



Faith in Action

Faith Under Fire

The Lord of Hosts is Coming

- ^{NAS} **James 5:4** Behold ... the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts ...
⁷ Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord...
⁸ ... for the coming of the Lord is at hand
- ^{NAS} **Mark 13:26** "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory."
²⁷ "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

In the Meantime He Will Empower Us

- ^{NAS} **James 5:7** Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 44:1** "But now listen, O Jacob, My servant; And Israel, whom I have chosen: ² Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. ³ 'For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, And My blessing on your descendants; ⁴ And they will spring up among the grass Like poplars by streams of water.'

Hang in There

- ^{NIV} **James 5:10** Brothers, 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 consider 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.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

We Are Not Alone in Power

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:32** And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection; ...

We Are Not Alone in Weakness

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:35** ... and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶ and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸ (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

We Are Not Alone in Christ

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 2:9** ...Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings...¹⁴ Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives...¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Speak Openly and Honestly

- NIV **Matthew 5:34** ... Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.
- NIV **James 5:12** ... do not swear-- not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

Speak Appropriately

- ^{NAS} **James 5:12** But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment. ¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.

Prayer Works

- ^{NAS} **James 5:16** ... The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

So Pray for Healing

- ^{NAS} **James 5:13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray... ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed...
 - Pray for yourself v.13
 - Pray for others v.16
 - Get others to pray for you v.14,16
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 21:22** "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

Unanswered Prayers for Healing

1. ^{NIV} **John 16:23** In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.
➤ *Not the Lord's will at that time*
2. ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 12:7** ...there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!⁸ Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
➤ *Not in our best interest*

Conclusion

Life is Hard but God is Good

- ^{NIV} **James 1:2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.... ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- ^{NAS} **James 5:13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises... ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Walk by the Word

- ^{ESV} **James 1:21** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves... ²⁵ ..., being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
- ^{NIV} **Romans 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Walk by Faith

- ^{NAS} **James 2:18** But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works"...²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone...²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight—
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Walk Together

- ^{NAS} **James 5:19** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.
- ^{NIV} **Galatians 6:1** Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- ^{ESV} **John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Faith Under Fire Produces Fruit

- ^{NIV} **James 5:11** As you know, we consider 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.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 5:3** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!