

## James 5:7-12 — “4 Keys to Patient Endurance” 雅各书 5:7-12 — “恒久忍耐的四要素”

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

### INTRO

#### *Introductory Illustration*

- **JOHN HOOPER** lived in England during the time of Bloody Mary in the 1500s. As a preacher and minister of the gospel, he was warned often that danger was near! Persecution approached. Trials abounded. But Hooper would reply: “because I am called to this place and vocation, I am thoroughly persuaded to patiently endure, and to live and die with my sheep.”
- He lived SO godly and above reproach in SPEECH, in LIFE, - behaved himself so well that his very enemies could find no fault with him.
- He had troubles. Life wasn’t easy. Opposition abounded. Evil doers threatened him. Yet he patiently endured! >> *What is it that marks that kind of life? \*What are the keys\*?*

#### *Background to James 5:7-12*

- James writes to early Jewish believers calling for **“Faith in Action.”** — A real, working, active, demonstrating, obedient faith!
- **Pastor James calls for uncompromising obedience to a glorious Savior!**  
✓ **James 5** - the judgment coming on money-lovers >> now: patient enduring thru hardships.
  - James 5.7ff - we need patience in dealing with difficult people & dealing with difficult circumstances.
  - *Like John Hooper’s example. How do you \*patiently endure\*???*

**THESIS — in this pastoral & practical paragraph, pastor James is going to call us to patient endurance!**

- *each of the sections begins with the word: “Brothers” (v.7, v.9, v.10, v.12) = 4 keys to patient endurance.*
  1. Trust God till Christ Returns (7-8)
  2. Kill Complaining Against Your Brethren (9)
  3. Endure Trials Thru God’s Mercy (10-11)
  4. Speak Truthfully With Reliable Integrity (12)

➡ **THE MAIN THEME: Live with patient endurance until the Lord’s return!**

### **I. TRUST GOD TILL CHRIST RETURNS! (7-8)**

- the context is vv.1-6 - believers struggling and being oppressed, wrongly treated, taken advantage of by the rich. *what do you ??* \*\*In your suffering, do you

rebel? **NO!** complain? **no!** Get even? **no!** >>> Rather, be patient! Christ is coming; Let God handle it!

- A. “Therefore” (*building on what he said in vv.1-6*), you must be patient when things are out of your control (7)
- B. be patient till the Lord comes- we must **trust GOD** with what you cannot control (=like a farmer)
  - 1. a farmer cannot determine when it will rain and when it will not rain \*\*SO >> James says: When it comes to the Lord’s coming and the injustice and sin that surrounds you, you have to trust GOD with what you cannot control (like a farmer waiting for rain!). The early rains (in the fall) and the late rains (in spring) are necessary for a good, abundant, healthy crop. **But the farmer can’t produce it - he must wait and be patient and trust God with something \*out of his control\*.**
- C. v.8- You Too (similarly!) — be patient! strengthen your heart = strengthening your *inner man* (8) - **\*we say: how in the world do we do this?\* we need inner stability \*in the heart\***. (inner man)
  - 1. Inner firmness is NOT hard-heartedness nor some kind of arrogant pride. Rather, it is TRUE, STALWART, UNFLINCHING fortitude/strength that comes from a commitment to God’s promises — it leads to uncompromising courage, unafraid boldness, and undying ENDURANCE.
  - 2. YOU DO THIS *as the Spirit works it in you* (Eph 3:16 // 1 Thess 3.13 // 2 Thes 2.16-17!)
  - 3. **\*why\*** / what’s the reason you can do this (ὄτι) b/c Christ is near!
- D. in awaiting Christ’s imminent return (7-8) — don’t miss the repeated references to the **return of Christ!** (v.7; & \*\*v.8, 9\*\* - heightened prominence!). This teaches the doctrine of **Imminency: the return of Christ could happen at any moment. It is the next event on God’s prophetic calendar! // He is coming quickly (Rev 22.20) // we are to be looking for the blessed hope (TITUS 2.13)**

