



Sunday April 10, 2022
James Chapter 5

The Abusive Rich (5:1-6)

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

5:1-3 James is addressing those who have made themselves rich by exploiting their workers. While these people may be very comfortable at the moment, James announces that their time of reckoning is coming – where they would be miserable, would weep and howl.

This is what will happen on judgment day, when God holds them to account for their ill-treatment and exploitation. All their riches will turn to nothing and cannot help them.

- Riches are corrupted – their riches will turn to nothing
- Garments are moth eaten – their rich garments will turn to tatters
- Gold and silver are corroded – normally gold and silver do not corrode as they do not oxidize easily. Hence, when James states that their gold and silver are corroded, it is the ‘impossible’ happening, depicting that what we consider so precious today, will be considered nothing at the time of judgment.

5:4 This verse is key. The rich people James is addressing have exploited and held back the wages of their workers, deceitfully. He warns that the pain of the injustice they have experienced have gone up before God. It is interesting that James should reference the Hebrew title “The Lord of Hosts” or “Jehovah Sabaoth”. The Lord of Sabaoth means “the Lord of the armies,” especially heavenly and angelic armies. It describes God as the warrior, the commander-in-chief of all heavenly armies. This God, who is the Lord of Hosts will avenge those who have been exploited. This is truly a picture of the Lord coming with His heavenly armies (Jude 1:14-15; Revelation 19:14).



5:5-6 While the abusive rich live in pleasure and luxury, their victims are voiceless. They remain silent. They are unable to resist or fight back in any way.

We need to highlight here that James is not teaching us that riches and wealth are wrong in themselves, per se. Instead, he is addressing those who have made their wealth through oppression, exploitation, and unjust means.

The matter about correctly handling riches and wealth is a big topic that we will address at another time. However, we know that the Scriptures teach us that God is the One who blesses His people, provides for us, and causes us to prosper in all areas. He has instructed us to do our work with honesty and integrity and to be generous according to the ability each one has. And most importantly, we are instructed to keep our love for God above all else.

While You Patiently Endure (5:7-12)

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.

11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

James now turns his attention to those being oppressed.

In this passage (5:7-12) James urges these four responses in view of suffering such injustice, mistreatment, and hardships:

- Be patient, know that the Lord is coming to judge
- Do not murmur, knowing that brings judgment
- Persevere, know that the end will be good, filled with His compassion and mercy



- Do not swear, so you do not become hypocritical

5:7-8 Twice in these two verses he urges us to “be patient” in view of the coming of the Lord. The Lord will return, and the Lord will judge on behalf of His people.

He points to the farmer waiting for the harvest, until the early and latter rain have fallen, as an example for us believers. The farmer goes through the process of hard work, waits for the rain to fall, and then enjoys the rewards of his labor, the harvest. Similarly, for the believer, harvest time will come. We will receive our reward when the Lord comes.

It is interesting that James used the picture of the farmer, the falling of the early and latter rain, in connection with the coming of the Lord. The thought here is that after the latter rain falls, harvest time comes, which is associated with the coming of the Lord. Hence, while not a direct reference, we can draw the association of a spiritual latter rain, and harvest before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Israel, the early rain fell sometime in October-November, during seed time, preparing the ground to receive the seed. Then the latter rain fell sometime in March-April to ripen the grain, just before harvest. The latter rain and harvest is something to expect before the coming of the Lord!

5:9 In view of the coming of the Lord, do not grumble, murmur, or complain against one another. Here is another instruction we need to take seriously. Consider the situation James has just addressed – abusive employers. Obviously, some believers are being mistreated. They are having a difficult time. James has encouraged them to “be patient”. And he goes on to tell them not to grumble, murmur and complain about one another. Remember, earlier in chapter 4 he had stated: *“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren.”* (4:11). He extends that instruction teaching us not to murmur or complain about one another.

Now, if something is wrong, we must address it. We must call out wrongdoing and address the matter. We exercise our rights and civil liberties wherever appropriate. However, grumbling, murmuring, and complaining about another is speaking ill of another, without working towards addressing the main problem. Murmuring is gossip that maligns, defames, and discredits another, without making efforts to address the real issue.

James warns us that murmuring and complaining only puts us into condemnation (sentenced, condemned, punished, declared guilty). God, the great Judge, is standing at the door, and will hold us accountable.



