

ANGEL TREE PRAYER LIST

WELCOME

Alright, if you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to James chapter 5. James 5. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet to James 5. If you open one of the hard-backed black bibles under your seat, James 5 will be on page **1013**.

INTRODUCTION: CONTEXT

Alright here we go. We've only got two weeks left in our study through the book of James. Now remember the context of this book.

James is writing to Jews who are new converts to Christianity.

- And because of that conversion,
- they are being persecuted for their faith.
- And he's writing to encourage them...
- to keep practicing genuine faith.

And then today James moves to the question: how long is this gonna take?

- *"Well, gosh Pastor James,*
- *I'd love to show that my faith is genuine...*
- *but how long is this gonna take?"*

Today we're talking about WAITING.

- So, by a show of hands...
- who here like to wait?

- Anyone?
- Really, anyone?
- NO!
- No one like to wait for things.

Our whole world is programmed for you to NEVER have to wait...EVER.

ILLUSTRATION: ROAD TRIP

This summer I did a wedding for one of my neighbors in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and so we decided to make a family trip of it.

So, we packed up and drove the 8 hours to Jackson Hole.

- First 2 hours...beautiful.
- Middle 4 hours...terrible!
- And then the last 2 hours...beautiful.
 - South-Western Wyoming is gross, y'all.

Now, I had only been to Jackson Hole ONCE before, when I was about my daughter's age.

And you know what I did to pass the time as we drove 8 hours?

- NOTHING!
- There was nothing to do!
- We stared out the window...
 - which wasn't so bad,
 - at the beginning or the end of the trip...
 - but those middle 4 hours...
 - it was awful!

That was my trip as a 6-year-old to Wyoming.

That was NOT what Harper experienced this summer.

- She had an iPad loaded up with movies.
- She had her own Bluetooth headphones
 - so that Maryse and I didn't have to listen
 - to Frozen on repeat!
- She had activity books and games.
- At one point, she had my phone playing video games.

And in the middle of this trip, my lovely daughter had the audacity to ask me the question,

- "How long is this trip gonna take?!?"
- And I almost lost my mind!
- I almost became my father, "When I was a boy..."

But I realized that Harper is living in a world where...

- waiting...
- boredom...
- slowness...
- is almost a sin!

OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

And it's not just 6-year-olds...

Have you ever NOT bought something on Amazon because it WASN'T Prime 2-day shipping?

- "How long is this gonna take?"
- Three days!?!
- I can't be waiting THAT long!"

You ever pull up to a restaurant on a Friday night, go in and ask,

- *“How long is it going to be?”*
- and they say it’s like 45 minutes.
- And you’re insulted, “Are you serious?”
- We’ll go somewhere else!
 - And then, like an insane person,
 - you get back in the car and you just drive around
 - like you’re going to magically find a nice restaurant
 - with nobody at it on Friday night!?!

You ever talk to your phone?

- Not like talking on your phone...
- or talking to Siri or something like that....

No, I mean, do you ever talk to your phone?

- Something’s not loading fast enough.
 - “Come on...”
- That video starts to buffer a little bit.
 - “Are you kidding me?!?”
 - You close the app.
 - Relaunch it.
 - Refresh it.
 - Click back.
 - “What is wrong with the WiFi here?!?”

MAIN POINT

We have become inoculated with the idea that waiting is a bad thing.

- Our whole world,
 - in an attempt to make things easier,
 - and more streamlined,
 - and more convenient...
- has bred into us a lack of patience,
- and that has resulted in a lack of resilience!

And these are just silly things I'm talking about, right?

But what about the more important things...

- like patience with our kids.
- Patience with our spouses.
- Patience with our jobs.

What about hard thing?

- Like suffering.
- Trials.
- Sin struggles.

Today James is talking about patience and James main point is this:

SLIDE GENUINE FAITH REQUIRES PATIENCE.

- If you want to make it to the end of life with your faith intact...
- it's going to require patience.

Listen, we don't serve a microwave God.

- He doesn't have Hot Pocket dreams for your life.

God requires much more of a crock pot type of faith...

- and that's gonna take some time.
- That's gonna take some marinating.
- That's gonna take patience.

TRANSITION

So, let's dig into our text this morning. James 5, starting with verses 7 & 8.

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JAMES 5:7-8

[7] Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. [8] You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

EXPLAIN: THUMOS

So, James starts this whole section off with an imperative...a command.

- James does this more than any other New Testament writer.
- He tells us what to do.

And so, his command is **BE PATIENT**.

- But what does that mean?
- What is does it mean to **be patient**?