## II. **KILL COMPLAINING AGAINST YOUR BRETHREN!** (9)

- A. We don’t wanna be a congregation of *complainers* — especially we don’t wanna be *grippers against God’s people!*. **So often we can be...**
  - 1. frustrated at each other’s differences & avoid, or grumble over others’ differences.
  - 2. disagree on how to deal with oppression, opposition, or persecution, or affliction.
  - 3. vent at one another b/c of hardship and prolonged trials.
  - 4. blaming one another on unfulfilled expectations or unmet desires
  - 5. speak *about* others rather than humbly speaking *to* others for clarification, upbuilding, communication and harmony.
- B. v.9a- do not complain, or “gripe” — meaning: “to express complaints, discontent, displeasure, or unhappiness. WE complain b/c it reveals (1) a thankless heart; (2) it reveals deeper sins within (like jealousy, pride, envy); (3) and it reveals a distrust in God’s sovereignty.
  - 1. **What are the hurtful consequences of complaining/gripping?** *You don’t want to be judged; God the judge is at the door (imminence!) coming soon!*

### 5 Negative Effects of the SIN of Complaining

1. It **stops** forward momentum. (cuts off advancement)
2. It **fosters** dissatisfaction in others. (fosters critical spirits)
3. It **silences** and squelches appreciation. (it kills affirmation/encouragement)
4. It **becomes** patterns of thinking. (becomes a very mindset; negative, judgmental)
5. It **extinguishes** praise & worship (b/c you don't want to worship a God that you're discontent with/a god that you think is doing wrong to you!).

C. By God's Spirit, thru God's Word, you \*can\* kill complaining...

1. Christian: be thankful [*recount all God's benefits*]
2. Christian: be content [*don't be god over God; you don't know better*]
3. Christian: be humble [*you have life, breath, heaven—rejoice!*]

\*\*If Christians spent as much time praying as grumbling, they would soon have nothing to grumble about.

### III. ENDURE TRIALS THRU GOD'S MERCY! (10-11)

A. Mistreated. Misrepresented. Unfairly treated. Opposed, accused, threatened, harassed. Taken advantage of. Robbed. Alone. Lonely. —> yet seeking to be obedient! **can u relate?**

B. The Prophets — the prophet in the middle of persecution stood boldly and spoke out against the sins of the day. In great difficulty, they had to *persevere & endure*.

- ❖ **Elijah** faced opposition from Ahab (1 Kings 18:17)
  - ❖ **Jeremiah** in prison (Jer 20, 32), put into a muddy pit (Jer 38)
  - ❖ **Ezekiel** endured the death of his wife (Ezekiel 24)
  - ❖ **Daniel** was torn from his home and later thrown into lions den (Dan 6)
  - ❖ **Hosea** endured a wayward, unfaithful wife (Hosea 1)
  - ❖ **Amos** received lies, scorn, misrepresentation, false accusations (Amos 7)
  - ❖ **John** the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded (Matt 14)
  - ❖ **Hebrews 11** - faithful men who gave up their lives (vv.35-38) (**many of YOU here endure trials!**)
1. \*it's not that they did anything wrong; they suffered b/c they did what was right and “spoke faithfully in the name of the Lord” - they preached faithfully God's message.
  2. **Mark it** — Times of suffering, sin, and societal turmoil can be GREAT OPPORTUNITIES to speak a word for the Glory of God!

C. Speaking of *enduring trials long term* (consider JOB!).....

D. Job - a blameless, upright, God-fearing man who turned away from evil!

1. JOB did pour out his heart and he DID complain ....
2. Job 3 - he cursed the day of his birth (v.1, 11-19)
3. Job 16.2-3 - he criticized his “friend-counselors”
4. Job 30-.20-23 - Job cried to God but he didn't answer
5. Job 7.11-12 - He had anguish of spirit
6. Job 9:25-27 - but Job continued to endure relying on the Savior
7. Job 38-41 - then GOD put Job in his right place with thundering majesty.

