

SUFFERING WELL, James 5.7-12

James 5:7–12 (NIV84)

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.

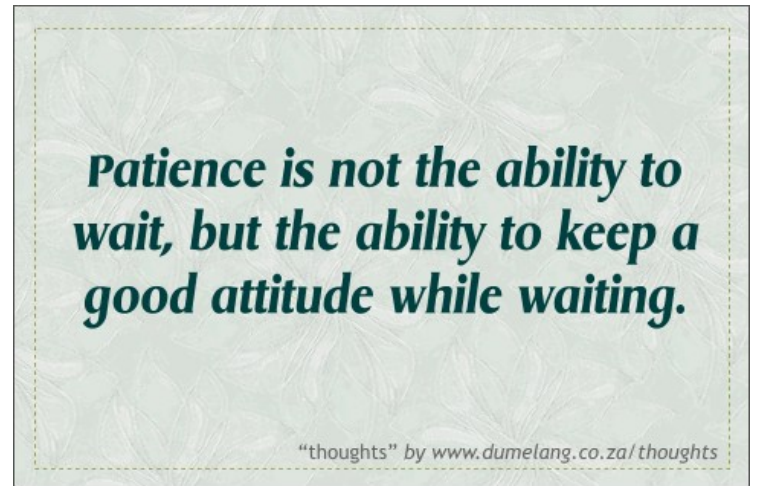
9 Don’t *grumble* against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

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.

"patient"	Makrothymeō	Be of a long spirit
"stand firm"	Sterizo	Strengthen, remain constant
"grumble"	Stenazo	Sigh, groan, murmur
"perseverance"	Hypomeno	Remain under trial



"Patient" or "Patience" is mentioned 36 times in NIV.

Proverbs 19:11 A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 25:15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.

Isaiah 7:13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?”

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?

Romans 9:22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?

2 Corinthians 6:6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

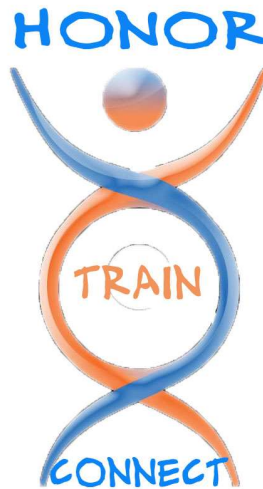
Pastor James is dealing with a very diverse congregation, lots of differences, causing much conflict:

- Theological Differences - faith alone saves, or faith plus works.
- Sociological Differences - powerful landowners, vulnerable laborers.
- Economical Differences - very wealthy, very poor.
- Cultural Differences - Judaism, Christianity, Paganism, Romanism.

In today's text, James switches from talking to the **oppressors** - rich, to the **oppressed** - the poor brothers (believers).

"Patience" - quiet suffering without complaining.

"Persevere" - implies heroic endurance.



The farmer must work hard, but also rely upon God to send the spring & autumn rains and actually make the seeds grow!

God promised these rains to his people if they obey him (Deuteronomy 11:14; 28:12; Jeremiah 5:24; Hosea 6:3-4; Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1).

James gives us the key to this "patience" in James 1.2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

V2a	A deliberate choice	"consider it"
And a		
V2b	Prepared attitude	"pure joy"
Based upon a		
V3a	Prior knowledge	"you know"
Of an		
V3b-4	Assured result	"mature, complete"

PRINCIPLES & TAKE - AWAYS



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1. Difficulties cause stress and pressure and are an unavoidable reality for all humanity
2. Our privilege & responsibility is to be patient (quietly suffer without complaining) and to persevere (heroic endurance)
3. Which, humanly-speaking, is impossible; but we're empowered with Divine Strength
4. Enabling us to a) choose b) joy, based upon our c) knowledge of an d) assured result (completeness)