
Waiting on God

James 5:7-12

— Solid Rock Church —

Craig Colin

Where have we been?

Christ Centered Life:

1. How Christians deal with conflicts and selfish desires
2. Resisting pridefulness
3. Judgement of others

Rich oppressors that have been taking advantage of the Christians and treating them unfairly

James 5:7-12

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as 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. Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. Otherwise you will be condemned.”

Verse 7

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.”

- He’s saying to fellow believers I know it is hard and I know you are struggling but be patient, keep on enduring, keep on persevering.
- Hold onto the hope that you have in Christ, the One in which you have your hope will return soon.
- By being patient in the midst of the suffering and in the midst of the waiting on the Lord they will then be rewarded, Solid Rock we will then be rewarded.

Harvest process for a crop

1. They first have to go through a preparation process before the harvest where the farmers inspect storage bins for damage and pest contamination and they have to get labor and service equipment out and ready like combines and tractors.
2. Then there is a process of waiting and monitoring ripeness where farmers have to monitor crop color, size, and moisture to determine the best time to harvest.
3. Then the harvest can take place. For many of the crops a combine harvester is used to cut, thresh, and clean with special equipment and manual handpicking.
4. Then finally after the work takes place the crops are transported from the field to storage bins or directly to the market.

Solid Rock we are that valuable crop, God is the farmer putting us through the process of the harvest, and the waiting and the suffering seasons that we go through is the harvest time. The waiting and the need for endurance we have in the Christian life is very much like the waiting of the farmer where He waits with a reasonable hope and expectation of a reward, He waits while working all the while, He waits despite changing circumstances and many uncertainties that may come, and He waits encouraged by the work and harvest of others.



Verse 8: Be patient for he is near

“You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

Psalms 27:14 “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

Isaiah 40:31 “But those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.”



Verse 9: Do not grumble

“Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!”

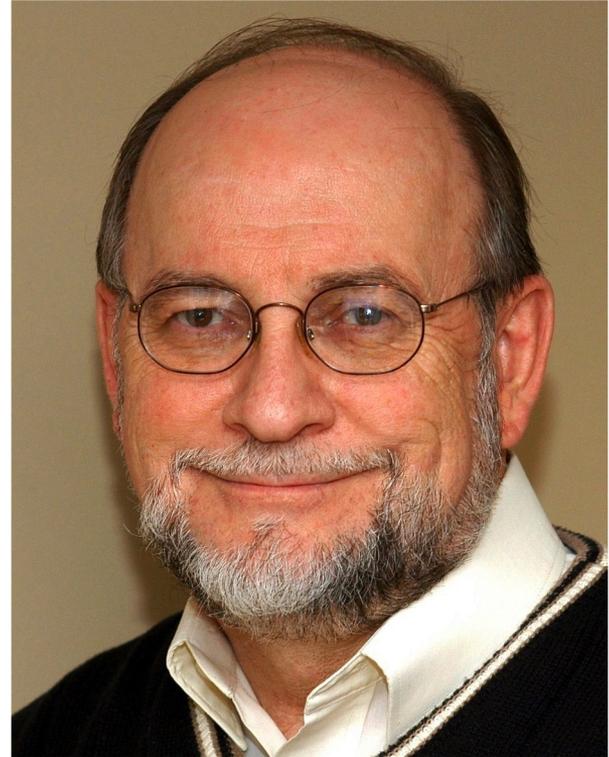
Human response:

- Annoyance
- Frustration
- Anger
- Speak bad about others
- The worst in us comes out



Roger Ellsworth on grumbling against another believer

“When we are inclined to be critical and grumpy about a brother in Christ, we would do well to remember that he is our brother in Christ.”

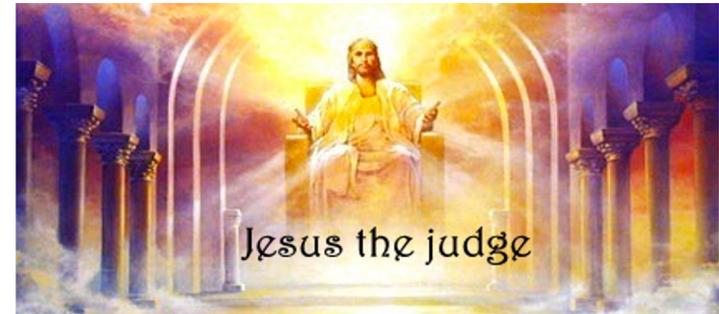


We will be judged

James finishes off this verse reminding us that we cannot become grumblers and complainers in our hardship or we will be judged.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 “For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

The grumbling we do about others, the tear down of others, and the gossip we do about others is seen by God and He is standing at the door, He is there to assess the faithfulness of his people and because of this we should not let hardship make us unloving toward one another.



Verses 10-11: Persevere

“Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as 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.”

Prophets conditions:

- Fear of people attacking and harming them
- No consistent home
- No place to sleep
- Put in prison
- Everything taken from them



Prophets who suffered and persevered

Jeremiah- Put in stocks, thrown in prison, lowered into dungeon

Elijah- Struggled with fear and depression

Hosea- Commanded by God to marry a prostitute and face heartbreak

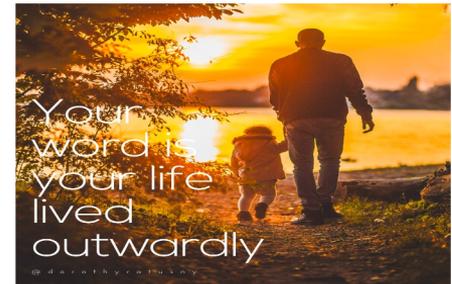
Daniel- Persecuted for his faith and thrown into the lion's den

Job- Lost all his livestock, servants, seven sons, and three daughters in one day. He was stricken with painful sores from head to toe. His wife urged him to curse God and die and his friends accused him of secret sins but yet by the end of it all Job continued to praise God and trust in Him.

Verse 12: Live by your word

“Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. Otherwise you will be condemned.”

He is saying here that your words by themselves must be truthful, let your yes be yes and let your no be no. Let your word and then your actions show your truthfulness even through challenging times.



Application #1: Turn toward Jesus in the waiting because He gets you

He gets the struggle, He gets the pain, He gets the persecution, and He gets the waiting period and what comes with it. He can be with you in the waiting because the feelings that you feel in the waiting Jesus personally experienced and can walk with you when you do not know what is next.



Application #2: Do not grumble against one another

In your struggle do not tear another person down instead work through your issue with that person directly. Bring honesty and bring clarity to an issue that needs to be resolved so that unity between both parties can occur.



Application #3: Do not stop pursuing God in the waiting

For us, we can look back throughout our life and see the faithfulness of God as a key point of perseverance for how He has brought us from one place to the next and we can find hope in that through the waiting.

Application #4: Know that the waiting period is a blessing

In the waiting He has you right where He needs you to be and right where He wants you to be so that He can do the work He wants to do in you, through, and around you.