Well, the Greek word that is translated *patience* in our English Bibles is a compound word. It's the word *macro thumos*.

- The word *thumos* is where we get English words like thermometer.
 - It means heat or temperature or passion or anger.
- And then macro means *long*...as in, a *long* time.

So then, **be patient**...macrothumos...

- means to be *long* to *anger*...
- or *slow* to *anger*.

God is very often described like this with us! God is slow to anger.

He's patient!

But James is commanding US to be slow to anger.

Now, please catch this...

- That means he is ASSUMING
- that we will be in a position or situation
- where getting *thumos* is a very real possibility.

Listen, the command to be patient assumes that

- **there will be situations in our lives**
- **where patience...**
 - **where being slow to anger...**
- **is necessary!**

And this is why our bibles have a heading for this section that reads something like "Patience in Suffering".

- Cause you don't need patience when everything is awesome!
- You need it when it's NOT!

APPLICATION: LEARNING PATIENCE

“So...how do we do this, James?”

- You say **BE PATIENT**,
- but I’m NOT patient...
- so how can I LEARN patience?”

Well, **the only way to learn patience is to practice patience.**

- You only learn by waiting!

You don’t like that, do you?

Waiting is the only way to learn how to wait.

We could say:

***“The best time to learn patience is twenty years ago;
the second-best time is now.”***

- You cannot learn patience sitting in a chair at church, listening to a preacher.
- You cannot learn patience by sitting in a classroom, learning it from a professor.
- You cannot learn patience from a book, or a podcast, or a video...

You only learn patience FROM NEEDING IT!

- And you only need it when you are in a situation
- where being slow to anger is necessary.

And this is why we are put in hundreds of situations every day

- where God can grow us in our patience...
- so that when we need it in the big things of our lives...
- we’ll be ready!

POINT 1: ACTION

And so, James says, **be patient**. And then he uses an illustration. He says, **see how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient.**

So, what is patience? Here's my first point:

There's an **SLIDE ACTION OF PATIENCE**

James likens our patience to a farmer.

- And farmers aren't passive...
- they're ACTIVE.

The farmer never comes to his field and says,

- *"Alright, I'm just waiting on you God!*
- *Do something!*
- *I'm waiting!"*

That's not patience.

No, the farmer does everything he can,

- sunup to sundown,
- he digs
- and he plows
- and he seeds
- and he weeds.

He does everything he can to cultivate the fruit!

But, at the end of the day

- the farmer must wait patiently
- for the rains to come.

What's the ACTION OF PATIENCE?

- It isn't passive resignation...
- patience is ACTIVE WAITING.

APPLICATION: WAITING

Farmers know that in order to yield fruit tomorrow, you have to plant seeds today.

- How many of us pray to God for fruit...
- and he answers with seeds.

You ever do this?

- And we go, *"No, no, no God..."*
- *I don't think you heard me correctly...*
- *I didn't want seeds...*
- *I wanted fruit.*
 - *I want maturity...*
 - *I want vitality...*
 - *I want intimacy...*
 - *I want the harvest!"*

But this isn't how our faith lives work...genuine faith requires patience!

And let me just be really honest with you, after 20 years of walking with the Lord: **this kind of stuff never comes quickly.**

- And even though you'll find a thousand methods
- that will lie to you and tell you something different.
 - *"No, no, no, just do this..."*
 - *If you'll just do THIS mission trip! You'll get it...*

- *Just get into THIS discipleship program...*
 - *and you'll take off..."*

But there's an action of patience, and it's actively waiting on the Lord.

See, **I wonder how many of us quit too soon.**

- Because what happens is we go,
- *"Hey, I should read my Bible."*
 - And then we get up early for like a week or two.
 - But when we don't have deep,
 - meaningful experiences every day in the Word,
 - we're like, *"This isn't working!"*
- And we're out.

Or we church hop around...

- always looking for the better place,
- always looking for the spiritual silver bullet!
- And after three weeks we complain because
 - we don't have life-long friends...
 - and deep, meaningful relationships...
 - and, *"did you hear that sermon today? Ykies!"*

We want it now.

We want everything right now.

And if it's not happening exactly right now, this just must not work.

But James points to the farmer...actively waiting. You see...

- **Most people overestimate what they can do in one year,**
- **and underestimate what they can do in ten years.**

Active waiting. Be patient like a farmer.

There's something that happens in the waiting.

James is saying that waiting on the Lord

- in hardships...
- in trials...
- in sufferings.

In the waiting...in the valleys...God is working.

TRANSITION

So, there's an ACTION OF PATIENCE.

