



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 5:7-20

Lesson 12

“We must never think that patience is complacency. ‘Patience is endurance in action’.

It is not the Christian sitting in a rocking chair, waiting for God to do something.

It is the soldier on the battlefield, keeping on when the going is tough.

It is the runner on the racetrack, refusing to stop because he wants to win the race (Hebrews 12:1).

Too many Christians have a tendency to quit when circumstances become difficult. The saintly Dr. V. Raymond Edman, late president of Wheaton College, used to remind the students, ‘It is always too soon to quit.’”

Warren W. Wiersbe

DAY ONE: Review and Overview

1. Share a specific thing God showed you last week from the overview or your study from **James 4:13-5:6**.

2. Prayerfully read **James 5:7-20**. Remember to “*read with a purpose*” and note the *exhortations*. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in this week’s lesson in the chart below.

James 5:7-11	James 5:12-20
Segment Title:	

3. What two *people* were used as illustrations in this portion of James writing? List them here:
 - a.
 - b.

DAY TWO: James 5:7-9

1. Prayerfully read **James 5:7-9**. The coming of the Lord is a phrase repeated twice in this paragraph. James appeals to these early believers to be longsuffering and steadfast in their oppression and suffering in light of that hope. What does the phrase “*the coming of the Lord*” mean?
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:51**
 - b. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
 - c. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**
 - d. **1 Thessalonians 5:9**
 - e. **Luke 21:36**
2. Using your study tools, look up the definition for the following words:
 - a. ***Patient*** (#3114)
 - b. ***Wait*** (#1551)
 - c. How long are we to be patient according to **James 5:7-9**?
 - d. How does knowing Jesus is coming for you (His bride) encourage *patience* and *longsuffering* in your daily walk with God?
3. The farmer in Jesus’ time did his part in preparation for the precious harvest (establishing the soil) but he had to depend on God’s providential provision of rain for the germination of the seed and the maturing of the crop. Both the farmer and the Christian must work, wait, and live by faith. Meditate for a few moments on the phrase from **James 5:8** “*establish your hearts.*” What does this word ***establish*** (#4741) mean?

- a. What evidence of an established heart do you see in the following verses?
- 1) **Psalm 57:7**
 - 2) **Psalm 112:7-8**
 - 3) Who establishes our heart according to **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**?
4. Read **Proverbs 4:23**. In your own words state why an established heart is absolutely essential to a victorious Christian life.

*“It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus;
Life’s trials will seem so small when we see Christ.
One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race, ‘til we see Chrst.”*
E.K. Rusthoi

5. In **James 5:9** James insists on believers being patient with one another as well as with the oppressors mentioned in **verses 1-6**. Define the words below using your study tools.
- a. **Grumble** (*KJV Grudge*) #4727
 - b. **Judged** (*KJV Condemned*) #2919
 - c. What does **1 Corinthians 4:5** say about this?
6. What do you recall from the following verses that prompts you to obedience to **James 5:9**?
- a. **James 1:26**
 - b. **James 2:8b**
 - c. **James 2:12**
 - d. **James 4:11-12**
7. It is so easy to slip into a grumbling, complaining or blaming mode and it often seems so difficult to refrain from criticizing or complaining. Using the following letters, write an acronym or acrostic to help imprint this verse on your mind.
- G
R
U
D
G
E**

*“Watch and be wise for the Lord, the True Judge,
is right there listening to what you are saying.
He’s right there at the door.” Pastor Chuck Smith*

DAY THREE: James 5:10-12

1. Prayerfully read James 5:10-12 and then look up the following words using your study tools.
 - a. **Suffering Affliction** (#2552)

 - b. **Patience** (#5281) - (*of Job*)

2. The patient endurance in trials has made the prophets role models for us. They teach by their example how suffering and affliction are to be endured. Read **Hebrews 11:32-38** and record what these men did and what they suffered.
 - a. What does **Hebrews 11:39** reveal about these men that makes their example all the more powerful? (See also **Luke 10:24**).

