

## Lesson 8

# PERSEVERANCE THROUGH PRAYER

You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand  
(James 5:8).

### PERSEVERANCE: READ JAMES 5:7-12

James teaches us not to look to our wealth to save us but to be patient and persevere.

1. Write James 5:7.

What if the Lord had come back ten years ago? Where would you be? As the Lord has patience, we too should have patience about our circumstances and with others—until God comes back!

2. In light of James' instruction concerning patience and perseverance, what does he advise in James 5:9, and why?

God is so good, and we tend to look at the negative aspects of others that irritate or trouble us, and forget how much God has blessed. Negativity then becomes the main focus in our minds, and it causes us to lose the joy of God's blessings—and it could stumble us in times of trials and temptations, causing us to fall into judgment and condemnation.

3. James 5:10-11 gives an example of those who had patience and suffered. Write James 5:11.

These are good examples of men who learned to wait upon God. Job's end was more glorious than before his trial: he had more children and more riches. It takes great perseverance during a trial to know the end of the story, remembering God is compassionate and merciful.

4. Write James 5:12.

James makes a strong emphasis on avoiding oaths and swearing. He knows it can lead to a temptation to lie.

5. Write what Jesus said in Matthew 5:34, 37.

Usually, an oath is said when a person doubts your word. And of course, some will say, "I swear to you by God." James says you don't need to do that. Be a person of your word so that people can trust what you say. And when you say yes, then do it. If you say no, then stand by it. Jesus says, "Anything more is from the evil one."

We tend to get out of situations with our words instead of persevering through it.

**PRAYER: READ JAMES 5:13-18**

James brings up the necessity of prayer and its benefits while persevering through temptations.

6. Write James 5:13.

7. Write James 5:14.

James makes a correlation between sickness and the forgiveness of sin. There are some sicknesses directly attributable to sin, so there is a direct tie between the sin and the healing.

8. Write James 5:15.

We should only confess our sins to God. In James 5:16, he commands us to confess our trespasses (faults or mistakes—not sins) to each other—someone we trust. What happens when we do?

9. Write James 5:16.

An effectual, fervent prayer is from a sincere heart. It's a prayer that arises out of desperation or tremendous need. When it says to "pray earnestly," that means to pray continuously, again, and again. In times of trials and temptations, we should model this type of prayer. It has many benefits and advantages.

10. According to James 5:17-18, why did God answer Elijah's prayer?

**READ JAMES 5:19-20: TURN A FRIEND TO JESUS**

In closing, James instructs believers to encourage each other and pray for one another when we go through trials and temptations. James urges Christians to pray and to help backsliders return to God. By praying for the person, and acting in love, we can meet the person where he or she is and bring him or her back to God and His forgiveness.

11. Write James 5:20.