But there's more. James goes on in verse 9:

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JAMES 5:9

[9] Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

EXPLAIN: GRUMBLING

James says, "do not grumble."

- If you are familiar with your Old Testament,
- do you remember when God's people
- are accused for their grumbling?

Yeah, the story of the Exodus!

- God rescues his people from slavery in Egypt...
- the plagues fall on Egypt...
- Moses does his "let my people go" schtick...

- the people come to the sea,
 - God parts the waters,
 - allowing them to walk on dry ground...
- and they're ON THEIR WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND!
- TO THE PLACE OF GOD'S BLESSING!

But a 6-week journey turns into 40-years of wandering.

- Why?

They start grumbling!

- They grumble about water.
 - And when God miraculously provides water...
- they grumble about food.
 - And when God miraculously provided mana...bread from heaven...
- they grumble about it not being meat.
 - And when God provides them with quail meat,
- they grumble all the more.

POINT 2

What the Israelites model for us...is point 2: there is an

SLIDE ATTITUDE OF PATIENCE.

- There's an action of patience,
- and there's an ATTITUDE OF PATIENCE.

ILLUSTRATION: BITES

When I was in high school, I went to a Young Life summer camp in Minnesota.

- Lake front property.
- They had ski-boats for wakeboarding and tubing.
- There was a zip-line that launched you right into the water.
- And there were hot tubs outside of every cabin.

Well, the first night at camp, man, me and the other guys all decided to hit the hot tub. And being from Colorado...

- one of the things I take for granted is our lack of insects.
- We just don't really have too many to deal with.

But in Minnesota...

- on the banks of a lake...
- in the heat of the summer...
- the mosquitos are prolific!
 - And I don't know if you know this...
 - but mosquitos are from the devil...
 - maybe even more than cats!

So, me and my boys are hanging out in the hot tub,

- and I didn't put any bug spray on.
- And when I got back to my cabin,
- I looked in the mirror,
- and I had mosquito bites over my entire body!
 - I literally looked like peperoni pizza,
 - because each bite was a little swollen and red.

And the next day...the itching was almost unbearable.

- And I'm just NOT the guy who has the self-control...
- NOT to scratch.
 - How many of you are like that?
 - You're just scratchers.
- Yeah, that's me!
- But how many of you know,
- that when you scratch mosquito bites,
 - it feels so good in the moment...
 - but it only makes things worse!

APPLICATION: GRUMBLING

This is grumbling.

James is saying that in suffering...

- it's all too easy
- to have an ATTITUDE of grumbling...
- or complaining.

And that while it might feel good in the moment

- to gripe
- and moan
- and grumble.

In the end, that makes the itching worse.

- Grumbling never makes your suffering better.

And James goes a step further by warning them that we have a judge who's watching.

- You might be presenting externally patient...
- while remaining internally impatient...
- but there's a judge who sees your internals.

TRANSITION

So, how do we battle these grumblings? Well, we do it by remembering.

- Remember what God has done...
- and that he's NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!

And what James gives us next, are models of remembrance.

I'll call these the **SLIDE ANALOGIES OF PATIENCE**. Verse 10:

JAMES 5:10-11

[10] As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

ILLUSTRATION: POSTERS

Last week Eric talked about his room when growing up... and he mentioned having posters all over his walls.

- Well, that was my room, too.

Growing up, I wanted to be a sports star or a rock star. And so, if you would have come to my room, you would have seen posters all over my walls of my heroes.

And I can remember just sitting in there...staring at these posters... and drawing inspiration from these greats!

- Michael Jordan. Poster.
- Emmitt Smith. Poster.
- Metallica. Poster.
- Billy Ray Cyrus with a full-blown mullet!
 - Not so sure I'm proud of that one...
 - but I had the poster.

APPLICATION: ANALOGIES

What James is saying here, is that when we are struggling to be patient in our sufferings...we have posters to look at.

- The prophets. Poster.
- Job. Poster.
- We consider their patience in suffering.

And I think those are just a few of the ANALOGIES OF PATIENCE.

Because within the church, even here at Fathom Church, there are posters.

- You struggling with finding a job?
 - We've got posters of that here.
- You struggling with infertility?
 - We've got posters for you.

- You've got a wayward child?
 - Yeah, lots of posters.
- All your friends getting married...and you feel like you aren't even close?
 - That's a poster we've got.
- You got someone who's been diagnosed and it doesn't look good?
 - We've got posters for you.

James says, you've got some posters.

- There's some guys in the Bible who we can look at
- and see steadfastness in light of immense sufferings.

AND

- we've got people sitting right around you
- who can be posters for you
- in almost ANY trial you are encountering.

