

faith, hope, love

James 5:1-20
Inductive Discovery Lesson 7

Perfecting Your Faith James has come back full-circle to the topic he began this letter with. Patience in trials is not easily learned, and it's a lesson we must return to time and again. Life hands out plenty of opportunities to learn patience. Being treated unjustly by those who abuse power or misuse wealth; seasons of sickness, sorrow, and loss; prayers for which answers seem too long in coming. In all these things, James says, be patient—for the Lord is coming back! In the meantime, strengthen your hearts. *How*, you may ask, *do I strengthen my heart?* **PRAY.** Prayer is our privilege and responsibility as children of God, but is it always our first response?

What do you need prayer for today? It may be an urgent need or a lingering hardship. Whatever it is, the Lord hears your cry and His answer will come in perfect timing with His good plan for you. *Be patient.*

1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. **2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. **4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. **5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. **8** You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. **9** Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! **10** Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. **14** Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer offered

in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. **17** Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. **18** Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, **20** remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions**. *Do your best to follow James' train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

James 5:1-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

James 5:7-11

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features two vertical columns of horizontal lines. Each column contains 18 lines, all of which are dashed. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of their respective columns, leaving a small margin at the top and bottom of each column. The entire page is white, and there is no handwriting or other markings present.

James 5:12-20

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for handwriting practice. It features two vertical columns of horizontal lines. Each column contains ten rows of three parallel lines, creating a total of twenty sets of guided writing space. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of each column. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

James 5:12-20 continued
Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“corrupted” (vs.2) _____

“corroded” (vs.3) _____

“patient” (vs. 7-8) _____

“establish” (vs.8) _____

“endure” (vs. 11) _____

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

James 5 :1-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

James 5 :7-11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

James 5:12-20

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.

Up close and personal

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

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

Meditate on God's Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

Lord, teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh...
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt—the rebel sigh...
Lord, teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

- George Croly -

[illegible]