3. Do you believe the God that was with the Prophets (in their far more fierce and desperate arena) is the same God that is with us today and is able to deliver us from any situation that may occur?

4. **James 5:11** indicates that there are blessings in trials. How does **James 1:2, 12** confirm and amplify this?
 - a. What have you discovered through your patient endurance in affliction or trials that has been a blessing? Share with your group.

 - b. What do you learn about endurance and joy from Jesus’ example in **Hebrews 12:2**?

5. James uses Job as an example of patience. What does **Job 1:20-22** reveal about Job as he endured all the losses recorded in **verses 13-19**? Read the entire chapter if you can.
 - a. After Job’s health was gone, what did his wife tell him to do in **Job 2:9**?

 - b. What was Job’s answer in **verse 10**?

 - c. What example from Job’s life can you draw from **Job 13:5**?

- d. How did the Lord recompense Job for his patience (endurance)? Summarize your answer from **Job 42:10-13**.
- e. What glorious revelation of the Lord was given to Job through his sufferings according to **Job 42:1-5**? And what was his response to this revelation according to **Job 42:6**?
6. At the end of **James 5:11** we see that James reveals something about our Lord. What is it?
- a. What do you learn about these traits of our Lord from the following verses?
- 1) **Psalm 103:4b**
 - 2) **Lamentations 3:21-26**
7. Do a word study on these two traits of our Lord using your study tools.
- a. **Compassionate – Pitiful** KJV (#4148)
- b. **Merciful** – (#3627)
- c. When you go through suffering, sickness or trials, what does knowing this about your Lord mean to you?
8. Bible scholars differ on the specific meaning of **James 5:12**. Some believe the context of this verse is in reference to the preceding exhortations on *patience* and the *tongue*. The word *swear* in this verse does not mean to use vulgar or obscene language although it could be expanded to forbid that too. It is used to forbid the use of oaths to backup or validate a statement. In the time of James' writing it was a common practice for the Jews to swear oaths to make an agreement binding but often they used evasive swearing as a manipulative tactic so the oath wouldn't be binding or to impress the listener with the "truth" of what they were saying. But this verse is not an injunction against the requirement of taking an oath in a courtroom. It is to teach the believers to control their tongues and let their godly character be the guarantee of any statement they make. Summarize what the following verses teach about this:
- a. **Exodus 20:7**
- b. **Matthew 5:33-37**
- c. **Matthew 23:16-22**

“Nothing is important but the eternal.”
Amy Carmichael

DAY FOUR: James 5:13-15

1. Prayerfully read **James 5:13-15**. Concentrate on the intensely practical instruction of James 5:13-14a. Record it in the following chart. You may want to underline *let him* in your Bible. Especially note the condition and the responsibility of the believer:

Is any...?	Let him...

2. Using your study tools, do a word study on the following words and record your findings.
 - a. **Trouble - Afflicted** KJV (#2553)
 - b. **Happy - Merry** KJV (#2114)
 - c. **Sick** (#2770)
 - d. What are we prone to do when we are afflicted or sick, physically or emotionally?

3. There are a number of Hebrew and Greek words that we categorize *affliction* in English. Each has a little different shade of meaning. They describe suffering, troubles, grief, oppression, distress, or breaking. Select a few of the following verses, all if you have time, and record what they teach about *afflictions* of various kinds. Highlight the one or two that speak to your heart. You may want to commit one to memory!
 - a. **Psalm 18:6-7**
 - b. **Psalm 22:24**
 - c. **Psalm 23:4**
 - d. **Psalm 34:6-10**
 - e. **Psalm 34:17-20**
 - f. **Psalm 138:7-8**
 - g. **Isaiah 41:10**
 - h. **Isaiah 43:1-2**

4. Often when things are going well, we forget God. It is easy to take things for granted when we have good health or the things we want, etc. What attitude does the Bible say we are to have and what actions are we to take when things are seemingly easy for us?

5. Look up the following verses and choose one or two that minister to your heart to highlight.
 - a. **1 Chronicles 16:8-9**

 - b. **Psalm 9:2**

 - c. **Psalm 95:2-7**

 - d. **Psalm 15:1-5**

 - e. **Ephesians 5:18-20**

6. If a Christian is sick, what does **James 5:14** say he/she is to do?
 - a. What are the *Elders* to do?

 - b. Why does James call on the *Elders* to pray? (You may want to look at **1 Timothy 3:1-7**, **Titus 1:7-9** and **Acts 6:4** to help with your answer).

 - c. The oil is symbolic of the power of the Holy Spirit. The oil represents the fact that God's work is not accomplished through man's strength. The Lord is the one who determines the healing; it's not the elders who pray or the oil that accomplishes the healing. In other words there is nothing magical about the oil itself. We anoint with oil simply out of obedience to what the Bible tells us to do. If the person being prayed for is sick because of sin in his life, what does **James 5:15b** say will happen?

7. **James 5:14-15** is not meant to prohibit believers from praying for one another. Nor is it meant to prohibit a believer from going to a doctor. Do you have an experience of Elders anointing you with oil and being healed? If it is not too personal, share it with your group!

*“Were half the breath that’s vainly spent,
 To heaven in supplication sent,
 Our cheerful song would more often be,
 ‘Hear what the Lord has done for me.’”*

- G. Rolling

DAY FIVE: James 5:16-20

1. Prayerfully read **James 5:16-20**. Some Bible scholars connect **James 5:16a with 5:15b**. They believe that faults (sins) such as bitterness, anger, or unforgiveness have caused sickness, and until the sick one makes things right with the one he is holding these feelings against, he will not be healed. Certainly we know these things can make us sick. Whether this particular verse applies to this or not, explain why a believer is to let go of these sins according to **Ephesians 4:30-32**.
 - a. In what way does **Hebrews 12:13-15** amplify the ultimate purpose for confession and prayer?

2. **James 5:16** says, *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* The word righteous might cause us to feel “excluded”. Who does James use as an example of a righteous man in **verse 17** and what does he say about him that encourages you?

3. Speaking of the Righteousness of Christ being imputed to Abraham because of his faith, what does **Romans 4:23-25** say about the relationship of Righteousness to every believer?

4. What does **James 5:17-18** say happened when Elijah prayed?
 - a. How does this encourage you?

 - b. Can you think of a time you prayed fervently for something and were able to see it come to pass? Share this with your group to encourage others to be steadfast in prayer...knowing that God is faithful!

5. At the close of **verse 18** you can sense James calling the believers to prayer. When you think about the power in prayer and its effectiveness in any situation, whether to bring healing of the body or soul, restoration to marriages or other soured relationships, comfort to the bereaved, help for the helpless, return to the Lord of the backslidden, release of Satan’s grip on loved ones and friends, what is the cause of neglecting this most important ministry and privilege of all believers?

6. According to **James 5:19-20**, what is our responsibility when we see another believer wander from the truth?

7. Saving souls and covering sins is God's work. Only the Lord can truly save anyone, but He uses Christians as His instruments on earth to reach the backslidden Christian and the unsaved. Christ's love in our hearts should motivate us to go to those who stray from the truth, seeking reconciliation with God. Often the backslider does not want to hear the truth, yet, it is our responsibility to pray for that one and do our utmost to see him/her turn back to the truth. How does **John 15:12-13** encourage you to reach the straying believer?
- a. According to **2 Timothy 2:24-26**, with what attitude is the servant of the Lord to instruct those who oppose the truth whether they are straying believers or have never been born again?
8. Let's finish our study by looking up **Hebrews 13:8-9** noting what it is that establishes our heart to keep in sound doctrine!

*“What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bare!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bare,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!”*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find friends so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer”.*

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