



**INTRODUCTION**

James instructs the suffering as to what attitude they are to have in the midst of persecution. He will answer the question, "How can I do right when I've been done wrong?" The theme of this section is patience in trials. We will discover three principles of endurance that encourage us to finish the race.

**REAL FAITH ENDURES WITH \_\_\_\_\_ (5:7-9)**

"Be patient therefore, brethren"(5:7). Patience is not a natural trait for the average human. We want to take the shortcut and try to bypass the hard parts. When pain and heartache are involved, patience can be agonizing.

- A. Illustration: The \_\_\_\_\_ (5:7)
- B. Instruction: Work \_\_\_\_\_ (5:8)
- C. Incentive: Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:7-9)

Application: Jesus is coming! How are you living? Are you patient in suffering, restraining the fleshly urge to get bitter at God and angry with others? How could we hold on to such attitudes when the Judge is standing at the door! How inappropriate it is for Christians to be fighting when the return of Jesus is a certain event. Jesus will bring with him a complete knowledge of our feelings, thoughts, and reactions. May we work expectantly in light of Christ's Coming.

**REAL FAITH ENDURES THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_ (5:10)**

James moves from one illustration on patience to another. Here he draws our attention to godly saints of the past, specifically the prophets, as examples "of suffering affliction, and of patience" (5:10). To further encourage believers to endure unjust suffering, James pointed out the example of the prophets who had endured persecution.

- A. Illustration: The \_\_\_\_\_ (5:10)
- B. Instruction: Witness \_\_\_\_\_ (5:10)

**C. Incentive: Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:10)**

Application: We have been called to faithfully witness for Christ. This is a high and holy calling, but it comes with a price. Persecution is to be expected for the Christian. The question is, when the persecution comes will you faithfully endure it? As the prophets of old, we can endure suffering as we remember the promise of Christ's presence and power in our witness. May we rejoice to be "counted worthy to suffer shame for His name".

**REAL FAITH ENDURES WITH \_\_\_\_\_ (5:11)**

The thought now moves from patience as a non-retaliatory spirit to patience as a steadfast endurance. This usage of *patience* means "to remain under the load". We might think of it as perseverance. However, you cannot persevere unless there is a trial in your life. There can be no victories without battles; there can be no peaks without valleys.

- A. Illustration: The \_\_\_\_\_ (5:11)
- B. Instruction: Wait \_\_\_\_\_ (5:11)
- C. Incentive: Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:11)

Application: The example of Job encourages those suffering trials to patiently endure, realizing the Lord's purpose is to strengthen them, perfect them, and, in the end, to richly bless them. In the words of the apostle Paul, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

**CONCLUSION**

"Swim 2.4 miles! Bike 112 miles! Run 26.2 miles! Brag the rest of your life!" This may be the goal of the IRONMAN triathlon athlete, but we have a higher calling. We are to work expectantly in light of Christ's coming. With diligence, devotion, deference, and dignity we patiently endure. We are to witness faithfully because of Christ's calling on our lives. We have been called to be salt and light. And we are to wait patiently, remembering Christ's character. His goal for us through adversity is conformity to Christ. His goodness through our suffering is constant as we persevere by His grace. Real faith endures!



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