

James 5

v7-8

“you also must be patient”

- Wait expectantly, with an assurance in the knowledge of God. An intimate, personal knowledge, knowing Him and waiting on His perfect timing. Knowing that He is making all things work together for good (Romans 8:28) and He is making all things beautiful in His time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
- *“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1:4*
- *“...knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:3-6*
- In practical application that patience will be a steadfast confidence; a faithful assurance of God’s promises and testimonies. This is what it means to be established. Hearts strong in The Word of The Lord and in the power of His name. He is coming!

v9

“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, Look! The Judge is [already] standing at the very door.”

- When we become impatient it is easy to become weary, less tolerant and irritable. When we stop being patient, with a steady, expectant gaze, we start to look at the flesh; the waves; the frustrations and ourselves.
- There may be brothers/sisters who I would not invite to my table to break bread. But if I truly went to commune with The Lord at HIS table I would find them there also. Even in their fault or lack He has made them worthy in His love and by His blood.
- It is a dangerous thing to sin against our brothers which are the body of Christ. Christ is standing at the door ready to judge imminently! The judge who will judge me and my own heart is standing at the door. May I be so sensitive and mindful of my own lack as I see/notice lack in others.
- *“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye but do not notice or consider the beam [of timber] that is in your own eye?” Luke 6:41*

v10-11

“Behold, we count them happy which endure.”

- There is a joy in the testimony of The Lord. To go through the trial, no matter how painful or grievous, and to see The Lord provide, keep, fight and bless gives a wonderful testimony of faithfulness, strength and hope!
- There is a precious public joy in proving God as an example and encouragement for others to also hope and believe. *“Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well.” Psalm 84:6*
- There is a precious intimate joy of holding/hoping to God’s promises and testimonies and finding Him attentive to your cry, your needs and a comforter to your own heart. The joy of faith ending in sight. *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1*
- *“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” 1 Corinthians 13:10*
- *“because people of Ham had dwelt there of old [and had left it a better place for those who came after them].” 1 Chronicles 4:39-40 AMPC*
- Faith is “in part” it is the substance of things hoped for but when the hope comes... Faith is done away. Joy and love remain!
- *“Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” James 1:12*
- Consider the example of Job, how that The Lord was tender, compassionate, merciful and rewarding! Job did not waiver in His faith in God’s sovereignty and authority. He remained steadfastly patient! Job 23:8-10

v12

“but let your yes be yes; and your no, no; lest ye fall into condemnation.”

- The simplicity of this command should emphasise its effectiveness and power.
- This denotes conversation and conduct that is honest, faithful, with integrity and submission to consequence. Imagine if we all lived this way. Imagine a world where this was lived out: In relationships, business...etc

v13

“Is anyone among you afflicted (ill-treated, suffering evil)? He should pray. Is anyone glad at heart? He should sing praise [to God].”

- There is such power in prayer. This we are familiar with but let us not underestimate the power in singing His praises! Genuinely praising Him in our hearts. Not just singing “Christian” songs that we like; but singing His word, singing His testimonies and His works! Praising Him from deep, God-given gratitude, worship and joy! Sing!! Rejoice!! Praise!! SING!!
- Make a joyful noise!! Psalm 66:1, Psalm 81:1, Psalm 95:1-2, Psalm 98:4&6, Psalm 100:1
- In both highs and lows bring it to The Lord. Come into His presence and lay the sorrows and the joys at His feet. Keep your eyes always and only on Him. He makes all things work together for good, He makes all things beautiful in His time, He inclines His ear to hear our cry and He meets every need.

v14-16

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders” / “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.”

- Let us not underestimate what it means to be counted as the body of Christ. We are become His physical presence in this world. We are His representatives, His ‘hands & feet’. We too quickly take this for granted and forget the miracle that it is!
- We are to avail of each other, trust one another, lean on each other. James describes a close, loving relationship between believers. It’s not just that people are there if we need them... But we are to actively seek each other out.

v17-18

“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly”

- Elijah was not special. He was human just like any of us. He confesses that he’s no better than his fathers in 1 Kings 19:4. We also read of his impatience, fear and unbelief at times...
- But Elijah prayed earnestly! He called upon The Lord, He prayed constantly and consistently. He sought The Lord. These weren’t religious prayers said each morning/night that made him feel good.
- GILL: the phrase here seems to design something more than bare praying; a praying, not merely externally, or formally, and with the lip only, but with the Spirit, and with the understanding, and with the heart engaged in it, with inwrought prayer. The prophet prayed with much earnestness, with great

vehemence and intenseness of Spirit, as this Hebraism denotes; his prayer was fervent, and it was constant, and importunate, and was continued till he had an answer: