

JAMES
The Christian Response to Suffering
James 5:7-12
October 15th, 2023

The Christian Response to Suffering...

- **Be Patient and Wait (vv. 7-8a)**

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ^{8a} You also, be patient.

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4 (ESV)

- **Be Courageous and Committed (v. 8b)**

^{8b} Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV)

- **Be Kind to Each Other (v. 9)**

⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers,

so that you may not be judged;

behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

“Bear with one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2 (ESV)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing.” Philippians 2:14 (ESV)

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

- **Be Steadfast (v. 10-11)**

¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job,

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)

and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,

how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

- **Be Honest and Straightforward in Speech (v. 12)**

¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.”

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 (ESV)

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.” Habakkuk 3:17-18 (ESV)

“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” Job 1:21 (ESV)