

# JAMES: BUILDING A FAITH THAT WORKS

JAMES 5:7-12 | NOVEMBER 2, 2025

PASTOR JASON UPTMORE

## PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

## THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. <sup>8</sup>You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

<sup>12</sup>But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

## REFLECT/CONNECT

- What's something that tests your patience, big or small?
- How have you seen someone display calm endurance and steady faith during a hard season? What stands out to you about their example?

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer, or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Father Son Campout

NOVEMBER 7 - 8

### Equip Moms

NOVEMBER 11 | 7 PM

### Echo Weekend

NOVEMBER 21 - 23

### Women's Christmas Gathering

DECEMBER 2 | 7 PM

Some events have registration requirements/deadlines, so be sure to check our website or app for more information and registration.



## GROW IN THE WORD

James calls believers to practice patience as they wait for the Lord's return, using the example of a farmer waiting for harvest to encourage them to strengthen their hearts. He commands them not to grumble against one another and points to the prophets as examples of steady faith in suffering. Finally, he highlights Job's endurance and the blessing he received, displaying God's compassion and mercy (v. 7-11).

- For how long does James instruct believers to "be patient"? What does this imply about life until Jesus comes back?
- How does the example of the farmer illustrate patient endurance? What might it look like for you to "strengthen your heart" in this current season? See also Hebrews 13:8-9; Psalm 119:27-28.
- In what areas of your life do you find it hard to be patient? How can James' instruction in these verses help in both being patient and avoiding complaints?

James ends this section of exhortations with a warning against making careless oaths. Instead of swearing by heaven or by earth, he calls believers to let their "yes be yes" and "no be no". Those who live in this way will not fall into judgment (v. 12).

- Why do you think James emphasizes honesty and simplicity when it comes to making an oath or promise? See also Matthew 5:33-37.
- What positive outcomes come from living with integrity in your words? How might that kind of honesty strengthen your relationships and reflect your faith in everyday life?
- What would it look like to let your words be few but trustworthy in your daily interactions?



## PRACTICE TOGETHER

- This week, practice patience in one specific area of life where you tend to rush or grow frustrated quickly. Pause, pray, and remind yourself of the Lord's faithfulness and timing.
- Look for one opportunity to practice honesty and simplicity in your speech, whether by keeping a promise, speaking truth kindly, or letting your "yes be yes" or "no be no". Reflect afterward on how it affected your relationships and faith.

This section provides an easy way to live out the truths of the passage in daily life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

