

Previously, James encouraged us to look by faith above and beyond the cruelty, suffering, and oppressions of the world to the coming of the Lord!

Twice, James tells us to "be patient" in waiting for our Lord's return, to keep looking for it, just like the farmer who looks to his fields every day, patiently waiting for the precious fruit of his harvest.

Don't lose heart in your sufferings, brethren, but be patient, the Lord's return is nigh and close at hand! Wait by faith, with anticipation/expectation, and while you're waiting, suffering, make your hearts ready. 2 Peter 3:13-14

In James 5:9, while you anticipate your Lord's return, "grudge not one against another", brethren, lest ye be condemned when He does come!

"Behold, the Judge standeth before the door." Cp. 2 Peter 3. Don't overlook what the Lord's return should produce in you, brethren!

James 5:10-11: James continues to teach us about patience! Do you know how to suffer patiently as a Christian? Do you persevere, hold on your way, and continue to trust God when suffering and trials come?

Every one of us as children of God should possess "The Grace of Patience" in our spirits. As we grow in grace and continue to learn Christ, we should be increasingly sanctified in this grace! 2 Peter 1:3-6

There are MANY examples for us to learn from and glean in the Holy Scriptures of what PATIENCE looks like in the life of the believer.

5:10: "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the Name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience".

James' design was that we would go to the scriptures and learn from those who patiently endured their sufferings ... that we would be encouraged and strengthened in our faith and that we would ALSO patiently trust God!

From the day of your new birth, God began to teach you patience, to trust Him, and to wait upon His holy will for everything in your life.

Patience is the 4th Fruit of the Holy Spirit, in Galatians 5:22 called "longsuffering", here in James 5:10, "patience", the same Greek word.

It means to remain steadfast and constant, to persevere, to remain, to abide, and to stay with Christ when buffeted, tried, and afflicted!

When the torrent of sufferings and trials come, you don't retreat or run away from Christ, you stay the course, hold on your way, and continue to walk by faith in Christ! Matthew 13:20-21, 24:8-13, Job 17:9, Psalm 84:4-7

Rudolf Stier: "Sufferings to men are inevitable, and in this, there is goodwill and the counsel of God. Tribulation and trials are wholesome; they tend to improve, test, purify, and confirm. Be ye especially patient, ye children of God, ye disciples of the Lord Jesus; for in that ye suffer awhile with the Lord Jesus, this is the appointed and foretrodden way for you to all the greater glory. This is the doctrine upon which all scripture "expatiates" (opens and enlarges), and herein, in this Book of books incomparable, that it constantly and faithfully gives the right Word of instruction and exhortation to those who suffer". Romans 15:4-5

If you would "patiently hold on your way" and continue steadfastly in the faith, (through every suffering and trial), you must trust God, and be a "constant learner" from what is written in God's Holy Word!

Patience, comfort, and hope will only come to those who are learning Christ from the Word and to those who are waiting upon God, trusting God, and resting upon God to grant patience, comfort, and hope!

No human in the world lives without afflictions and sufferings, but what a pity to suffer and then to die without Christ, having never come to Him for mercy, forgiveness, and salvation from the misery of YOUR sins, to never trust the God of patience, and to never rest in His salvation and comfort! And then, after living a miserable and hopeless life, to suffer the incomprehensible miseries of hell for all eternity! If you're lost, your misery and suffering should drive you from the world to Christ for salvation! For you, (children of God), your present trials and sufferings should drive you from the world and away from your sins, which are the cause of all your misery... to wholehearted trust in Christ, who is only able to give you comfort and hope!

When we REJOICE in the Lord TODAY and wait patiently for our FUTURE hope of eternal life, that is how we are able to GLORY in our present trials and tribulations... we should KNOW that our sufferings are DESIGNED by God to conform us to Christ's image and prepare us for heaven! Romans 5:1-5

In our text, James tells us a little more about the suffering prophets, WHY they suffered... they "had spoken (preached) in the Name of the Lord".

It's one thing to be Christian, it's quite another thing to be an outspoken Christian who witnesses/testifies of Christ, but who also lives a godly life!

Look at how the prophets were resisted, mistreated, and hated, and yet they remained steadfast with the Lord and continued to faithfully preach the Word to God's people! 2 Chronicles 36:16-18, Amos 7:10-15, Acts 7:51-52

When you think the things that are happening in your life are too difficult and hard for you to bear, consider the life of one of God's prophets/messengers.

Hebrews 11:32, 11:35-12:4

James 5:11: "Behold, we count them happy which endure.", or those who endured and remained steadfast, and who stayed the course with Christ!

James 1:12: "Blessed (or happy) is the man that ENDURETH temptation: (or, happy is that man who has endured through his trial), NOW, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him."

In James 5:11, here is a man who wasn't a prophet, he was a husband and father, and an example of one who patiently endured through overwhelming trials, though there were times when he faltered, ultimately, Job continued to hold on his way, patiently trusting in his God! James 5:11, Job 42:10-17

Beloved, there are similarities in Job's trials that you will experience in your trials..... there will be questions and doubts that will arise in your mind when you look back (in your natural mind) to what you thought were better days, rather than looking forward (with eyes of faith) to God's blessings and design for you, which will come after you have patiently endured what God has assigned to you for your sanctification and eternal happiness!

The LORD blessed the "latter end of Job, MORE than his beginning".

Don't forget these Words, my brethren: "Behold, we count them happy which endure" to those who stay with Christ and hold on their way as did Job!

1 Peter 5:10-11, 2 Corinthians 4:15-18