

## BE PATIENT UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD

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**James 5:7-20**

### **Be Patient and Persevering**

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

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 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.

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.

### **Meeting Specific Needs**

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. 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. 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. 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. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

### **Bring Back the Erring One**

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

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I've heard it said that if you want to get the gist of what a book is about you can just look at the first and last sentences in the paragraphs and the chapters. I confess that I have done that, to some degree, when having to read a bunch of books for school. You ever get tired of sludging through a book and just look to the end to see how it comes out? Yet with God's Word, the Scriptures, that we call the Holy Bible, you can possibly get by with looking at the highlights,

such as what I just said, or you can just read the book of John, over and over and over and over and be blessed, but the more you spend time in the Word, the more it becomes you, plain and simple. That is, if your motives are right, and you do have a heart for knowing God's Word, His Truth, and are looking for His guidance. As it has been said, the whole of God's Word is God's redemptive plan for mankind, His instruction manual, His love letter to His people. Hopefully you have discovered for yourself that God's Word truly is "living and active" as you have gotten to know God, trust Him, and honor Him. While we are waiting for that latter rain, or waiting for the coming of the Lord, we are told to be "patient in doing good" (**Romans 2:7**) which includes spending time in God's Word and in prayer, as we are always hopeful for God's mercies and grace-for salvations, deliverances, and healings.

What is quite apparent to us in the Psalms, as we looked at quite a few of them recently, is that we, being God's people, are ultimately intended by God to get to know Him (through His Word), to trust God, as all His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**) are perfect, and to honor God (not just with our lips but with our whole being, our lives being fully committed to Him). To know God does not just mean that we acknowledge God as existing, but that we not only recognize Him as God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, but we are then to live our lives according to Him being our Lord, God, and Savior. Many people get to acknowledging Him as their God and even as their Savior, yet never get to living their lives with God as their Lord, that is, the Lord of their lives. I'll get to why that is so important, besides the fact of it being God's purpose and will for us, but it ties in with how we can "be patient" "until the coming of the Lord."

**Romans 10:9-10** has been used by many in evangelizing, or preaching the gospel of Christ, and in leading others to Christ. It says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one **believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation.**" It can be understood from verse 10, that believing unto righteousness and confessing unto salvation, is that it is not just a one time experience, but that we become a testimony of Christ Jesus, and that we are being made to be like Christ, in a life-long process, as He works in us, believing unto righteousness, confessing unto salvation. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, God, through Christ, works in us His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. We don't just believe on Jesus and say, "thank You, Jesus", and then go live our lives however we want to. Throughout the Old Testament we have scores of examples of how that didn't bode well for God's people.

What tends to be overlooked in that passage of Scripture, in **Romans 10:9-10**, that, taken out of context, has led people to think that if we profess Jesus to be our Savior, then we are saved. You know, like saying the sinner's prayer and then you're good to go. Yet, it doesn't say that though, does it? It says, "that if you confess with your mouth the **Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." A reminder, that speaks to that, is what Jesus said, in rebuking the Jewish rulers. He said, in quoting Isaiah, "**These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.**" (**Matthew 15:8**) We are then, to be acknowledging Jesus as not only our Savior but also our Lord. Also, there were nine chapters prior to chapter ten in the book of Romans that have to be considered into the context of what Paul was saying in **Romans 10:9-10**. We can't just take one Scripture and establish doctrine from it. Doctrine, what is deemed to be an absolute truth of God's Word and an essential element to our faith, only comes forth from confirming it as agreeing with the whole of Scripture. One cannot honestly read the whole of Scripture and not come to an understanding that God intends to be our Lord, God, and Savior. We can look for other examples in Scripture that lead us to that understanding. As I already mentioned, the Psalms leads us to that same conclusion, such as with **Psalms 18** saying, "I will love You, O **LORD**, my strength. The **LORD** is my Rock and my Fortress and my **Deliverer** [anyone here need delivered from something?]; My **God**, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my **salvation**, my stronghold." (**Psalms 18:1-2**) There King David acknowledges God as His Lord, God, and Savior! All within those two verses! It is not in the word LORD that signifies David in speaking of God being His Lord. That word, LORD (all capital letters), being translated, is actually the tetragrammaton (meaning 4 letters), YHWH, that we transliterate into the name Yahweh, or Jehovah. It is though in David's reliance upon God as His Lord! Not only that, but David really acknowledges that God is his everything, just as Jesus said that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (not just in principles and philosophy) and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. (**John 14:6**) Jesus also tells us "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**" (**John 15:5**) The Holy Spirit that works in us, to those who have believed on Christ Jesus and received Him, bears the fruit of the Spirit with "joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) We need each of those elements to be who God intends for us to be as a child of God, so that we can be patient until the coming of the Lord. Jesus must be Lord of our lives for us to be patient until the coming of THE LORD.