We draw inspiration and encouragement to remain steadfast...

- to be patient...
- when we see it in others.

TRANSITION

- The ACTION OF PATIENCE.
- The ATTITUDE OF PATIENCE.
- The ANALOGIES OF PATIENCE.

And last, the **SLIDE AIM OF PATIENCE**

I want to circle back to verse 7:

JAMES 5:7a

[7] Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.

Down to verse 8:

JAMES 5:8

[8] You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

The AIM OF PATIENCE is maybe the most important point in this sermon.

Because the AIM OF PATIENCE is the coming of the Lord.

- For two millennia,
- the heart of the believer in Christ
- is set on the return of Christ
- and all things being made new.

The Lord is coming!

ILLUSTRATION: BIKE

When I was 5 years old my dad taught me to ride a bike. And last year, I got to do this for my daughter, which brought back this memory.

- I had my bike with training wheels...
- but I wanted to ride in the street with the older kids on my block.
- But in order to get off the sidewalk,
- Dad said I had to learn to ride without training wheels.

So, he took them off, and then he did the typical thing:

- he grabbed a hold of my seat,
- and he would run alongside me as I pedaled...
- and soon, he would remove his hand,
- and keep running by me...
- and before I knew it,
- I was riding my bike without training wheels,
- and my dad was just standing watching and smiling.

Now, on the day I learned to ride a bike...

- and I could finally go off the sidewalk and into the street....
- there was a variable in the street that I was unprepared for...
 - it was a patch of loose gravel...
 - that had accumulated on the street.

And as I was riding,

- I was going faster,
- and faster...

And I was making turns...

- sharper,
- and sharper...

And I hit the patch of gravel...

- and I tried to turn my wheel...
- but the bike slipped out from under me...
- and I went down,
- scraping up my hands and my legs on the asphalt.

All the fun and freedom of riding my bike had led me to a place of significant pain.

And I immediately start to cry and call out for my dad.

- And he came running.
- And he grabbed a hold of me.
- And he picked me up in his arms...
- And he wrapped me up in a hug.
- And he kissed my head.
- And then carried me inside,
- and wiped my tears,
- and cleaned my wounds.

APPLICATION

This is the AIM OF PATIENCE. It's...

- *"My Dad is coming for me.*
- *My Dad is coming to get me.*
- *My Dad is coming to help me."*

Revelation 21, starting in verse 1 says this:

SLIDE REVELATION 21:1-5

[1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He

will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

[5] And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” **BLANK SLIDE**

APPLICATION

Our Dad is coming.

We’re moving toward this day where there are

- no more tears,
- no more mourning,
- no more loss,
- no more sadness,
- no more death.

And that’s why James says...**be patient.**

He’s saying:

- Hold tight.
- You’re almost there.
- Be patient.
- We’re almost there.
- Be patient.
- It won’t be long now.

- Every bit of difficulty,
 - stress,
 - suffering,
 - weariness,
 - depression,
 - anxiety,
 - lustful perversions...
- it'll all be over on that day.

There will no longer be a need to be patient there

- because our Dad will pick us up off the pavement...
- and hold us in his arms...
- and wipe our tears...
- and heal our wounds.

The Lord is coming.

CONCLUSION

- The ACTION of patience.
- The ATTITUDE of patience.
- The ANALOGIES of patience.
- And the AIM of patience.

GENUINE FAITH REQUIRES PATIENCE.

And here's what I know.

For some of us today, this is what we needed to hear TODAY.

For some of us, this isn't the most wonderful time of the year.

- For some of us, it's depression.
- For others of us, there's sexual perversion.
- For others of us, there are addiction issues.
- For others of us, there's doubt.
 - Or there's family strife.
 - Or a medical issue.
 - Or a financial crisis.

And you may have dragged yourself in here, not sure of how you're going to be able to survive this.

And to you, God is saying,

- *"No, no, no.*
- *I'm at work.*
- *Hang in there.*
- *I'm accomplishing something in you.*
- *Just hang in there.*
- *Hold tight.*
- *Don't give up.*
- *Your Father is coming for you."*

So, what I want to do is pray for you, and if you're in that place...

- where you need to be strengthened...
- to wait on the Lord in your suffering...

I'd ask you to just place your hands in your lap and open them up.

- Just in a posture of letting go of whatever you're struggling with,
- and a willingness to wait on the Lord.

Let's pray. **LYRICS SLIDE W/PADS**

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES USED:

- Blomberg, Craig. Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: James.
- Chandler, Matt. *Suffering/Comfort.*
- Loritts, Bryan. *Patience.*
- Moo, Douglas. Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letter of James.