

**BOOK OF JAMES
BE PATIENT-PART 2
JAMES 5:7-11**

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Introduction

We saw in *James 5:1-6* how James addressed the abusive and rich unbelievers! Last time in *verses 7-9* we began to see how James turned again to these suffering saints—the believers who were suffering at the hands of the rich unbelievers!

In light of what was happening, James exhorted them (and us) to **"be patient unto the coming of the Lord."**

They were to **patiently endure the trials** because **God is not going to right all the wrong's in this world, until Jesus Christ returns!**

Our great expectation in the midst of trials is the blessed hope of Jesus' return. That event removes us from the sufferings of this world and brings our eternal rewards!

There will be a day of reckoning for our oppressors and a day of glory for us! But not while we are HERE!

He compared the patience to that of a farmer waiting for the fruit of his crop!

In **verse 8** he told them— *"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."*

That word *"stablish"* means *"to set fast; to turn resolutely in a certain direction."* i.e. **We should be patient and stay busy for the Lord as we anticipate His return!**

We must not allow the things of this life to dull our hope in Jesus' return, but rather **we must patiently live in anticipation for His return!**

We saw how Verse 9 depicts the Lord Jesus Christ as the Judge at the door ready to come and ready to judge! In light of that we are not to have a complaining attitude that hinders us from developing patient endurance and long-suffering! Don't develop a critical spirit that will causes you to find fault against other believers!

Now tonight, as we continue on the "Be Patient" theme, we move to verses 10-11. (Read verses 7-11)

Tonight we want to look at some BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE! To further encourage believers to endure unjust suffering, James points out in verse 10 and 11 some Biblical examples of patience!

I. WE SEE THE EXAMPLE OF THE PROPHETS! (Vs. 10)
The prophets well illustrate this matter of suffering and patience.

Jesus also used the prophets as an example of victory over persecution!
Matthew 5:10-12 *10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Note how Jesus says that they *suffered for righteousness sake* and *for speaking in the name of the Lord*.

Remember what Paul told Timothy in *2 Timothy 3:12* *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Why is it that those who speak for the Lord endure difficult trials?
It is because the people that persecute have an attitude against our God! They want us to deny God and quit so they put the pressure on!

That's why it is so important that our character **back up both our message and our testimony** about Whose we are!

In and through suffering, God does some of His greatest work!

When one suffers for doing God's will with patient endurance, it is a strong testimony to others about the reality of God in one's life!

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We would be unable to patiently endure without God truly being in our lives!

Let's just look at **the example of patient and persistent endurance of one prophet—One of my favorites: The prophet Jeremiah.**

Look at the call of God on his life in *Jeremiah 1:4-10; 16-19!*

Jeremiah had to depend on God's love as **he developed that patient endurance in his life needed to do the will of God!**

His audiences were usually **antagonistic** or **apathetic to his messages!** He was **largely ignored.** His life was **often threatened**, sometimes even by his own family! The religious establishment tried to have him killed!

He watched as king after king **ignored his warnings** and continually led the people of Judah away from God!

He saw **fellow prophets murdered.** He was **severely persecuted as religious leaders beat him and stretched his limbs painfully in stocks!** **He was even thrown down into a mucky dungeon because of his messages!**

After he wrote his prophetic book, a godless king cut it into pieces and burned it and he had to write it again!

He wanted to quit, but God wouldn't let him! So he kept going on for the LORD!

Finally he watched Judah's defeat at the hands of the Babylonians—just as God had said! And he agonized at their suffering and recorded those things in the Book of Lamentations!

Decade after decade he cried out God's Word.

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Obedying God stretched Jeremiah to the breaking point at times, but he patiently endured the hardships.

Jeremiah spoke in the name of the Lord and **showed long-tempered obedience despite intense suffering!** My what an example!

In our day and time **too many folks are ready to quit on God sometimes at just a hint of a personal slight. Others are ready to quit over the things that have nothing to do with the service of God!** (e.g. Like the color of the carpet!)

