

HOLD ON,
I'M COMING
JAMES 5:7-11



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BACKGROUND TO THE PASSAGE

In James 5:7-11, James is encouraging believers who were going through suffering to be patient and hold on because the Lord is coming.

HOLD ON BY ANTICIPATING THE LORD'S COMING (5:7-8)

The Exhortation to Be Patient (7a)

James exhorts his readers to “be patient.” This phrase comes from the Greek word *makrothumeo* (*makros* long and *thumos* temper). The idea is to set the heat on one's temper low so that it takes a long time before it starts to boil. He then exhorts them to be patient until the coming of the Lord—either deliverance from the situation or the future personal return of Jesus Christ.

The Example of Patience (7b)

James draws an example of patience from the field of agriculture. The farmer waiting for the crops to bring forth fruit must patiently wait on elements which are out of his control (i.e., the growth process of the crops and the rain). He had to wait on the “early and the latter rains.” The time between these two seasons (the early and latter rains) could be as much as seven months; therefore, the farmer had to exhibit a great amount of patience.

The Existence during Patience (8-9)

Amid waiting James said, “establish your hearts.” The word establish comes from the Greek word *sterizo* which means “to stand strong.” He also encourages them not to “murmur against one another.” Going through times of suffering can bring on frustration. This can cause the sufferer to start complaining, especially against those who may not be suffering as much or those who are causing. This could result in judgment instead of the reward promised in (1:12).

HOLD ON BY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE LORD'S SERVANTS (5:10-11)

The Example Set by the Prophets (10)

The prophets are great examples of patience because they trusted the Lord as they went through unfair suffering. The prophets suffered evil because they spoke in the name of the Lord, i.e., Elijah (1 Kings 18:17-19:2), Jeremiah (Jer. 11:21-23), and John the Baptist (Matt. 14:10).

The Example Set by Job (11)

Job had everything taken from him except his life. There were times when his anguish came out but overall, he patiently endured through his suffering. Job had “patience” *hypomene* (*huper* under and *meno* to abide) “the ability to abide underneath the load.” In the final analysis, God was merciful to Job and rewarded him for his suffering (Job 42:10-17).

HOW TO GROW IN PATIENCE

Take Advantage of Trials

Romans 5:3

And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

James 1:2-3

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Wait on the Lord

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Develop a Plan to Cultivate Patience

Colossians 3:12

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;