

James: Perseverance

Took

Main Point: Those who persevere to the end will receive eternal life with Jesus in His kingdom.

Choose to patiently wait on the Lord.

1. Isaiah 40:31

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

2. Psalm 27:14

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

3. Lamentations 3:25-26

"The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

4. Romans 8:25

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

5. Psalm 37:7

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!"

6. Micah 7:7

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me."

7. Hebrews 10:36

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

8. Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

9. **Romans 12:12**

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

10. **Isaiah 64:4**

"From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him."

CHALLENGES

THINK: Be honest with yourself about your own life. Are you living in such a way that everyone around you trusts you will keep your word? Are you the kind of person people trust and respect? A reliable person they can count on? Do you love truth, walk in truth, and embody truth? Are you happy to keep your promises, or are you always looking for ways to get out of things? Do you reflect the character of God to the world around you?

PRAY for God to give you the strength, perseverance and steadfastness to endure to the end through the suffering and struggle of this world. Ask God to help you wait patiently for His return and use you for His kingdom until then. Thank Him for the glorious inheritance that awaits us in heaven and pray you will be able to keep an eternal perspective as you walk through the ups and downs of this life.

ACT: Help someone who is suffering. As we wait for the Second Coming with patience, we can help one another in our times of suffering and need. Think about someone you know who is struggling or suffering and ask God how you can tangibly help that person this week. How can you bring peace, comfort and the love of Jesus in his or her time of suffering?

¹ <https://financebuzz.com/disney-wait-times-study>

² <https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/lightning-lane-passes/lightning-lane-premier/#drawer-card-drawerMagicKingdomPark>

³ https://www.forbes.com/sites/megandubois/2024/10/16/disneyland-and-disney-world-launch-new-skip-the-line-service-lightning-lane-premier-pass/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴ Introduction to James, *ESV Study Bible* (Crossway, 2008).

⁵ D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and His Confrontation with the World: An Exposition of Matthew 5–10* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1999).

Living Faith in the World: Book of James Lesson 10: Prayer Scriptures 1

James 5:13-15. *Prayer is the key to dealing with situations that require patience. The answer is always to pray and to praise Him. The sick are healed by God's intervention.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. *Pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances.*

Matthew 6:1-18. *Summary: Jesus teaches that righteousness should come from the Lord's motivation in our hearts, not a desire for attention or to appear righteous to other people. Give, pray, and fast in private—God sees what's done in secret and will reward you. The Lord's Prayer shows how to honor God, seek His will, depend on Him daily, and forgive others.*

We are to pray not to do more spiritual stuff, but because it is through prayer that we are able to make it through every circumstance with the peace and joy of the Spirit. We step with the Spirit and live in fellowship with God by praying every minute of every day. Our prayer life is to be a constant flow, as essential as food and the breath in our lungs. (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

It is important to not just know about God, but to develop a personal relationship with Him through prayer.

1 Corinthians 12. *Summary: Paul explains that the Holy Spirit gives believers different gifts for the common good. The church is like one body with many part - each unique, yet equally important. Every gift and person is needed to strengthen the body of Christ.*

John 15. *Summary: Jesus is the true vine; believers are the branches. Staying connected to Him produces spiritual fruit. He commands His followers to love one another as He has loved them. Though the world may reject them, the Holy Spirit will help them stay faithful.*

James 1:5. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

God knows what we need, even more than we do! Need wisdom? Go to God in prayer. Suffering? Go to God in prayer. He grows us by using our suffering for our good.

Psalms 147:3. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." *The healing of the brokenhearted includes those who grieve over their sins as well as those who are suffering at the hands of others. God tends to our wounds like a kind and loving physician.*

Romans 5:3-5. v3 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **v4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **v5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

No matter the situation, God is the right person to talk to about it. In prayer we submit ourselves to God's will for our lives and ask Him to mold us into who He wants us to be.

1) We can and should pray in every circumstance at every moment.

James 5:13-15 "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **V14** Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint with oil in the name of the Lord. **V15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven" **1Thessalonians 5:16-18** "Rejoice always, **v17** pray continually, **v18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Q: What did James believe prayer could do for us in many different situations?

Jesus talked a lot about prayer in His ministry with His disciples, and the apostles talked a lot about prayer in the New Testament. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talked about doing all spiritual practices with the _____ motivation in our hearts—not to be seen by other people but out of love for our heavenly Father (Matthew 6:1-18). Jesus said hypocrites love to pray so they _____ righteous to other people, but they don't really live out their faith. For those who live in fellowship with God through Christ, prayer is a constant part of our lives. Not to do more spiritual _____ but because staying in constant communication with God is how we can make it through every circumstance with the _____ and joy of the Spirit. It's how we walk in step _____ the Spirit and live in fellowship with God. Prayer strengthens our communion with God. Prayer should be a constant part of our lives, as essential as _____, as regular as breathing. Every minute of every _____ as Paul says in **1 Thess 5:16-18**.

