

Enduring James 5

Key Question: How do you endure in suffering?

We must learn to Endure. (Jn 16:33, Acts 14:22)

A biblical approach to suffering does not end suffering but it gives us purpose and meaning to it.

- I. Take a godly approach to suffering.
 - a. Think like a Farmer. James 5:7-8
 - i. Farmers keep the big picture in mind.
 1. Three times James reminded us of the coming of the Lord (James 5: 7–9)
 2. James used two different words for patience. James 5: 7– 8, 10 “long-tempered”. James 5: 11 “to remain under”
 - ii. Farmers know the result is worth the labor
 1. In Christ your suffering can be redeemed and used for a greater good.
 - b. As you endure in suffering don't bite each other's heads off. James 5:9
 - i. God wants his fruit to be displayed in your trials
 - ii. In trials we face a pressure that causes temptation.
 - c. Look to Godly examples (prophets) James 5:10-11
 - i. When you endure suffering it demonstrates 2 things.
 1. #1 in your suffering your profession is demonstrated as a possession to others.
 2. #2 You see the genuineness of your own belief. When your faith is something you are willing to pay for it is something that is genuine.
 - ii. The faithfulness of the past saints is an example for godly living. Rom. 15: 4
 - d. Job. James 5:12
 - i. Job is the ultimate example of suffering. Job 13: 15, Rev 22:12
 - ii. God never wastes the suffering of His saints. Psalm 23
- II. Utilize prayer for strength in suffering.
 - a. God uses prayer to heal our suffering James 5:13-16
 - i. This can be a difficult passage to understand
 - ii. This passage has been abused
 1. Here is what it does not mean: “everyone will be healed from everything with prayer and oil.”
 - iii. What the passage means
 1. #1 anointing oil is the Greek word for “medical oil”
 2. #2 God can heal
 3. #3 WE can trust God through supernatural Healing and/or Medical healing.
 4. #4The healing may not always be a physical healing
 - a. Paul was not physically healed from His “thorn” though he was spiritually strengthened to endure. 2 Cor 12:7-10
 - b. Timothy was not physical healed but took “medication” 1st Tim 5:23
 - c. We will all be healed one day but on this earth it may not happen physically but spiritually 2 Cor 4:16
 - b. James offers further Encouragement to pray:
 - i. Elijah saw God move in mighty was through prayer. James 5:17-18
 - ii. We can see lives changed like Elijah. James 5:19-20