

# Praying

**James Chapter 5**



# Aim

Background: Ch 1v26-27

- Power of the Tongue
- Example of the Prophets
- James' true driving force

James' focus on tongue in Ch 5:

- v1 *"weep & howl"* CR Joel 1v19
- v4 *"crieth...cries of them"*
- v9 *"grudge not"*
- v10 *"prophets have spoken"*
- v12 *"swear not"*
- v13 *"Sing"*
- v14 *"Call"*
- v15 *"Prayer"*
- v16 *"Confess"*



## 5:1-6

### Background Ch 4

- Acts 6v7
- Acts 8v1,4,8. Joy in Trial (Ch 1). *“Diaspora”* (Acts 11v18-21)
- Acts 11v1-3 Judaism grows in Ecclesia Acts 15v1,5; v13-21, Gal 2v12-14, Acts 21v18-26



### Background Ch 5

- Acts 4v1-21, 6v12, 7v51-58, 12v1-3, 17v5-6
- Jam 2v6

**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**

## Judgment To Come Upon The Rich

James now uses his final words of this letter to encourage his readers. Many were under persecution and finding life very hard. The final part of his letter was therefore designed to finish with an encouraging high.

To help encourage the believers, James begins this chapter speaking to the rich men who were oppressing them (compare to James 2:6).

Sometimes we struggle when the wicked seem to be blessed. So many people who hate God are successful and happy, but they have their reward now, and only now. Take the time to read the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 73:1-19 – James is encouraging the believers in the same way; to remember that God is in control.

**How does God see the rich and their possessions? Use the table to show the contrast in verses 1-6.**

Riches	Corrupted	GK “Sepo”
Garments		Matt 6v16-21
Gold and Silver		
Lived in pleasure and luxury and nourished your hearts		

**Is James 5 contradicting James 3?**

- If we ask for God’s wisdom in trial (Ch 1) then God will give it! God’s Judgement is JUST!
- Isa 51v7-9, 50v9 – Psa 73v1-19

# James 5 “Last Days” = AD70

- “*Ye rich men*” – CR 2v6 & Luke 16v19-25 = Jewish Leaders
- “*Weep*” – CR Luke 23v28-30 = Daughters of Jerusalem
- “*Howl*” – Used by prophets (Joel 1) = Divine Judgment
- “*Coming upon you*” – Luke 21v26 = “Soon be upon you” WT
- “*Garment*” – “And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his *garment*” (Mark 13v16)
- “*Witness*” – Luke 21v13 “Turn to you as a testimony”
- “*Fire*” – “But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city” (Matt 22v7). CR LORD OF SABAOTH
- “*Coming of the Lord*” = GK “*Parousia*” (Matt 24) Presence
- “*Husbandmen*” = Matt 21v33-44 (Luke 20v9-18)
- “*Patience of Job*” – Matt 24v13 “But he that shall *endure* unto the end, the same shall be saved”

# “A Witness Against You”

- *“These (wicked ones) spoke evil of Christ; and having the power of all hostile to the truth on their side, whether Jew or Gentile, they subjected their Christian fellow-countrymen to a fiery trial. Collectively, the unbelieving Jews were then a formidable and dangerous power; for though they were but foreigners in Anatolia, yet they were ever ready to excite the idolatrous Greeks against those of their own nation who acknowledged the Messiahship of Jesus (Acts 17:5-8, 13). Peter refers to these in the activity of their enmity against Christian Jews, as their diabolos, or **opponent-at-law**, the seducer, as a roaring lion, who walks about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).”*
- **Bro Thomas (Last Days of Judah's Commonwealth)**

# **“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh”**

- *“In this, Jesus evidently taught, that the Son of man's coming to avenge his servants would be soon; certainly not eighteen hundred years off; for this could not be termed, speedily. History shows it was within forty years; yet, though so soon as this, when his presence was revealed by the encampment of the armies of the Little Horn around Jerusalem, few believed in that appearing; so faithless and apostate had Christian Jews become in the very country where the labours of the Son of Man himself, and of all his apostles, has been so abundant.”*
- **Bro Thomas (Last Days of Judah's Commonwealth)**



# “THE Husbandman Waitheth”

- “But *the great majority became weary and faint in their minds* though they had not resisted as yet unto blood, striving against the sin of apostasy. Iniquity abounding among them, the love of the greater number had waxed cold. Contentions and strifes prevailed among them, with every evil work. It is evident from Peter, James and Jude, that a perfectly antediluvian condition of things prevailed among them; and that, therefore, the fate of the old world, and of Sodom and Gomorrha awaited them. They had been the salt of the forty-second generation; but they had lost their savour; so that nothing now remained, but that they and it should be cast out, and trodden under foot of the Gentiles. *The coming of the Son of Man to take the Kingdom from the evil husbandmen*, and to avenge the death of his servants from Abel to the Son of Barachias; was a matter of laughter and scorn.”
- Bro Thomas (Last Days of Judah's Commonwealth)

Verse 4 is so encouraging! Do you ever feel oppressed or alone? Have you ever been in a state when it all feels too hard and there is no one to turn to? James is telling the believers – including us – that there is one who hears.