God knows our every thought. But spending time with Him in prayer helps us know Him more over time. Not just know _____ Him but know Him in a personal relationship. It's not just talking to and listening to Him; it's connecting with Him Jesus is the head, and we are His body **1 Cor. 12**. Jesus is the vine; we are the branches **John 15**. Jesus is the cornerstone; we are the living stones built upon Him. This represents a partnership, sharing and union through Christ.

Jesus called the Holy Spirit "*the Advocate*" or "*Helper*," meaning "*one who comes alongside*." The role of the *Advocate* is to teach, lead, guide, help, comfort, and intercede for us. The Spirit dwells within us, available in our relationship without ceasing to help us understand any time. God knows what we _____ even more than we do, so we should come to Him no matter what the circumstance is. Need wisdom? He gives it generously (**James 1:5**) Are you suffering?, He will comfort us, teach us, grow us through it, and use our suffering for our _____. (**Psalms 147:3; Romans 5:3-5**.) In prayer we submit ourselves to God's will for our _____ and ask Him to mold us into who He wants us to be.

Q: What are benefits you think you would see in your life from strengthening your prayer life?

Living Faith in the World: Book of James Lesson 10: Prayer Scriptures 2

James 5:14-16: v14 is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. **v15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **v16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful and effective.

As James states, healing is just a prayer away, remembering that the one who wasn't healed is not from not praying hard enough. Sickness in this sense means weak in faith or conscience. The elders were called to pray and anoint the spiritually weak so that their sins may be forgiven. Since the prayers of the righteous have great power, James called the people to confess and pray for one another. Believers, we need one another!

Romans 6:19. "I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness."

Romans 14:1. "Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters."

John 9:3. "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Luke 15:1-7. *Summary: Jesus tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep to show God's heart for the lost. He describes a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for one that has gone astray. When he finds it, he joyfully carries it home and celebrates with friends and neighbors. Jesus explains that, in the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.*

2 Timothy 2:26. "and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

Matthew 18:21-35. *Summary: Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him - "up to seven times?" Jesus replies, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times," teaching that forgiveness should be limitless. Jesus then tells the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant: A king forgives a servant's enormous debt, but that same servant refuses to forgive a fellow servant's small debt. When the king finds out, he revokes his mercy and punishes the unforgiving servant.*

James 2:12-13. v12 "Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, **v13** because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

2) Prayer is powerful because it connects us to God's power.

In **James 5:14-16** he addresses those who are "sick". Some misunderstand or misused this Scripture to teach that physical healing is always just a _____ away, if only we do it right, and have enough faith and the right kind of anointing. However, God doesn't always physically heal people when we ask. It can be damaging to someone's faith to suggest that their loved one _____ healed because they weren't praying _____ enough or they weren't righteous enough. The word used here for "sick" doesn't necessarily mean physical sickness or disease. It literally means "weakness," and usually refers to a _____ faith or weak conscience (**Romans 6:19; 14:1**). And in **verse 15**, "sick person" also means "weak" or "weary". Those who had grown weary in the midst of suffering. Feeling morally or spiritually _____. The elders were called to pray and anoint the weak person with oil. The elders here were using oil for spiritual strengthening and refreshment. The fact that it was spiritual healing is supported by James saying the weak person's sins would be _____. This is not a statement that physical illness is always the result of sin in someone's life—Jesus denounced that false belief (**John 9:3**). This doesn't mean the elders prayers were more powerful than the average believer. James said the prayers of every "righteous person" has great _____ (**v16**). James told the people to confess their sins to one another and _____ for one another. **A healthy Christian community is characterized by love, concern and transparency. We _____ one another!**

3) James 5:19-20 "My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, **V20** remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins."

Followers of Jesus have a heart to bring back those who wander away. James closes with an encouragement to do for each other what he has been doing for others—correct them in the ways they have wandered astray and lead them back to the narrow path. The word "wandering" here isn't just an accident like taking a wrong turn. It means being "caused to wander," "led astray," or "deceived" (**Luke 15:1-7**). The Enemy can use false teaching to lead people astray, but he can also lure us away with sin and temptation, worry, doubt and fear. Scripture describes Satan's work as "the snare of the devil," a trap he sets for us; to capture us so we will do his will instead of God's will (**2 Timothy 2:26**) This should give us compassion for those who have gone astray rather than judging them for their choices in a holier-than-thou kind of way. Jude told us to have mercy on those who doubt. James tells us to seek after those who have been led astray, don't just let them go! Jesus told us to show mercy to others as we have been shown mercy by God (**Matthews 18:21-35**) James said to "judge" others by the law of freedom, showing mercy not condemnation (**James 2:12-13**) **Those who wandered aren't the Enemy; they are victims!**

God's Deliverance

- Deliverance from *persecution* – Ps. 7:1, 2
- Deliverance from *peril* – Ps. 22:19-21
- Deliverance from *personal adversaries* – Ps. 31:15
- Deliverance from the *power of fear* – Ps. 34:4
- Deliverance from the *power of evil* – Ps. 23:4

Our Father,

Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil

Amen.