We learn in other places in Scripture the dangers of murmuring, grumbling, and complaining. The apostle Paul points us to the Old Testament informing us that some faced destruction due to their murmuring and complaining.

1 Corinthians 10:10

nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

We are encouraged to do things without complaining, murmuring, and arguing so that we can demonstrate ourselves as children of God and shine as lights where God has placed us.

Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

5:10-11 Endurance and perseverance are common themes in the book of James. He mentioned this in chapter 1, as he spoke to us about (A)endurance through trials and (B)endurance through temptations. And now, in chapter 5, James speaks of (C)endurance through suffering mistreatment and (D)endurance in prayer.

He points us to the life example of the Old Testament prophets who were persecuted and still endured. It is good to draw inspiration from the lives of those who have followed God faithfully.

James points us specifically to Job. He encourages us to follow Job's example of perseverance through his hardships, and points to the good things the Lord blessed Job with at the end of his time of suffering. Job received twice as much as he had before and was blessed even more than at the beginning (Job 42:10,12).

Now the words "*intended by*" (5:11) in the NKJV can be misleading. It seems to indicate that the Lord put all that suffering on Job because God intended that for Job, to achieve something else. These words are in italics, indicating that they were introduced by the translators and were not there in the original Greek text. So, we must recognize that the troubles Job faced were brought upon him by Satan, and God overrode all that Satan did and blessed Job much more than all the evil the enemy had done.



In similar manner, the glory that we shall see, which the Lord will give to us, is far greater than our present troubles. And therefore, we persevere through all hardships.

5:12 We have covered the first three of four instructions James gives in view of suffering:

- Be patient, know that the Lord is coming to judge
- Do not murmur, knowing that brings judgment
- Persevere, know that the end will be good, filled with His compassion and mercy
- Do not swear, so you do not become hypocritical

It is interesting that the fourth instruction is “*do not swear*”. He emphasizes the importance of this by stating “but above all, my brethren”. Take this as most important. “Do not swear”. Traditionally, the Jews were known to swear, to prove in some way the validity or authenticity of their statements. James instructs us to just say yes or no and keep the word you have given. This is very similar to what the Lord Jesus taught in Matthew 5:33-37. The reason he instructs believers not to swear, is so that they do not fall into judgment (hypocrisy, deceit).

Taken in context, do not swear even under pressure, even under suffering. Just state your yes or no and stay with what you have said.

Praying In Different Situations (5:13-18)

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

As James prepares to conclude his epistle, he goes back to the very important topic of prayer. In chapter 1, he began his epistle with prayer, pointing us to ask God for wisdom. In conclusion, he once again speaks about prayer.



We can outline what James states in this passage 5:13-18 as insights on how to pray in different situations.

We can list these as:

- When suffering - you pray
- When cheerful - you sing
- When sick - get people to pray the prayer of faith over you
- When at fault - pray with someone
- In all situations - be effectual, fervent, and persistent in prayer

5:13 If anyone is going through suffering (hardship), James tells us to pray. In Chapter 1, James taught us to (A)count it all joy when we face trials. In Chapter 5, he instructs us to (B)be patient and persevere in suffering. And now, he teaches us (C)to pray.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

How does praying help in suffering? What does praying accomplish, especially, when we are going through tough times?

While we do not have time to expand and explain each of these 5 aspects in depth, we state these briefly, so we understand how important it is to pray, especially when we are going through difficult times in life:

1, We draw strength from God – we know that as we wait upon the Lord, we renew our strength. As we pray in tongues, our inner person is edified.

2, We unburden through prayer – we lay our cares, our anxieties, that matters that trouble our soul, as His feet.

3, We hear from God in prayer – God speaks to us giving us the wisdom, direction, counsel we need as we journey through life's challenges.

4, We establish God's will on earth through prayer – God reveals His will in His Word, or through what He has spoken to our hearts. Through prayer we establish and enforce that here on earth.

5, We effect change in the spiritual realm through prayer – there may be demonic powers hindering, opposing, obstructing, etc. and we thwart their efforts as we exercise our spiritual authority using the weapons God has given to us.

Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

This is a way for us to worship, honor, give thanks and praise to God.

5:14-15 The third situation is sickness.

This time we call for others to pray the prayer of faith to effect healing.

The key is to pray the prayer of faith or pray in faith. Both those doing the praying and the one who needs healing must be in faith – believing God to do the work of healing.



