

Perfecting Faith: The Book of James
Faith: Possessions and Patience



Two World Systems

One is the system that depends on wealth, possessions and power to be satisfied. The other is the system that says I will patiently wait and trust in Jesus and His return for the provisions for my life! Which system are you living under?

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **Jesus John 16:33**

A. Pain of Possessions James 5:1-6

Misuse of possessions [wealth] can bring pain in four areas:

1. Emotional pain from misuse of possessions :1
Possessions are destined to break—they will not bring happiness. *1 Tim 6:10*
2. Physical pain because I store up my possessions :2-3
Hording possessions thinking it will bring security and happiness will only bring pain.
Matt 6:19-21; 1 Tim 6:6-9; Psa 62:10; Prov 22:1
3. Relational pain because I steal from those in need :4
This principle speaks to all who ignore the needs of others. *Deut 24:14-15 God [The Lord of Hosts] hears the cries of the oppressed. Do we?*
4. Spiritual pain because I spend selfishly on myself :5-6
Luxury here means ‘to break down.’ When I am consumed with possessions it will break me down spiritually. *Matt 6:19-20*

B. Power of Patience James 5:7-11

1. Patience will strengthen your heart :7-8
Waiting for Jesus’ provision: Instead of building my life around possessions I need to live my life with patience. My heart will be strengthened through patience.
2. Patience will strengthen your relationships :9
Waiting for Jesus to judge: Instead of judging others I let patience have its perfect work in me.
Jam 1:4; [2 Pet 3:3-9 God’s patience]
3. Patience will strengthen us through suffering :10-11
Waiting for Jesus to bless with compassion and mercy: James is writing to a suffering church that needed instruction, comfort and encouragement.
 - The prophets *Heb 11:36-39*
 - Job *Job 42:12*

Pain of Possessions

James 5:1-6

- :1** Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you*!
- :2** Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.
- :3** Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.
- :4** Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. [*Hosts*]
- :5** You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.
- :6** You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

Power of Patience

James 5:7-11

- :7** **Therefore** be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.
- :8** You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- :9** Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!
- :10** My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.
- :11** Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.