

⁵ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.^[a]

⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you. 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.

⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, 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 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. ¹² 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.

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally
4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. Why does James warn the rich to “weep and howl” for their miseries?
2. What do the images of rotting riches, moth-eaten garments, and corroded gold/silver teach us about earthly wealth?
3. How does James describe the sin of withholding wages from labourers?
4. How might modern believers guard against the dangers of wealth and exploitation?
5. What parallels do you see between James’ warning here and Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:19–21?
6. What reasons does James give for believers to be patient until the Lord’s coming?
7. How does the farmer’s example illustrate Christian patience?
8. Why does James warn against grumbling against one another during trials?
9. What do Job and the prophets teach us about perseverance?
10. James says “the Judge is standing at the door.” How should this truth shape how we live?
11. What does James mean by “let your yes be yes and your no be no”?
12. Why do you think James connects truthful speech with endurance in suffering?
13. According to James, what should believers do when they are suffering? When they are cheerful?
14. What role do elders play in praying for the sick?
15. How is faith connected to healing in verse 15?
16. James links confession of sins to healing—what might be the connection between sin and sickness?
17. How does James encourage believers to pray for one another?
18. What does the example of Elijah’s prayer life teach us about the power of prayer?
19. How can modern Christians cultivate the kind of fervent prayer James describes?
20. What does it mean to “wander from the truth”?
21. Who is responsible for bringing back someone who has strayed?
22. What is promised to those who turn a sinner from their wandering?
23. How does saving someone from death connect to covering a multitude of sins?
24. What does this passage teach us about accountability in the Christian community?
25. In what ways can we actively practice restoring others who have drifted from the faith?