

Patience in Times of Adversity



James 5:7-11

- We started a Series “Anchored Through Adversity.”
 - Purpose – to teach us how to overcome the tests and trials while remaining anchored in Jesus Christ and His promises.
 - Goal – to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ so that we don’t lose hope in times of adversity.
- The Lessons Learned:
 - What does the word “adversity” mean?
 - A state of hardship, difficulty, affliction, misfortune, or tragedy that one deal with in life.
 - It is true that one of the best tests of a believer’s maturity is trials and tribulations. (James 1:2-4)
 - Tests and trials also help strengthen our faith and develop Christian character in us.
 - 1. The Joy in Times of Adversity (James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:1-3)
 - James use the word “count” or another way to put is to consider is a great joy when you experience various trials...
 - The Greek word for “joy” means joyful, cheerful, gladness, or to rejoice.
 - 2. Trusting God in Times of Adversity (Proverbs 3:5-7)
 - Trust is the single most important factor in any relationship. If you don’t have trust you don’t have much of a relationship.
 - Trusting in God is more than words we say, it’s about believing who God is and what God says in His Word.
 - What does it mean to “trust” God?
 1. The Hebrew meaning for the word “trust” means to lie down on or to put your entire weight on something.
 2. The word “trust” means to believe in the reliability, truth, ability and strength of someone or something.
 - It means to be confident in; to depend on, to hope in, be secure, to rely on or the truth of.
 - It means to believe confidently in the ability, character, integrity and trustworthiness of a person.

- Trusting God and His Word means believing in His Name, His reliability, His Word, His ability to keep His promises and His presence and power working on my behalf.
3. Growing in Times of Adversity. (James 1:2-4)
- One vital element of tests and trials is our response to them. (James 1:2-4)
 - God will test our heart and teach the heart during a season of growth in our lives.
 - God will use every test and trial to prepare us for our next assignment. If we don't pass God's test, we have to retake it again.
 - God will use every test and trial in order to refine us and define Himself to us, so that Christ can be reflected in us and through us. (1 Peter 1:6-9)
 - Tests and trials not only reveal character, but they can also help develop character in us.
 - The question for every believer will be our response toward adversity. "It will either make you or break you."
 - The Holy Spirit can use every adverse situation that we face in this life to develop Christ's character in our lives.

Patience in Times of Adversity

James 5:7-11-4

- As a reminder, we share with you that trials and tribulations come with their own unique set of challenges.
- The joy is that every believer can live an overcoming life in Jesus Christ.
- Every believer can have a wonderful journey in the Lord in spite of suffering, persecution, and trials of life.

A. Apostle James teaches us how believers can live victoriously no matter how disruptive and challenging life's trials can be. (James 5:7-11)

1. The believer must be patient. (vs. 7)

- The word "patience" means longsuffering, bearing and suffering a long time, persevering, being constant, steadfast, and enduring.
 - This type of "patience" is a necessary requirement for all believers no matter the test, trial, temptation or tribulation.
 - This type of "patience" is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - The Holy Spirit stirs the heart of the believer to continue patiently and steadfastly in times of adversity.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens the heart of the believer to continue trusting and believing that the will of God would be done and victory shall be won.
 - The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the eternal promises of God for every true believer. (Ephesians 1:14)
 - The Holy Spirit empowers believers to victory and not defeat. The believer walks patiently and humbly before the Lord as the Holy Spirit dismantles every plot and plan of the enemy.
- 2. The believer must be patient, persevere or have spiritual endurance through persecution, trials, and suffering.**
- 3. The believer is encouraged to remain patient. God will be our help and strength during these times of adversity. (Psalm 46:1)**
- 4. What the believer needs to know in this season of growth and what God expects of them.**
- God always operates according to His Sovereign will and not ours. (Isaiah 55:8-9, 11)
 - God is not obligated to do anything outside of His perfect timing.
 - God will never violate His word.

B. How can believers endure patiently in times of adversity?

1. By keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus Christ until His return. (vs. 7)

- Paul has a clear message for Timothy and every true believer of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 2:1-4)

- a) A good soldier of Jesus Christ is not attracted and distracted by the cares of life in this present world.
 - b) A good soldier of Jesus Christ is not preoccupied nor entangled by the riches and pleasures in the world. (Mark 8:35-37)
 - c) A good soldier of Jesus Christ is completely focused on doing the will of God and pleasing Him who called us.
 - Apostle John warns us against being drawn into the cares of this world, because of the affect it can have on the believer's life. (1 John 2:15-17)
1. Satan is the god of this world system. He is actively at work influencing the systems of this world through lies and deceit. (1 John 5:19)
 2. Apostle John reminds us that this world and all that it contains is temporary and will pass away. But those who do the will of God, will abide (dwell, live, remain) with Him forever. (1 John 2:17)
 3. The work of Christ should never cease in your life and neither should your spiritual health suffer.
 4. Let us remain alert and prepared by not allowing ourselves to be distracted and lured away by the things of this world.
 5. God's Word encourages every believer to work their garden no matter how big or small it may be. We should bring it to a much better state. (Genesis 2:15)
 6. Be faithful unto the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly both in season and out of season; through the good times and the worst of times. (2 Timothy 4:2, James 2:17-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11)
 7. God's favor is firmly attached to His work in the believer's life. (Psalm 90:17, Proverbs 16:3, Proverbs 18:16)
 - Christ has given believers His Word. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 2:15)
- 1) The Word of God strengthens the believer's faith. (Romans 10:17, Psalm 119:49-50)
 - 2) The Word of God provides guidance for the believer's life. (Psalm 119:105)
 - 3) The Word of God instructs believers how they should live. (Psalm 119:11, 1 Timothy 6:14)