**Look up the following verses and note them next to chapter 5:4 in your margin:**

Luke 18:7

*“shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him”*

**Romans 8:28, 38-39**

*“All things will work together for GOOD...to them that LOVE God”*  
God is on our side!!



5:7-12

## Reward Comes To The Patient

Verse 7 starts with "Be patient therefore, brethren" referring to the previous verses. As James winds up towards a conclusion it's worth breaking this down. What does it really mean? Compare it with "Be patient" in James 1:3-4.

	James 1:3-4	James 5:7
The trial:	Of your faith	
The required characteristic:	Patience	Patience
The outcome:	Lacking nothing (Have the Kingdom)	

JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS



REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM

"Be patient therefore" – why does James say this? This is obviously an extremely difficult task when enduring trial. Look at verse 4 and write down why the believers and us today can use this as encouragement to try to develop patience:

**Power of the Tongue? = *PRAYER!***

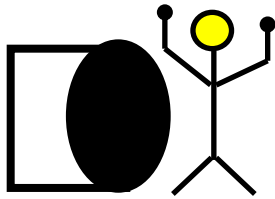
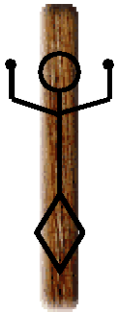
***"Cries of them...ears of the Lord of Sabaoth"***

Heb = Yahweh of armies

"Brethren" – we saw earlier (in chapter 1) how often James uses this expression to encourage and show his love for fellow believers. See how many times he uses it in his closing words.

**This is a key phrase throughout James' letter. Hopefully you coloured this in during the background, but if not, do it now!**

# Patience



Be long spirited.  
(v7-8)

Fix your eyes on  
the future glory.  
“*Establish*” (v8) =  
“*set his face*” (Lk  
9v51) because of  
the “*Joy set  
before him*”.

Forbearance,  
longsuffering.  
(v10)

Noun of word v7  
A fruit of the Spirit  
(Gal 5v22). A  
characteristic as  
experience has  
developed. (Rom  
5v1-3). Used of  
God’s  
Longsuffering!

Steadfastness  
(v11)

Root = to stay  
under/behind.

Why stay under?

CONTEXT =

“*I am your  
companion in  
tribulation &  
patience*” (Rev 1v7)

“*Here is the  
patience and FAITH  
of the Saints*” (Rev  
13)

*Developing Patience*



## 5:7-12

## Reward Comes To The Patient

### *“Grudge Not...swear not”*

- Power of the Tongue... (1v26) expresses our heart under trial.
- 1v13 *“let no man say...”*
- Trial often causes us to begrudge others (break 2<sup>nd</sup> great law)
- Trial can cause us to speak inadvisably with our lips against God, break 1<sup>st</sup> great law = v12 *“Above all”*

James tells us not only to be patient but also to “stablish our hearts”. Write in your margin next to this “stablish” = to set fast.

List two objectives/changes that will help you to ‘set fast’ your heart for the coming of the Lord. Make them realistic goals! Simple, practical things that you can begin to apply, starting today.

1.

2.

Once again James challenges us with a short comment in verse 9 with regards to how we see and think about other believers. How easy is it to hold a grudge when we have been wronged – but we mustn’t! List two ways of overcoming this (compare to verse 16).

1.

2.