8. Job 42:1-6 - JOB’S ENDING — ENDURANCE, STEADFAST — HE WAS BETTER! (Rom 8.28-29!)
- E. v11b—The Outcome - you must look at the “OUTCOME” of the Lord’s dealings. the problem - we look at the trial when we’re in the middle of it.
1. Whatever you are walking through is \*NOT\* the end of the story. The end will reveal that the LORD is indeed very compassionate and merciful! You can’t see it now, but be patient, hoping in God’s purpose!. *It’s like when you’re in the counseling room & the counselee says: “Now I can say: I thank God for the trial”*
- ✓It’s Like: a plane that takes off during a heavy rainstorm in the South. The clouds are thick and low. The rain is loudly pounding on the windows of the airplane. It looks dark, eery, gray and gloomy.
- ✓It’s so dark that all of the street lights, the headlights, the city lights, and the runway lights are all ON.
- ✓And you take off – and the turbulence is almost too much to bear. UNTIL – you finally ascend more and more and more to the cruising altitude – and GUESS WHAT? you’re over and above the storm. It’s nothing but blue skies above you see the SUN shining brightly and clearly. The clouds and rainstorm, and thunder and lightning is BELOW YOU and BEHIND YOU.
- ✓so it is – when you’re in the storm, you can’t see the blue skies and sunlight. But sooner or later, you will! ENDURE the trial!
- F. God’s Character — *You can’t say: “I can’t take this anymore!”* — you need **(1) to have the long-term view** — the Lord will soon come & the outcome of the trial will reveal how God worked & what he did!; and you need **(2) to rely on & revel in God’s great compassion** — a wonderful and sustaining assurance. you gotta remember God’s nature.
1. **Can you really do this?** Sure, because you have 4 unchanging and unfailing GIFTS...
1. The **MERCIES** of God [his compassions]
  2. The **PROMISES** of God [his guarantees]
  3. The **SAINTS** of God [his examples]
  4. The **STRENGTH** of God [his Spirit-given power]

#### **IV. SPEAK TRUTHFULLY WITH RELIABLE INTEGRITY! (12)**

- A. James said much about our \*words\*; Proverbs instructs believers as to *wise words*
1. Proverbs 10:19—when there are many words, transgression is unavoidable; but he who restrains his lips is wise; **\*\*Prov 10:20-21, 31-32**
  2. Proverbs 21:23- he who guards his mouth and his tongue guards his soul from troubles!
- B. *Consider:* before World War 2, a “Gentleman’s Handshake” was often a substitute for a written contract/agreement. **\*\*THEN:**, about a generation or two after that, formal

contracts were needed before one could trust a businessperson’s word. **\*\*Tragically, NOW:** we live in times where contracts, agreements are so often broken, amended, reworded or shrouded with lies.

- C. Get this: Societies will collapse when people lose their verbal integrity, and in such a context, >> Christians **MUST** remain at the forefront of those whose word can be trusted **UNQUESTIONINGLY!**
  
- D. Above all - this is super important! [most of all; now, ‘above all else’]—Don’t Swear! [**\*not\*** cussin’, profanity, swearin’, foul-mouth] - **you don’t need to ‘swear’/make an oath to verify, validate, or substantiate your \*word\***. Jesus said this (Matt 5.34.37)- let your yes be yes, and your NO be no. **Truthfulness should be the NORM and no one should doubt your words.** **\*\*Is your word as “good as gold”?**
- E. Single / true, reliable, dependable — we are to be “SINGLE” — reliable, dependable, truthful, single-minded in ALL we do —>>>> even in our speech!
  - 1. “The Words from our mouths should be SO consistent and dependable that they guarantee reliability!” — **is this you? Are you single [not double-tongued], true, reliable, dependable, trustworthy. Do people believe you? Trust you?**

### **What does Pastor James want? Patient Endurance!!**

- A patient Christian — eyeing upward for Christ’s return! > **So Trust God till Christ returns!** (v.7-8)
- A steady contentment — choosing to love one another! > **Kill complaining against your brethren!** (v.9)
- A strong endurance — clinging to the mercies of God! > **Endure Trials Thru God’s Mercy!** (v.10-11)
- A truthful mouth — demonstrating integrity & reliability! > **Speak Truthfully with Reliable Integrity!** (v.12)

### **CONCL-**

#### *Concluding Illustration*

- **We began by looking at John HOOPER** — the pastor in the English Reformation in 16th c. England during the dark days of Bloody Mary. WELL, this man of integrity, this faithful preacher, this man who patiently endured was summoned and brought to trial. **In that public trial**, He was degraded, he was condemned. He was led thru the city after this trial — and many came out to greet him and salute him for his patient endurance!
- At about 8AM on the day of his execution, February 9, 1555, he was led forth. And it was said that he would stop and **LOOK UPWARD TO HEAVEN!** And When Hooper came to the place where he would be executed, He smiled and grabbed hold of the stake upon which he would be burnt — right next to the area where he used to preach.
- Tradition has it that before he died, he took a piece of coal and inscribed these words on the wall of his chamber:
  - Content yourself with **patience** With Christ to bear the cross of pain:
  - Who can and will recompense A thousand-fold, with joys again.
  - Let nothing cause your heart to fail !!!!!
  - ✓ **Christian:** we need patient endurance till our Lord returns!