We pray anointing with oil and in the name of the Lord Jesus. Oil symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Notice that verse 5:15 states “will save” and “will raise” in connection with healing. There is not a maybe, or a might be.

These verses are one of the many passages in the Bible that prove to us that God desires for people to be healed and well.

5:16 James now speaks about prayer if there is trespasses or faults. The Greek literally means a sin, misdeed, lapse, error, slip, offence, false step. James instructs us to confess faults to one another and pray for one another, so we can be healed.

So how does praying with another believer help, in a matter like this?

If a believer is held by some besetting sin that has overpowered them, sharing about it to another mature believer, and receiving prayer will empower one to overcome and “be healed” (cured, made whole), fully restored. We strengthen each other to overcome sin and walk victorious.

Also, if this trespass, is against another believer, where one person’s fault has offended another person, confessing, and praying together heals the relationship, strengthens the body of Christ and removes any hindrances to receiving personal healing.

Now we need to understand this action of confessing sin to one another, in the light of the rest of Scripture. We know only God can forgive sin, and sins are forgiven only on the basis of what Jesus did for us on the Cross. Sins are not forgiven by another believer or because we went through the action of confession and praying with another believer.

5:16b-18 James now stresses the importance of effective, fervent, and persistent prayer.

In all situations, in suffering, in cheerfulness, in ministering to a sick one, in praying with a fallen one, we must do so with effective, fervent and persistent prayer.

The words “effective, fervent” in English is one word in Greek (*energeo*) meaning to be active, efficient, to be mighty in, to put forth power, to release energy and efficiency. This is prayer that is divinely energized releasing God’s power and energy.

In verse 5:17 the words “prayed earnestly” is literally “prayed with prayer”. James is pointing to Elijah and how he prayed his prayers. We understand from 1 Kings 18, where



we have a record of Elijah praying for rain, that he was persistent and unwilling to quit even when he did not see immediate effect of his prayer. The word 'persistent' may be better suited than the word 'earnest' to characterize how Elijah prayed. We must pray as Elijah prayed.

We are to pray, being divinely energized, releasing God's power and energy, and remaining persistent in our praying in this manner in all situations.

This prayer has to be undergirded by a righteous life – living right. Hence James states that the prayer made by a righteous one.

James teaches us that such praying "avails much" meaning has tremendous, supernatural, powerful outcomes.

5:16b Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

Restoring A Wandering Believer (5:19-20)

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

James concludes his epistle rather abruptly, but on a very sober note. He recognizes that believers can wander from the truth. But it is our responsibility to look out for one another, and if we get them to return to the truth, we would be instrumental in rescuing someone from eternal death and bringing them into God's grace and forgiveness.

SALVATION CALL

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12

If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6

If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12

If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12



If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says:

Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday April 10, 2022
James Chapter 5

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture reference: *James 5*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, James instructs us not to murmur (complain, grumble) even when we face mistreatment. Discuss this. A, What would be a better course of action instead of murmuring, when faced with mistreatment or injustice? B, What are the dangers (fallout) of murmuring the Scriptures warn us about?

2, Discuss praying in different situations (5:13-18)

- *When suffering - you pray. How does praying during suffering help?*
- *When cheerful - you sing. Why sing?*



- *When sick - get people to pray the prayer of faith over you. How do we pray the prayer of faith to effect healing?*
- *When at fault - pray with someone. How does confessing a fault and praying with another help?*
- *In all situations - be effectual, fervent, and persistent in prayer. What is one key takeaway as we observe how Elijah prayed for rain, on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18.*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON BRIEF

Epistle of James – A book study. James Chapter Two.

This is part-2 in this sermon series, a study of the book of James. James was possibly the first book of the New Testament to be written. Faith without works is dead. But how does faith work itself in everyday life situations? This is a key theme through the book of James as he tackles a range of daily life situations: trials, temptations, true religion, managing temper, taming the tongue, human relationships, desire for pleasures, prayer, being rich, being poor, wisdom, planning, and more. James shares in brief, what faith would look like in these situations. A simple, practical, and insightful book. A study you do not want to miss!

KEYWORDS

Book of James, Epistle of James, James chapter four, book study of James, verse by verse study of James, faith in everyday life, faith without partiality, faith without prejudice, faith and works, faith and corresponding actions



REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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