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REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
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James knows that patience is a difficult quality to develop and sustain, so he gives two examples of people who had suffered at the hands of their brethren. Using the box below, show how they suffered in this way:

#### The prophets – patience in affliction

Matt 5:12 "for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"

2 Chron 36:15-16

Jer 38:5-6

Matt 23:31

Acts 7:52

#### Job – endurance in trial

Job 1:14-15

Job 1:18-19

Job 2:7

Job 6:15,27 Job's own friends turn against him in his hour of need

- Job's initial patience

Job 1v20-22

Job 4v5-6

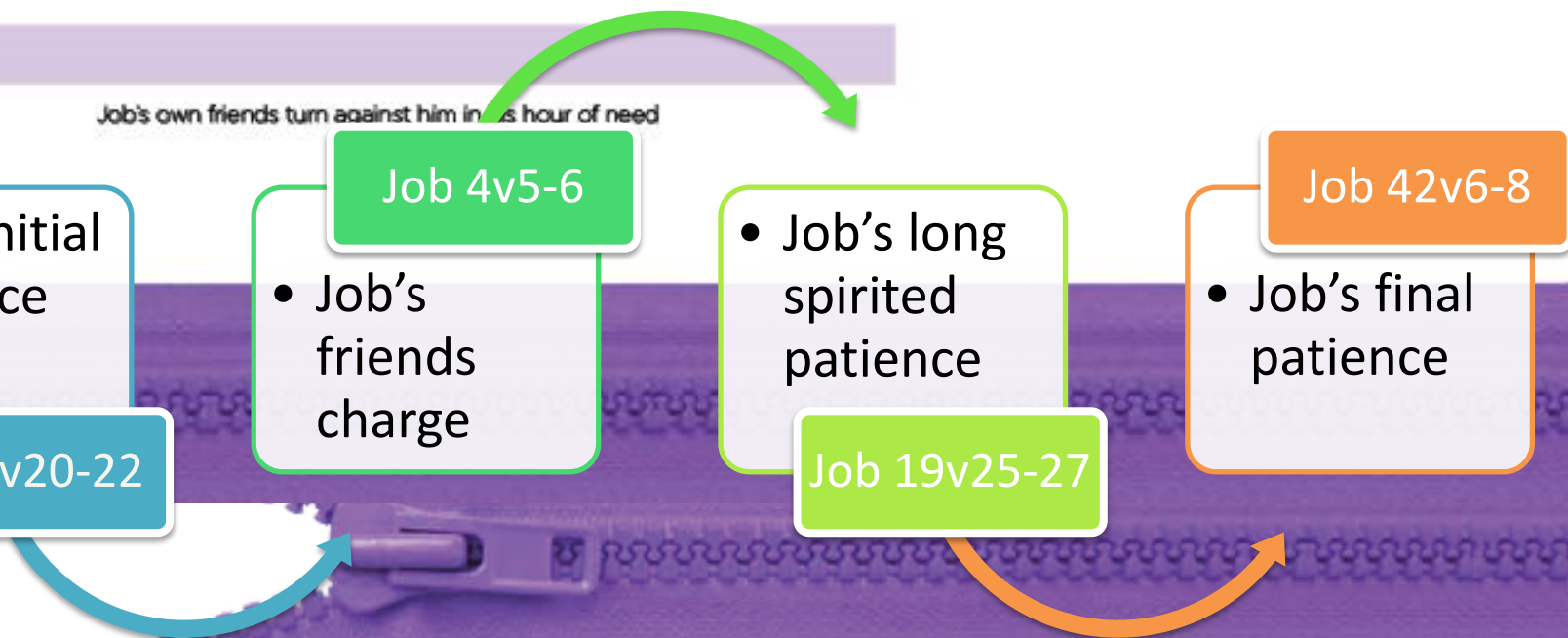
- Job's friends charge

- Job's long spirited patience

Job 19v25-27

Job 42v6-8

- Job's final patience

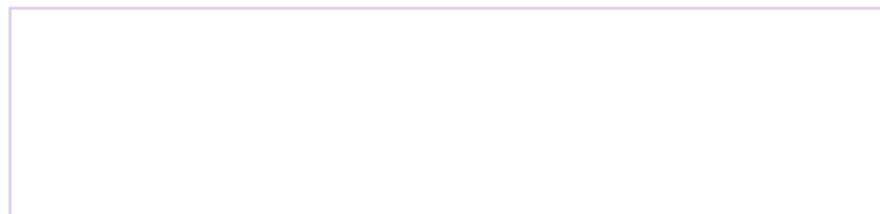




**5:13-18**

## **Sickness And Healing: Becoming The “Righteous Man”**

**Affliction comes in many different forms; James shows how, regardless of the form, we can help heal each other. List all of the actions we can take part in from verses 13-16.**



How often do we truly do these things? To help make these a regular part of our daily life, copy out the box above and stick it on the wall beside your bed, somewhere you'll see it just before you go to sleep.

When all is well and everything is going our way, do we acknowledge God? We can quite often only come to God seriously when there is a problem. James tells us to sing praise to Him when we are merry. What are some things that you could thank God for today?

