your minds about what is taking place in the lives of the believers whom James is writing to so that we can better understand what James is saying here.

The believers whom James is writing to are being mistreated by the wealthy people whom they work for.

Notice James 5:1-6

Many of the believers were "day workers" which meant they would work in the fields of the wealthy. They would go where there was work and they would either be hired to plant or harvest depending upon what time of year it was. It was in these situations that the righteous were being mistreated. James had touched on this earlier in his letter.

James 2:6b

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

So in James 5:7-11 James instructs these believers how it is they are to respond under the actions of the rich who are taking advantage of them. That is where the subject of "**PATIENCE**" comes in.

Notice James 5:6

These people were not *resisting*. This means they were "*not engaging into a battle*" with those who were mistreating them. They were actually submitting to the situation they were faced with.

Now this makes me ask a question concerning their submission. "Why did they not resist against the rich who were oppressing them?"

The reason was because these people understood that God had allowed them to be in that very situation in order to bring glory to Him. They understood that it was their mission to manifest Jesus Christ on the path which God had ordained for them to walk. They understood that God could have lifted them from the oppression at anytime He desired but instead God had allowed them to remain in the face of the oppression. They were of the same mindset as Paul and the other Apostles.

Let me show you some verses from 2 Corinthians 4.

2 Corinthians 4:8-12

⁸ *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

⁹ *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

¹⁰ *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

¹¹ *For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

¹² *So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*

In these verses Paul tells the believers at Corinth that he was often placed in a situation where he had to die to his own rights so that the life of Jesus Christ could be seen in him. This then becomes a major part of his testimony. In verse 11 Paul makes it clear that he was DELIVERED onto death which means that it was God that permitted him to be in those situations.

Application:

This is the way we as believers are called to respond to the situations which we face also. We are sometimes placed in situations that are very difficult and even painful at times. We must remember that God is in control in every one of these situations. He has allowed us to experience this so that others can see Christ in us.

You may work with people that do not treat you fairly. You may work with people who despise you because of your faith. You may be in a situation where you have been passed over for a promotion. In those situations we are called to respond just as Jesus would respond if He were working right by our side.

Now submission in some of these situations can be very difficult and that is where James 5:7-11 enters in to our lives. Here in this passage James gives his readers several points of encouragement as they face the oppression in their lives.

I. The Encouragement

Notice James 5:7a

The first point of encouragement for these believers is the return of Jesus Christ. James calls on them to be patient unto the coming of the Lord. Now we looked at this the last time so I will just refresh your memory for a moment.

The return of the Lord which is spoken of here is the rapture. It is not the return of the Lord at the end of the Great Tribulation because that would not pertain to the church. The rapture pertains to the church because it will be the time when Jesus returns to gather together His Bride.

Notice James 5:7

As James continues in this verse he uses an illustration that every one of his readers would have been familiar with. He reminds them of the farmer who plants his crop and he patiently waits through the storms but then at the time of harvest he gathers the PRECIOUS fruit of the earth.

The idea here for the people whom James is writing to is that they will also one day receive a reward when the Lord returns. They were in a storm at the present time but there was fast approaching a day when

They would receive rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Application:

The same is also true for you and me. Following the rapture of the church there will then be the Judgment Seat of Christ where all believers will stand before the Lord. It will be at that event we will receive our rewards. Let me show you the crowns which are to be given at the believer's judgment.

1. The Incorruptible Crown - Given to those who master the old nature.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

2. The Crown of Rejoicing - Given to soul winners.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

3. The Crown of Life - Given to those who successfully endure temptation.

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.

4. The Crown of Righteousness - For those who look for and live for the return of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:8

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

5. The Crown of Glory - Given to faithful preachers and teachers.**1 Peter 5:1-4**

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

These are the 5 crowns that await we who are believers at the Judgment Seat. This is what James has in mind in 5:7 when he presents the illustration of the farmer.

Notice James 5:8a

Here James applies the illustration to their lives. Then James exhorts them to "stablish" their hearts. The word "stablish" means "to prop up and to make stable".

Now I am reminded that James is writing to Jewish believers who would have known the Old Testament very well and therefore they would have been familiar with that which was written in the Old Testament concerning patience and standing firm, refusing to compromise.

Application:

Maybe you are facing something at this time in your life and there is the temptation to compromise because the pressure is so great and the enemy is doing his best to convince you that if you just compromise life will be easier.

Let me show you some verses that encourage us to stand firm upon the promises of God and refuse to compromise.

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

³⁰ *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

³¹ *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Psalm 27:14

¹⁴ *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Lamentations 3:22-26

²² *It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

²⁴ *The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

²⁵ *The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*

²⁶ *It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*

There are many promises for those who wait patiently upon the Lord and refuse to compromise their stand upon the Truth.

Notice James 5:8

Here at the end of this verse James reminds them that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. The idea here is that the Lord's return is eminent which means it can happen at any time. There is nothing on God's calendar that must happen before the rapture.

Let me show you what the Apostle Paul said about the return of the Lord.

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 the 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.

Paul received this Truth from the Lord and he knew the rapture was imminent because he included himself in the rapture.

Conclusion:

Next week we will see several other points of encouragement as we encounter the difficult people in this world.

There is coming a day when the words of Isaiah will be fulfilled.

Isaiah 25:8-9

⁸ He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

⁹ And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Until that day let us pray as David did in Psalm 25.

Psalm 25:19-21

¹⁹ Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

²⁰ O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.