For the record, the word "Lord" that Paul uses in saying "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus", is the Greek word "Kyrios" which means "Lord or Master" and is of the word "kyrios" which means

"a person exercising absolute ownership rights".<sup>1</sup> The Apostle Paul addressed that saying, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV) Paul said basically the same thing in Ephesians 1:13-14, "In Him [Christ Jesus] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession [we are His purchased possession], to the praise of His glory."

That may sound familiar to you with regards to Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Believing on Christ and receiving His Holy Spirit is what is called a covenant that we have with God through Christ Jesus. John 1:12-13 tells us, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." We are then also acknowledging Jesus' blood, and then His death and Resurrection, as being our redemption, and His Holy Spirit as being His confirmation, to which we are then God's possession (although we really always have been His-Psalm 24:1) Isn't the Word of God amazing, how with the Wisdom that comes from God, and through His Holy Spirit, His Word becomes alive and it becomes us?!

Our passage of Scripture for today starts off with a therefore. Therefore, pun intended, we would need to know what James said prior to that therefore. James was addressing those who were wealthy, saying "Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 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." While none of us here may not ever be labeled as being rich, in material possessions, it is still before us, in God's Word, to consider Jesus saying, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21) Consider this: your treasure being what Jesus said was the greatest commandment, to love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to also love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30-32) It is not in looking for adding another jewel to your crown. Jesus summed it up, by saying to not worry about

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1 <https://biblehub.com/greek/2962.htm>

what you may need, that God will provide for your needs and concludes, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:33-34)

Seeking the kingdom of God and His Righteousness isn't just for ourselves though, is it? That doesn't mean we shouldn't be praying for things like transportation, be it a bike or a car, or a place to live, or to desire some comforts such as a comfortable bed or something comfortable to sit in as we read His Word. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

While many around us may seem to have it better than us, we are then told, "Therefore be patient, brethren, [as those in Christ Jesus will be joint-heirs with Jesus-Romans 8:17] 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. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." Our focus is supposed to be on Jesus, ultimately, while we are here, for His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. Yet it is not just us against everyone else in the world. You are not alone in your suffering, grief, struggles, and heartache. Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother". His name is Jesus! As Jesus gave us the parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13), there are others around us bound for the glory of God, while there are also among us tares, which are basically weeds, that will be cast into the fire. It is not up to us to judge who is a tare and who is a wheat, or will become a wheat, therefore, "Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 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." If we see someone who seems to have things going against them, it is not up to us to declare that God is punishing them and just label them as a tare, and is headed to hell. Hopefully, they put their hope and trust in God, and that their deliverance is coming! But we are told to "exhort one another daily [meaning to encourage one another in gentleness and kindness, in love, encouraging each other toward Christ Jesus and His Word], while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13) "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord."

Some people around us make it quite clear about their living in sin, while there is also many who are good at hiding it. Nevertheless, we

all have to start somewhere, and that journey for each of us begins with Christ Jesus and ends with Christ Jesus. First we are either receiving Christ and His Word or rejecting Christ Jesus and His Word, and eventually we will all, individually, have to stand before Jesus. The Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 14:10-13**, "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." We don't want to add to anyone's bitterness or hate toward God by being obnoxious and unforgiving. That stumbling block can be anything that we are doing that leads someone else further into sin and/or not honoring God. That can be in gossip, slandering other people, which leads others into doing the same. That is a dangerous place to be. If you need to talk with someone, may you lean on Christ Jesus in His Wisdom to lead you. Or perhaps you just may need to stay away from certain persons and pray for them. As Jesus tells us, "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." (**Matthew 5:44**) If we are offended by every thing someone does to disrespect us, we will only become full of bitterness and unforgiveness. That doesn't mean the sadness and the hurt in our hearts isn't real. But taking it to the Lord in prayer and forgiving others will give us the peace of God that does indeed surpass all understanding. Bitterness and unforgiveness only really harms the one who is holding it. Other people may enjoy the challenge of going up against your bitterness or unforgiveness and may have a battle with you to determine who is more bitter or unforgiving. Yet, that won't profit either person but will only fuel their bitterness and unforgiveness. We are, as children of God, to be seeking God's kingdom and His Righteousness.

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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. 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. 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. 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. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 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."

I hope we are all praying for one another and encouraging one another as best as we know how and then being Christ's example of His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption and of His fruit of the Spirit. We are being told to be patient until the coming of the Lord. That means in our own struggles but also with one another. I'm not intending to minimize or dismiss what you are going through or that I don't have my own personal struggles. But I do know one thing-to cling to Jesus-as He is my Way, Truth, and Life. God is going to right the wrong, and will bring His perfection to us in healings, salvations, and deliverances-in His perfect time. Until then, we have to "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!", (**Psalm 27:14**) for our redemption is coming and His name is Jesus!