- 4) The Word of God teaches believers to deny every form of ungodliness. (Titus 2:12-13)
- 5) The Word of God encourages believers to endure patiently until the Lord returns. (1 John 2:28, 1 Peter 3:14-17)
- 6) God's Word provides spiritual nourishment to our spiritual life and development. (Matthew 4:4)

2. By being patient as the farmer. (vs. 7)

- The farmer is a good example of the kind of patience that believers must have.
- The farmer plants his seed responsibly and waits patiently for the early rain to germinate the seed and the latter rain to ripen the crop.
- The farmer plants with great expectation as he eagerly awaits the day of harvest.
- The farmer plants with great awareness.
- The farmer never wavers regardless of what challenges he faces.

3. By being patient with our hearts established upon the Lord. (vs. 8)

- Believers must stand firm. (vs. 8)
- To establish or stand firm means to set upon; to fix upon or to make fast.
- The believer must set their hearts upon the Lord, for Christ is soon to return!
- The believer must draw near to the Lord, as His return draws near and could come at any moment.
- The believer must remain faithful and continue in the work of the Lord until the coming of Lord.
- The believer must be focused and heart firmly fixed upon the Lord daily, just as a farmer patiently waits for the great day of harvesting.

4. The believer must not grumble and complain. (vs. 9)

- Stop complaining and murmuring about your situation. (Philippians 2:14)
- Stop blaming each other.

- This is a strong warning to believers. God is watching and listening. The Lord will condemn those who grumble, murmur and complain about everything.
5. By being patient as the prophets who also endured affliction (vs. 10-11).
- Apostle James wants believers to pay close attention to what the Old Testament believers did while facing adversity. Here are Two things we must remember.
- 1) They spoke boldly in the Name of Jesus. (vs. 10) (Acts 4:15-20, 14:1-3, Hebrews 4:16, Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 124:8)
- Because of their willingness to remain patient and persevere through it, they bore the testimony that God will bring deliverance and victory in every storm or battle.
- 2) They were blessed by God. (vs. 11)
- James uses the life of Job as an example to all believers that in spite of affliction, suffering, test, trials and temptations – God is merciful and full of compassion. (Job 1-2, 42)
 - In spite all that Job had to endure, he never lost faith in God. (Job 13:15)
 - Job endured every test, trial and temptation that God allowed Satan to take him through. God blessed Job double for all his trouble.
- 3) They never lost their confidence in God. There are Nine Assurances that every believer must be confident in.
- God loves us. (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 John 4:9-10)
 - God is for us. (Romans 8:31)
 - God will reward us. (Hebrews 10:35-38)
 - God will strengthen us. (Psalm 46:1)
 - God is working in us. (Philippians 1:6)
 - God is with us. (Joshua 1:9, Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:16)
 - God will keep His Word and His promises. (Hebrews 10:23)
 - God will answer prayer. (1 John 5:14-15)
 - God knows everything we have been through, going through and will go through.

B. What is the significance of having confidence in God in times of adversity? (Hebrews 10:35-38)

- (vs. 35-36) – “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise”
- 1. The Hebrew writer makes known the situations and concerns that he had for believers who had endured hardship and sufferings for their faith in God. (vs. 35-36)
 - (vs. 35) – “Therefore, do not cast away your confidence...”
 - To “cast away something” means to throw away, to discard, to get rid of something no longer desired, needed or wanted.
 - The Greek word for “confidence” means boldness. It carries the meaning of being blunt, direct, forthright, and straight to the point.
 - The Hebrew writer has a strong message to these believers who had endured hardship and suffering, but may now be experiencing physical tiredness and spiritually weariness. This was a message that they needed to hear.
 - “Don’t throw away, discard, dispel, dismiss, or get rid of your faith and confidence in God and His promises.” (vs. 35)
 - The Hebrew writer’s message is clear to these believers, that they should continue boldly in professing, declaring and laying claim to the promises of God’s Word for their lives. (vs. 36)
 - These believers were encouraged to endure hardship and remain faithful to the call of God.
 - These believers were encouraged to stand boldly upon God’s Word and remain strong in their belief in God’s promises.
 - These believers were encouraged to hang on to everyone of God’s faithful promises.
 - The believer can stand with confidence in God’s plan, purpose, protection and promises without wavering. (Psalm 118:1-9)