

Faith ALIVE!

A study in the Book of James Lesson Seven

**Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship**

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A Study in the Book of JAMES

Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry

Lesson Seven

James 5:1-20

Summary: *This week we are warned against indulgence and injustice, and encouraged to be patient and to pray in faith.*

Step One: Read the Word

“In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3 (CSB)

This study uses the English Standard Version Bible translation (ESV), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the “who, what, where, when or how” of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, and circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Complete Step One by reading and marking up James Chapter 5, below, and answering the questions that follow.

<p>James 5 English Standard Version</p> <p>Warning to the Rich</p> <p>¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.</p>	
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Patience in Suffering

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. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 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, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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.

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Step 1 Questions:

1. Summarize James' concern for the rich in the first 6 verses of Chapter 5. What is their chief sin?

2. See verses 7-11.
 - a. What virtue should a Christian have? (Verse 7)

 - b. Who is he or she waiting for? (Verses 7-8)

 - c. What examples of patience are we given?

 - d. What should we expect as a result of steadfastness? (Verse 11)

3. What does James warn us not to do in verse 12? What should we do?

4. See verses 13 and 14.
 - a. What should we do when we are suffering?
 - b. What should we do when we are cheerful?
 - c. What should we do when we are sick?
5. What should we do with one another? (Verse 16)
6. Who is our example of righteous prayer? How did he pray? (Verse 17)
7. What is the result of bringing a sinner back from their wandering? (Verses 19-20)

Step 2: Consider the Word

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16 (CSB)

Re-read James Chapter 5 and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the English Standard Version (ESV) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1. **Rich versus Poor – Verses 1-6.** James earlier addressed the rich versus the poor in Chapter 2, verses 1-7. His chief concern in those verses was the favoritism he was seeing in the church for the rich over the poor.
 - a. How would you summarize the concern James is addressing in Chapter 5:1-5?
 - b. Why do you think James is so sure that the greedy and unjust rich would be appropriately judged by God if they do not repent of their sin? Look up the following verses to help with your answer:

Leviticus 19:13:

Proverbs 21:13:

Proverbs 22:8:

(Question 1 cont.)

c. How do you think the poor in James' congregation would have been encouraged by James' warning to the rich?

2. **Patience in Suffering – Verses 7-11.**

a. Why do you think James follows up his warning to the rich with an encouragement to Christians to be patient in their suffering?

b. How is sowing and planting crops a good example of patience?

c. The Greek word for “establish” in verse 8 means to “make stable, render constant, make firm one’s mind.” How could establishing one’s heart help a Christian bear up under both difficult circumstances and difficult people? (Verses 8 and 9)

(Question 2 cont.)

d. See Galatians 5:22-25. What is the Holy Spirit's role in helping us to be patient? What is our role?

e. What must both the unrighteous wealthy and the Christian remember about the Lord's return? (Verse 9b)

3. **Oaths – Verse 12.** Why do you think insincere commitments made by oaths would be judged sinful? See Leviticus 19:12 and Matthew 5:33-37 to help with your answer.

4. **The Power of Prayer – Verses 13-18.**

a. How does prayer when we are suffering reflect a living faith? (Verse 13)

b. How does praise when we are cheerful reflect a living faith? (Verse 13)

(Question 4 cont.)

c. Verses 14-16 have been interpreted in many ways over the years, so we will spend some time discussing these verses in depth during our teaching time. But for now, let's look a little deeper to help us understand these verses better.

i. The word "sick" can be translated: without strength. Why do you think James tells us the elders of the church should be called to pray over a brother or sister who is without strength? What does the term "elder" imply? (Verse 14)

ii. Who is the One who raises the sick? (Verse 15)

iii. Do you think if God does not heal, it's the fault of those praying? What role does God's sovereignty play in healing?

(Question 4 (c) cont.)

iv. Based on the use of the word “if” in verse 15b, do you think sin is *always* the cause of sickness? (See also John 9:2-3). Can sin *sometimes* be the cause of sickness? (See John 5:14 and 1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

v. What are we assured of when we confess our sins? (Verse 15b, also see 1 John 1:9)

5. Concern for the Backslider – Verses 19-20.

a. James has raised several ways that a believer could wander from the truth in this letter. In what ways does concern for someone who has wandered from the faith show that the one who cares has a living faith?

b. Who do we look like when we care for and pray for those who have wandered from the truth? (Luke 15:1-6)

Memory Verse: “You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:8)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step 3: Walk in the Word

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...” Philipplians 1:27 (ESV)

Re-read James Chapter 5 and answer the questions below

1. Is there an area of injustice in your life that holds you back spiritually because you can't forgive it and/or can't commit it to our Just Judge? Confess it to God and ask Him to help you trust that He sees the injustice and will right that injustice someday in His timing.

2. In what ways are you struggling with patience, either with people or circumstances? What practical steps can take to “establish” your heart so that you can endure with patience?

3. Think of an instance or instances where you have prayed in faith and the Lord did “exceedingly more than you could ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20). Note it below. How does this encourage you to ask for prayer and pray for others?

Write the memory verse below:

**Memory Verse: “You also, be _____ . Establish your
_____, for the _____ of the Lord is at
_____.” (James 5:8)**

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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