**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**



**REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM**



**THE “RIGHTEOUS MAN”  
HELPING EACH OTHER  
IN SICKNESS AND NEED**

**Take the time to write a short list and spend some time meditating and praying about these things – now! Set aside the next 10 or 20 minutes for this.**





## 5:13-18

What is the sickness here?

Hint – v16

Keys to “healing”...

- Prayer!
- Singing
- Elders
- Oil = Isa 61v3
- God’s forgiveness
- Righteousness!

## Sickness And Healing: Becoming The “Righteous Man”

Read verses 13-20 again. There would’ve been many in the ecclesia in James’ day that were sick, and these words would have been a great encouragement. Read the passage again and think of it as a spiritual sickness. These same encouraging words provide help for those that are struggling with their faith.

(verse 15) “sick” – “to toil, tire due to work, weariness of mind” (different word in v14)

(verse 15) “save” – used in a spiritual sense “to deliver or protect” compare to James 1:21; 2:14; 4:12; 5:20

The following words now seem to have even more power with regards to how we respond to these things.

A “righteous man” is the person that James has been trying to help us become. “Availeth much” means “strength to overcome.” Think about that in relation to all we have looked at: the constant struggle with sin, oppression, trials, persecution etc. How encouraging to try to be this kind of person, to pray for ourselves and others!

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**THE “RIGHTEOUS MAN”  
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But how do we actually begin trying to be this person? Look and list some of the attributes of a righteous man according to James:

James 1:6-8

James 1:20-21

James 2:21-25      Made righteous by faith and works

James 3:18

James 4:3

James 4:8, 10

James 5:7

James 5:16

These words have to leave this page! They have to start being practised in our daily life...

### *“Prayer of faith”*

- **Energy** – we are involved in request & outworking
- **Righteous man** – not asking amiss (**Ch 4**), sincere
- **Earnest prayer** – YLT *“With prayer did he pray”*
- *“Prayed again”* – continual
- Brings forth **FRUIT** (**5v18**)
- **James 1v18** *“Firstfruits”* – Christ is the *“firstfruits of them that sleep”* (**1 Cor 15v20**). And we *“that are Christ’s at his coming”*



## 5:19-20

## Responsibility Towards Erring Brethren

### KEY TO JAMES!

- Background: 1 Cor 15v7, Acts 1v14
- James never forgot what he did wrong...and if Christ would go out to save him, then he should do same to everyone! (Matt 18v2-35)
- Defining character of James!!

These last two verses speak of those who "err" from the Truth. James chooses to end his letter with these words: we must then pay attention! The last two verses sum up exactly what James was doing by writing the letter, trying to help "save as many souls from death" as he possibly could.

**This is of the utmost relevance to us today; all of us know of a young person or friend who no longer comes to the meeting, or who attend the meeting but live a different life away from it. James tells us that we cannot stand by and just watch!**

When someone begins to wander we can tend to think, "they'll sort themselves out" or "someone else will call them". It can be a hard thing to do, but we are required to work with

Gal 6:1, 9-10

Jude :22-23

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**THE "RIGHTEOUS MAN"  
HELPING EACH OTHER  
IN SICKNESS AND NEED**

James says that in showing someone the error of their ways, however hard this might be, this will save them from death and "hide a multitude of sins". Their sins are not "hidden" by themselves, but they are covered by Christ through repentance and forgiveness. Need we any greater motivation?

**Fill in the boxes below to show how James and Peter both take up this idea, and how it**

James 5:20

1 Peter 4:8

Proverbs 10:12

What a beautiful ending to a letter sent to a group of believers who were struggling, under trials, with the pressures of the world upon them. This is us today!

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY  
SAVING THOSE WHO  
ERR**



## The Chapter 5 Challenge:

**Get a group of two or three of your friends, and PRACTISE true religion:**

- > 'Grudge not one against another' - do you hold a grudge against someone? We might hold these forever if we don't do something now. James is clear - we will be condemned! (5:9) Identify a grudge you have with someone and take action: discuss, forgive, forget.
- > This month, take up the prayer challenge. Get into the habit of praying morning and night. In these prayers, make sure you remember people who are sick, or struggling with their faith.
- > Identify a young person that has dropped off the radar or stopped attending meetings. Ring or SMS them and try to restore contact. Invite them out for a coffee, or shout them a kebab. Try to encourage them to come to the next CYC activity. Share your passion for the truth!

**Challenge themed around James 5:9, 13-18, 19-20**