How pathetically shallow the many excuses today look compared to Jeremiah's life!

We have many who start well, but don't hang around to finish well! May God give us some Jeremiahs that finish!

That's just one prophet of many prophets that we could look at, but my what an example!

II. **WE SEE THE EXAMPLE OF JOB! (Vs 11)**

We've heard of the endurance of Job under severe trial...Its legendary!

Circumstances were against him, for God permitted the devil to cause him to lose his wealth, his health, and his beloved children. Even his wife turned on him.

And his friends after mourning with him for seven days, then turned on him and accused him of some terrible hidden sin deserving the judgment of God!

And we see that God was quiet through all of this and would not answer Job's questions for 37 chapters.

Yet Job endured and we believers count him blessed!

“Count them happy” = means “to esteem them fortunate or blessed.”

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God again used Job to restore his friends! Then the Lord restored his health, his family, and his fortune. Blessed indeed!

After Job's restoration he lived another 140 years and saw four generations of his family according to *Job 42:10-17!*

And don't forget that **Job grew to know God in new and deeper ways through his suffering!** In fact, **when Job was thinking his life was over, it was just really beginning again!**

At the end of Job's testing, **God revealed Himself to Job, and then the rest of Job's life was never the same!**

James wanted every believer to know that at the end of our trials Christ will appear, and we will be blessed also!

James highlights two things about God that Job learned due to his endurance:

1. ***"...the Lord is very pitiful..."*** The words ***"very pitiful"*** here mean ***"extremely compassionate!"***
2. ***"...and full of tender mercy."*** *Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

Now, we might wonder **how did Job learn of God's mercy when God allowed him to go through so much?**

I don't know, but think **He came to the realization that he did not merit any blessing from God and that ALL blessings come from God's goodness and without God's compassion and mercy toward us we would be in one tragic mess with Satanic attacks!**

To be sure our finite minds cannot fathom all the mysteries of God's working, but we do know that Job was perfected or matured and God was glorified through his suffering!

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The challenges and crises of life can sometimes tax us to the very limits of our strength and at such times its easy to give up.

But the Bible offers Believers another perspective. It says that while life is a battle, it is also a blessing! (Vs 11)

In Job's example, **we find encouragement and the power to persevere in life's darkest hours! That is, if we are rooted in God, Who is extremely compassionate and full of tender mercy!**

Even, when life is painful and hard, we can persevere because God is there!

Think about this: **If there is nothing to endure you cannot learn endurance. We can't persevere unless there are trials in our life.**

There can be no victories without battles, there can be no peaks without valleys, no joys without sorrows and no strength with out trials and no blessings without sufferings!

If we want the blessing, we must be prepared to carry the burden and fight life's battles! God first humbled righteous Job then He honored him with blessings!

Job learned God's heart after enduring the trial and in the end he realized God's mercy!

This 21st century seems to be characterized by impatience and a love of ease. People want immediate rewards. They seem unwilling to work hard and wait for financial success.

They are drawn instead by the lure of instant lottery ticket or some other get-rich-quick scheme.

And even in the spiritual realm, many people are looking to the leaders who promise immediate healing and wealth as rewards for their faith!

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We need to return to the old-fashioned Christian virtues of patience and perseverance in all we do!

Patience and perseverance are twin virtues that bring God's blessing!

LEWIS AND CLARK faced incredible hardships during their famous expedition. Upon reaching the Missouri River they thought the worst was over - then they saw the Rockies! Instead of the easy ride downstream they'd expected, they faced their biggest challenge. They wondered if they should go back or should they start climbing! Looking back they realized it was conquering the Rockies that gave them the confidence they needed for what they'd face later.

Quitting is easier than enduring, but it produces a pattern that's hard to break. You develop resiliency by remaining faithful in situations you don't like and can't change. So, don't give up! God gives great honor to those who endure!